



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Hold rotation length to 36 days
2	Decrease nitrogen application rates
3	Gradually reduce the amount of concentrates in the ration
4	Continue to actively monitor lameness



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

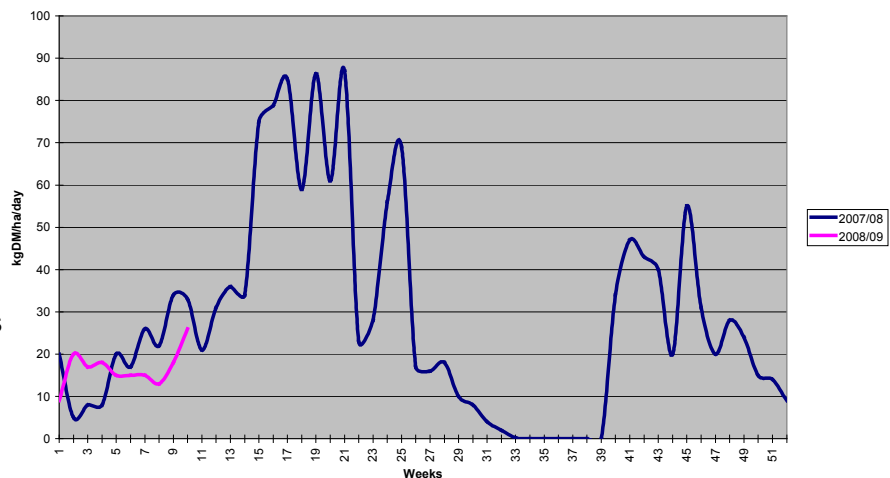
Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	12 days/leaf	Cows	766 (milking herd) 25 (lame herd)
Rotation Length	36 days	Litres/cow/day	18
Pasture Growth Rate	26 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.4kg
Average Pasture Cover	1821 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	3.05kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	10.0°C	Cow intake	15.6 kgDM/cow/day (milking herd)
Rainfall (past 7 days)	17 mm	Supplement Fed	3.6 kgDM/cow/day pellet 3 kgDM/cow/day silage (milking herd)
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$4.34	Body Condition Score	4.1 (milking herd)

Pasture Management

- Pasture growth rates have increased to 26kgDM/ha/day from 18kgDM/ha/day last week. This has resulted in pre grazing pasture covers increasing to 2200kgDM/ha from 2000 – 2100kgDM/ha last week. Pasture in the ration has subsequently increased to 9kgDM/cow/day from 7kgDM/cow/day.

TDDF Pasture Growth Rates

- Average pasture cover has increased to 1821kgDM/ha, which is a clear indicator that the grazing platform is away. The FMG have chosen to hold rotation length over the next week to allow pre-grazing covers to increase. It is anticipated that rotation length will be reduced to 25 – 30 days next week.



- Nitrogen continues to follow behind the herd, the rate being applied has been reduced to 25kgN/ha from 46kgN/ha. With the spring flush nearly upon us, the FMG have changed its nitrogen policy in relation to the shorter rotation that will be in place for spring. Furthermore, the FMG are very averse to making nitrogen-boosted silage, as it is not cost effective in this production system.

Farm Name The Gums

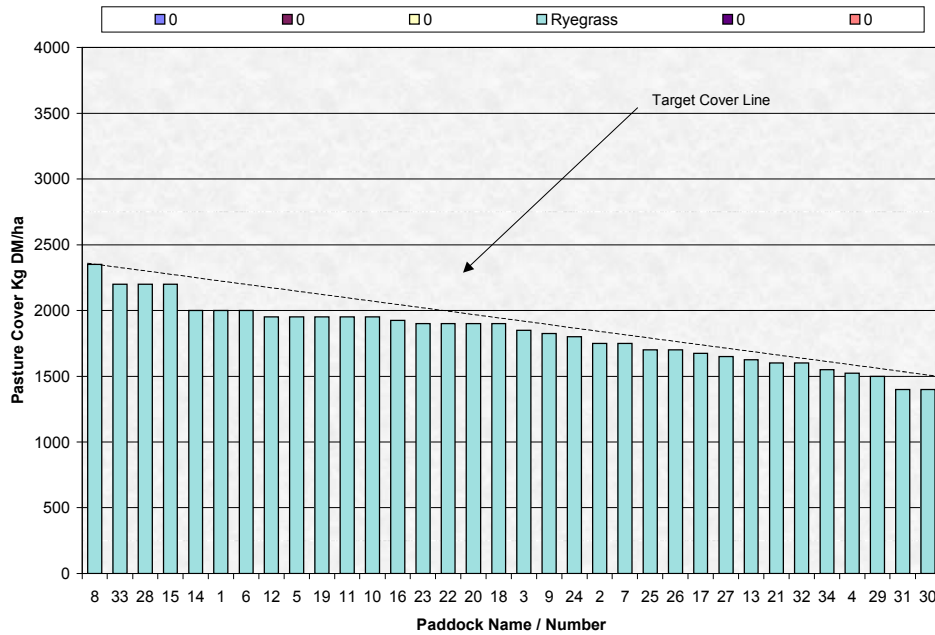
8/09/2008

Wedge Date

1821 Average Farm Cover

Feed Wedge for Farm Block - Milking Area

26.4 Current Growth Rate



- The feedwedge will start to re-establish itself very quickly as the spring flush occurs. The FMG will be ruthless in its fodder conservation strategy. Paddocks above the required pre-grazing levels will be shut and cut.

Animal Performance

- Production took a dramatic hit over the weekend because of a change in the type of concentrate being fed. This is less than ideal as drops in production over this period can have a detrimental impact on the years total production. The overall impact of this drop will become apparent in due course. Nevertheless, with pasture production increasing the amount of supplements will be reduced accordingly. The FMG will gradually reduce concentrates fed by 1kgDM/cow each week; the plan is to feed 1 – 2 kgDM/cow/day of concentrates over mating. It is important not to dramatically change herd nutrition over this period, as it will affect reproductive performance.

Current production:

- 18 litres (1.4kgMS)
- 4.7% fat and 3.2% protein
- 150 BMCC

- Herd daily ration

Pasture	9kgDM	108MJME
Pellets	3.6kgDM	36MJME
Silage	3kgDM	30MJME
Total	15.6kgDM	174MJME

- The farm is running a lame herd of 25 animals. Some of these animals have been treated (predominantly for footrot), but the majority are sore from having soft feet. These animals are being kept close to the dairy.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday September 15 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).