



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Hold rotation length
2	Harvest silage
3	Apply nitrogen
4	Continue to manage lameness



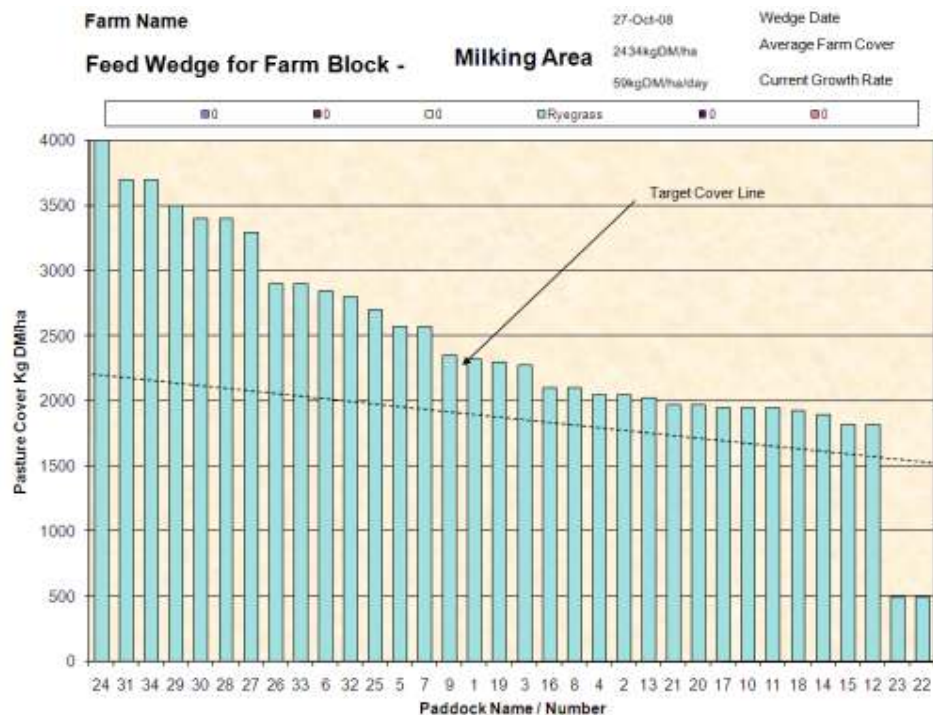
SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	8 days/leaf	Cows	780 (milking)
Rotation Length	20 days	Litres/cow/day	18
Pasture Growth Rate	59 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.35kg
Average Pasture Cover	2434 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.87kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	12.9°C	Cow intake	15 kgDM/cow/day (milking herd)
Rainfall (past 7 days)	2 mm	Supplement Fed	Nil
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$6.30	Body Condition Score	4.2 (milking herd)

Pasture Management

- Soil temperature has remained in and around 13°C which is the same as last week (13.2°C).
- Soil tension tracks at 14kpa which is the same as last week. Rainfall was minimal at 2mm, so it was surprising soil tension did not change. This will be interesting to monitor over the coming 7 days.
- Despite low rainfall, pasture growth rates have held at 59 kg DM/ha/day (58kgDM/ha/day last week). The immediate challenge is: what is the impact if conditions continue to dry out in the short term? Currently the grazing platform is ahead of demand (about 55 kg DM/ha/day) and the silage paddocks will be out for the next month. In the short term (next three to four weeks) there is a possibility that pasture supply could fall below demand and so a decision has been made to put 80 kg urea (37 units of N) on 5 paddocks (50ha) in the current grazing round to keep feed up to the animals.
- About 110 ha of silage will be cut this weekend. The FMG discussed delaying the cut for another 7-10 days but there were issues around being able to get contractors to do this. The next opportunity to get the silage cut was in mid to late November and it was decided that this would be too late. Silage paddocks will be cut this weekend (October 31). Early estimations suggest that 150 tonnes DM will be harvested, which is well below last season's 550tonnesDM. Whether there will be another cut will depend on growth rates in November.
- A spring fertiliser brew will be applied to the grazing platform as soon as the silage paddocks have been cut. Nitrogen will be applied to the silage paddocks at a rate 46kgN/ha as part of this brew. The amount of phosphorus, potassium and sulphur in the brew will be determined by the FMG over the coming week.
- The rotation length maintains at 20 days, which is aiming to maintain pasture quality by negating the affect of seed head emergence. Pasture quality remains an issue across the grazing platform, a

pasture sample on Monday was taken to be feed tested. There are a small amount of undesirable annual weeds and grasses in the pasture, which are most likely indicative of the high soil moisture that plagued the farm earlier in the season. The wetter conditions may have affected the production of new tillers that occur in productive spring ryegrass plants, which in a normal season would have out competed the annual weeds and grasses. Further, with less nitrogen being applied onto the grazing platform than last season, more of these undesirable species may have been able to develop in the pasture.



- The wedge is clearly showing that the pre-grazing pasture covers are not as high as expected on the silage paddocks. Paddocks above 3000kgDM/ha will be cut for silage. Pre-grazing covers on the milking platform are at 2700 kg DM/ha. At a round length of 20 days, pre-grazing covers need to be at $(20 \times 16\text{kgDM intake} \times 3.5 \text{ S.R}) + 1500 \text{ residual} = 2550 \text{ kg DM/ha}$ to maintain daily pasture intakes.
- The turnips were sowed last Friday, a week before planned which was very pleasing.

Animal Performance

- There are 780 animals in milk producing about 1.35 kg MS/cow/day down from 1.4kgMS/cow/day last week. The milk test is averaging 4.15% fat and 3.36% protein down from 4.24% fat and 3.34% protein last week.
- Lameness is still an issue with 45 animals in a treatment herd being milked once-a-day, it is still anticipated that the majority of these animals should recover and enter back in the herd.
- The final 21-day AI submission rate is below expectation. Accounting for the repeats we had 671 cows put up which gave an 84% SR. The FMGs target was 95% as per incalf.
- Herd body condition has improved to 4.2.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday November 3 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).

“Note the monthly farm walk and BBQ has been changed to Monday November 10”