



| FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Reduce rotation length to 34 days |
| 2 | Weigh and drench calves |
| 3 | Maintain supplementary feed levels |
| 4 | Continue to monitor lameness |



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

| Pasture Information | | Animal Production | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---|
| LER | 14 days/leaf | Cows | 810(milking herd) 5 (colostrum herd) 5 (dry herd) |
| Rotation Length | 36 days | Litres/cow/day | 20 |
| Pasture Growth Rate | 18 kgDM/ha/day | MS/cow/day | 1.5kg |
| Average Pasture Cover | 1756 kgDM/ha | MS/ha/day | 3.3kg |
| Soil Temperature 9AM | 10.5°C | Cow intake | 15 kgDM/cow/day (milking herd) |
| Rainfall (past 7 days) | 16 mm | Supplement Fed | 5.4 kgDM/cow/day grain mix 3 kgDM/cow/day silage (milking herd) |
| MOFC (\$/cow) | \$4.09 | Body Condition Score | 4.1 (milking herd) |

Pasture Management

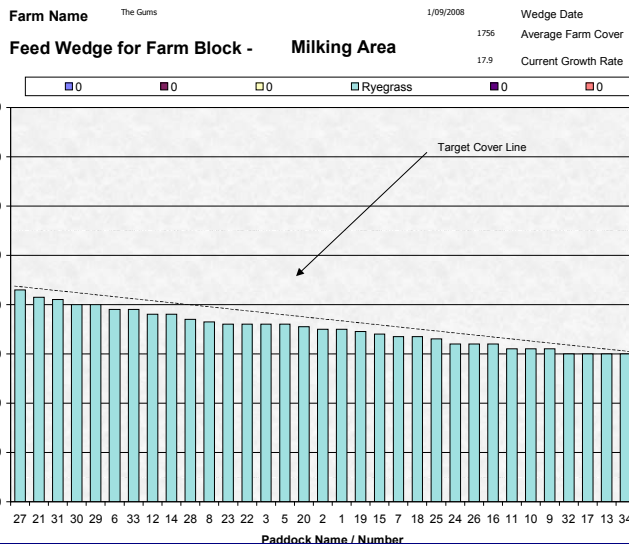
- 9am soil temperatures remain at 10.5°C which is similar to the same time last year.

A bold move.....

- LERs have been steadily falling since the beginning of August but the decision was taken to hold the round at 60 days (slower than three-leaf) because cold and wet conditions have resulted in lower than anticipated growth rates through August. As the pre-grazing covers fell, so grain feeding levels had to be raised and silage and hay fed out to keep the cows fully fed so as to get better per cow production and reduce the rate of condition loss.
- The current LER of 14 days suggests a round length of 42 days but the decision was taken to speed up to 36 days. However it will not be long before the LER drops below 12 days and we will speed up accordingly. The reasons for going quicker are:
 - Records show that we can expect growth rates to really move in September
 - We are not moving the round length radically away from what the current LER suggests
 - The growth rate has moved up from last week
 - The average covers have remained steady indicating that we are holding pasture demand close to pasture supply
 - The increased area will mean more quality pasture in the ration as we replace some of the lower quality silage. This should hold production up and keep condition loss within acceptable limits
 - At the new pasture demand we should still match supply at existing growth rates and so covers should not drop
 - We have purchased more silage (100 extra bales) to give us a three week buffer
 - Significant amounts of N have gone on which will boost growth

- So we feel we cannot lose by going quicker and if there is any upward shift in growth (highly likely) then we are moving away from the tight situation. We should remain ahead of the expected rush of cover and be better positioned to cope with quality issues when they come.
- In conclusion at this time of the year for us at the TDDF we are taking a pro-active step in anticipation. If the situation pans out as we expect, we have jumped the gun but only just.

“There is danger in reckless change; but greater danger in blind conservatism” Henry George



Animal Performance

- Milk production has declined to 1.5kgMS/cow/day (4.52% fat and 3.23% protein) from 1.66kgMS/cow.day (4.18% fat and 3.47% protein). This is due to a decline in metabolisable energy in the diet. The decline was expected because of a reduction of pasture in the diet. Furthermore, the grain mix that was being allocated has been below budget by 1.8kgDM/cow/day because of feed consistency. This equates to a shortfall of 18MJME/cow/day, which could equate to a production loss of 0.26kgMS/cow. This highlights the importance of regularly weighing concentrates that are being fed, especially as new loads are introduced into the silo.
- Herd dietary intake (810 cows at 10ha/day)

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|---------------|
| Pasture | 7kgDM/cow/day | = 77MJME/day |
| Grain Mix | 5.4kgDM/cow/day | = 64MJME/day |
| Silage | 3kgDM/cow/day | = 30MJME/day |
| Total | 15.4kgDM/cow/day | = 171MJME/day |

Note: At this stage in lactation 21 litres (1.6kgMS) = 170 – 175MJME/day

- Below are the results from weighing the herd

| Heifers | | | Three year olds | | | Mature cows | | |
|--------------|--------|-----|-----------------|--------|-----|--------------|--------|-----|
| FID | Weight | Age | FID | Weight | Age | FID | Weight | Age |
| 48 | 364 | h | 4345 | 385 | 3 | 6 | 449 | |
| 8 | 341 | h | 4824 | 417 | 3 | 138 | 447 | |
| 5177 | 355 | h | 2341 | 412 | 3 | 669 | 608 | |
| 5216 | 334 | h | 3409 | 334 | 3 | 715 | 398 | |
| 5287 | 348 | h | 3843 | 402 | 3 | 971 | 502 | |
| 5221 | 355 | h | 4677 | 362 | 3 | 87 | 580 | |
| 16 | 333 | h | 1805 | 323 | 3 | 708 | 486 | |
| 5144 | 333 | h | 4629 | 380 | 3 | 105 | 534 | |
| 5421 | 342 | h | 3506 | 353 | 3 | 104 | 486 | |
| 98 | 316 | h | 4769 | 383 | 3 | 759 | 493 | |
| 342.1 | | | 375.1 | | | 498.3 | | |

It is very obvious that herd weights, especially for the young animals, are below par. This is nothing the FMG didn't expect. Surprisingly the average herd weight for the mature animals was 50kg liveweight above what was expected. The FMG will still budget to allocate feed to an animal that is 450kg liveweight as this takes into consideration the liveweight differences across the herd. These animals will be weighed monthly for the duration of the season.

- Calves will be weighed and drenched as soon as possible. The plan is to run these animals in 3 groups of approximately 80 each. Groups will be determined on liveweight and calves above 70kg liveweight will have their pellet intake monitored over 3 – 4 days. From this a decision will be made on whether they can be weaned. Note: An injectable drench (Ivermectin) will be used as calves respond better to injectable drenches than pour-ons.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday September 8 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).