TDDF FMG Walk Notes

Volume 3, Issue 7 Tuesday October 6, 2008

FMG's Critical Issues

1	Closely monitor the new once-a-day cows
2	Spread ryegrass seed into damaged areas prior to grazing
3	Reduce rotation length and closely monitor post grazing residuals
4	Ensure pasture allocations are accurate

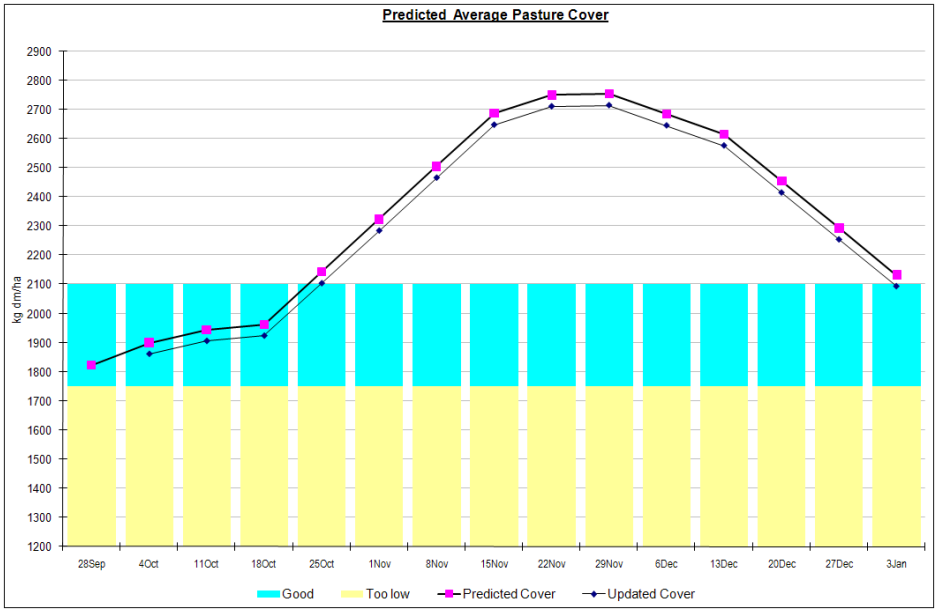
Tasmanian Dairy Demo Farm
www.tddf.com.au

Summary of Farming Operation Data

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	10 days/leaf	**Cows**	705 (twice-a-day) 140 (once-a-day) 32 (sick herd)
Rotation Length	25 days	**Litres/cow/day**	15
Pasture Growth Rate	47 kgDM/ha/day	**MS/cow/day**	1.18kg
Average Pasture Cover	1862 kgDM/ha	**MS/ha/day**	2.79kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	11.3°C	**Cow intake (allocated)**	19 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	15 mm	**Supplement Fed**	2 kgDM/cow/day pellet
MOFC ($/cow)	$1.33	**Body Condition Score**	4.5 (twice-a-day herd) 3.3 (once-a-day herd)

