



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Reduce rotation length to 24 days
2	Shut up 120 ha for silage
3	Monitor post grazing residuals
4	Complete AI by Friday

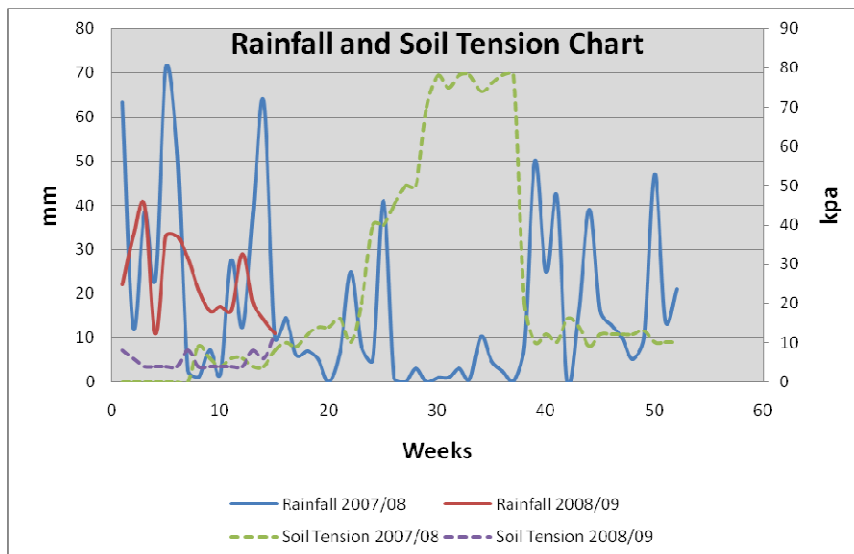


SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	9 days/leaf	Cows	786 (milking herd)
Rotation Length	24 days	Litres/cow/day	19
Pasture Growth Rate	43 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.45kg
Average Pasture Cover	2105 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	3.09kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	13°C	Cow intake	15 kgDM/cow/day (milking herd)
Rainfall (past 7 days)	11mm	Supplement Fed	Nil
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$7.20	Body Condition Score	4.1 (milking herd)

Pasture Management

- Season to date rainfall is 20% down on last season (332mm compared with 414mm). Interestingly soil tension has tracked similar over the period. This is most likely attributed to an increase in the incidence of rainfall over the period keeping soil moisture high. The next few weeks will tell a story on how well the spring pans out.
- Soil tension has increased to 12kpa up from 6kpa last week.



NITROGEN POLICY

The FMG have committed to not applying nitrogen on silage paddocks to boost production. Economic analysis showed that it is uneconomic to use nitrogen to boost silage production (see table below). However, nitrogen may be used after the silage paddocks have been cut and will be dependent on soil moisture and pasture growth rates. If soil moisture is not limiting pasture production, nitrogen may be used if pasture growth rates are below herd demand.

The assumptions

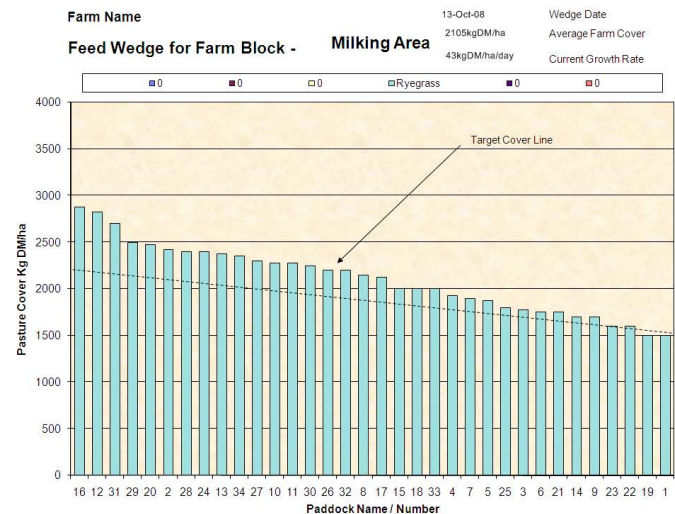
Urea @ \$1,100 per tonne
Assume spring response of 15:1 (research figures)
Wastage 25% (research figures)
Conservation cost 10¢ per kgDM
Feed-out cost of 5¢ per kgDM
Reduction in energy from conservation (12MJ ME to 10MJ ME; 20% loss)

Doing the math

$\$1,100 \div 1000 = \1.1 per kg Urea
 $\$1.1 \div 0.46 = \2.39 per kg N
 $\$2.39 \div 15 = 0.16\text{¢}$ per kgDM
 $0.16\text{¢kgDM} \div 0.75 = 0.21\text{¢}$ per kgDM
 $0.21\text{¢kgDM} + 10\text{¢} = 0.31\text{¢}$ per kgDM
 0.31¢ per kgDM + 5¢ = 0.35¢ per kgDM
 0.36¢ per kgDM + 0.8 = **0.45¢ per kgDM**

If fibre is not limiting the farm is better off on a dollars per MJME to spend the money on grain rather than nitrogen at the current concentrate price. The FMG will be investigating in conjunction with VDL the option of forward purchasing concentrates at a more reasonable price for summer milk production and next season's spring.

- Rotation length has been reduced to 24 days from 28 days to help combat the spring flush. Pasture growth rates have increased to 43kgDM/ha/day from 40kgDM/ha/day last week. The FMG expect growth rates to further increase to over 60kgDM/ha/day over the next 7 days. Monitoring post grazing residuals is very important during this period as grazing platform can get away very quickly. The FMG have been shut up 123 ha for silage and 20 ha sprayed out leaving 225 ha in the grazing round which equals a stocking rate of 3.5. This means a pre graze cover of $(24 \times 16 \times 3.5) + 1500\text{kgDM}$ residual = 2830 kg DM/ha is required to feed the herd.



Animal Performance

- 10 animals were culled during the week because of on-going feet problems. Lameness continues to be an issue, with the farm drying out and with some animals still suffering bruising, the issue is compounded. The FMG expect the problem to improve over the coming week. Early identification, isolation from the main herd and limited walking is crucial for the quick recovery of these animals.
- Milk production has fallen 0.15kgMS to 1.45kgMS/cow/day since the grain was removed from the ration last week. A combination of reduced dry matter intake and metabolisable energy in the ration has likely contributed to this. The milk test is averaging 4.25% fat and 3.36% protein; this is very similar to last week.
- Herd daily ration allocated
15kgDM Pasture x 12MJME
=180 MJME (To produce 20L @ a 4.2%fat and 3.2%protein milk test 170MJME is required). If this milk production is not occurring the FMG are assuming liveweight gain is occurring.
- AI submission rates are looking good at this stage. About 730 cows have been put up in the first three weeks = 21 day SR of 730/800 = 91%. AI finishes this Friday October 17.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday October 20 at 10:30am.

TDDF Farm Management Group – Basil Doonan (Davey & Maynard), Rob La Grange (TIAR), Chris Haynes (TIAR), and Justin McGowan and Nicki Devantier (TDDF Sharefarmers).