



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Reduce rotation length to 28 days
2	Spray out turnip paddocks
3	Pull concentrates out of the ration
4	Continue to wean calves



## SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	10 days/leaf	Cows	800 (milking herd)
Rotation Length	28 days	Litres/cow/day	21
Pasture Growth Rate	33 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.6kg
Average Pasture Cover	1900 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	3.48kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	11°C	Cow intake	15 kgDM/cow/day (milking herd)
Rainfall (past 7 days)	18 mm	Supplement Fed	3.6 kgDM/cow/day pellet (milking herd)
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$6.20	Body Condition Score	4.1 (milking herd)

### Pasture Management

- Over the past week soil temperatures have increased to 11°C from 10.5°C, and more importantly soil moisture has decreased to 8kpa from 4kpa. With soil moisture being the most limiting factor for pasture production because of its negative impacts on soil temperature, this shift will be very positive in improving pasture production.
- Pasture growth rates have increased to 33kgDM/ha/day from 16kgDM/ha/day last week. Average pasture cover has increased to 1900kgDM/ha from 1805kgDM/ha.
- Rotation length has been reduced to 28 days from 30 days, which is faster than the leaf emergence rate of 10 days per leaf (leaf emergence last week was 11 days per leaf). At this same time last year, the rate of leaf emergence was 10 days per leaf
- It was mentioned in last week notes that nitrogen application rates will be increased to 46kgN/ha from 25kgN/ha. Based on research, applying less than 30 kg N/ha in any single application will often produce unpredictable N responses. The FMG will consult further on this issue next Monday in regards to the rate of nitrogen to apply over the coming weeks. The decision will be based on predicted responses, feed budgeting and economics. In the mean time, nitrogen will be applied following the cows at a rate of 30kgN/ha.
- 20 hectares will be sprayed out for a dryland turnip crop over the coming week. Turnips will be used in the pasture renovation process. The paddocks chosen were identified through the weekly pasture walks as being very poor performing and in major need of renovation (see below for details on the sowing plan)

**DATE OF PLANTING** 15 October  
**MATURITY DATE** 1 January  
**VARIETY** Barabas Turnip @ 1.5 kg/ha  
**INITIAL SPRAYING OFF** Gladiator 3 litres/ha  
**SOIL PREPARATION & SOWING** 1 pass with Terradisc. 1 pass with Roterra. Broadcast seed and fertilizer. Roll.  
**FERTILISER** 400kg/ha SSP+ 0.4%Boron  
**PEST CONTROL /TOP DRESSING FERTILISER**  
 Day 10 Lorsban @ 700mls/ha + Moly @0.15kg/ha  
 Day 21 Urea @ 125kg/ha  
 Day 42 Urea @ 125kg/ha



### Animal Performance

- 800 animals comprise the milking herd. The main animal health issue continues to be lameness which is being caused from soft feet. At the moment, approximately 15 new animals are showing to be lame each week but proactive management is being very beneficial with most cases being cleared up quickly.
- Milk production is holding at 1.6kgMS/cow/day. Over the next 10 days concentrates will be out of the ration. Feed budgets are showing that pasture can form the total budgeted ration of 15kgDM/cow/day in the next 10 days. The FMG expect minimal impacts to reproductive performance as the metabolisable energy content of the ration will not change dramatically.
- Under the current rotation length of 28 days (13.33ha/day).
 

Pre grazing cover	2300kgDM/ha
Post grazing residual	1500kgDM/ha
Total available	800kgDM/ha x 13ha = 10664kgDM
<b>Per cow from pasture</b>	<b>10664kgDM / 800 cows = 13kgDM + concentrates (3.6kgDM/cow)</b>
- Early reproduction data has 400 animals submitted in the first 9 days of AI.
- 133 calves have been weaned with another 120 still on milk. On average all calves are eating 1kgDM of calf pellets per day.

**THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG** farm walk and BBQ will be on Monday October 5 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).