Pasture Management

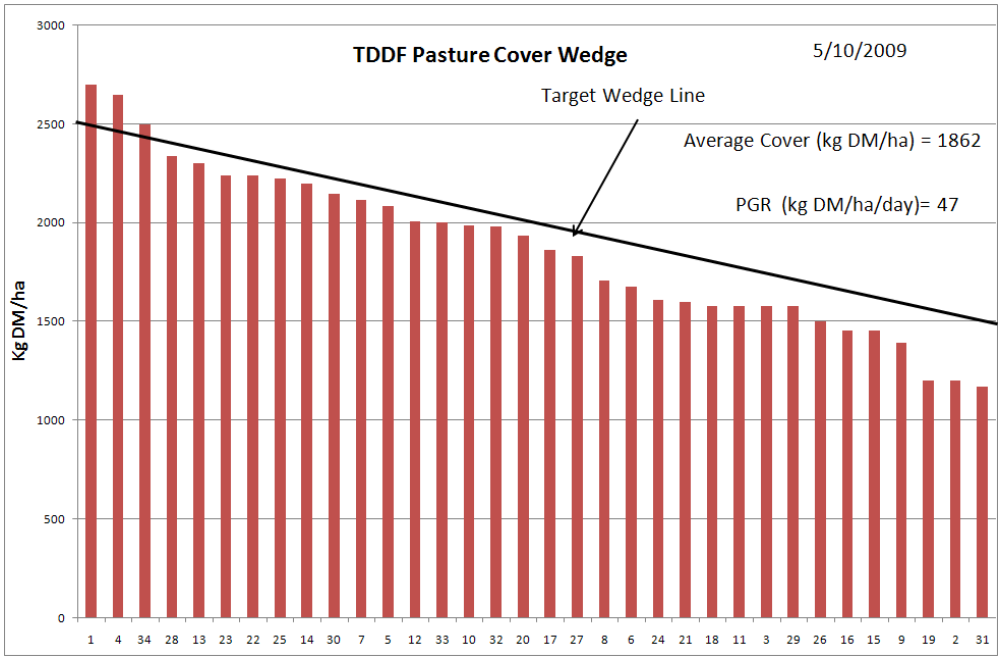
- Soil temperatures are 11.3°C and more importantly soil moisture has lifted to 8kpa.
- Pasture growth rates are 47kgDM/ha. APC has risen to 1862kgDM/ha from 1824kgDM/ha last week. According to our feed budgets the APC should be 1901kgDM/ha; it is more than likely that pasture growth is slightly lower than recorded.



- Rotation length has been reduced to 25 days from 28 days. Leaf emergence has reduced to 10 days; this will start decrease further as soil temperatures increase.

- Nitrogen is being applied behind the herd in a spring fertiliser (N, P, K and S) blend; this will be applied over the whole platform until the grazing rotation is finished. The blend is (30-60-8-1) at a rate of 166kg/ha. A different blend will be applied to the fodder crop paddocks.

- Fodder crop paddocks will be sprayed out by the end of the week; a ServeAg agronomist has developed the fodder crop plan for the farm. This will be made available in next week's walk notes.



- Pre grazing covers are 2600kgDM/ha, under the current rotation length with the 40ha out for fodder crops, this allocates 17kgDM/cow/day of pasture. Concentrates will be reduced out of the ration over the next 10 days; pasture substitution will occur as the cow will not physically be able to eat the amount allocated with concentrates in the ration. We are budgeting to leave 1500kgDM/ha post grazing residuals, therefore accurate pasture allocation will be crucial to ensure the targeted post grazing residuals are left.

Animal Performance

- 877 cows make up the total number of milking cows; 3 cows were culled over the past week.

- Under the current rotation length of 25 days (13.2 ha/day); 331 ha available grazing area.

Pre grazing cover	2600kgDM/ha
Post grazing residual	1500kgDM/ha
Total available	1100kgDM/ha x 13.2ha = 14520kgDM
Per cow from pasture	**14520kgDM / 877 cows = 17kgDM pasture**

***By allocating 17kgDM/cow it will be interesting to see what they can physically eat?**

- Production is below last week, this can be attributed to dry matter intake restrictions from grazing allocation calculations. Production has been seriously affected by the issues encountered at the start of season. This has resulted in the cows producing about 0.2 – 0.3kgMS/cow below last season at the same period in time. The herd is producing 1.18kgMS/cow/day at a 4.4% fat and 3.4% protein milk test. The fat test has been variable; jumping +/-0.3%. To produce 1.18kgMS/cow the cow needs approximately 150MJME/day or (13.5kgDM/day pasture @ 11MJME).

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk and BBQ will be on Tuesday October 13 starting at 10:30am. Please RSVP to Chris Haynes on 0408 548 091 for catering purposes.

TDDF Farm Management Group – Kevin Mills (Farm Manager), Chris Haynes (TIAR), Adrian Neasey (VDL) and Darryl Quilliam (Roberts)