



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Closely monitor the new once-a-day cows
2	Spray out turnip paddocks when weather permits
3	Maintain rotation length
4	Weigh and wean the older heavier calves



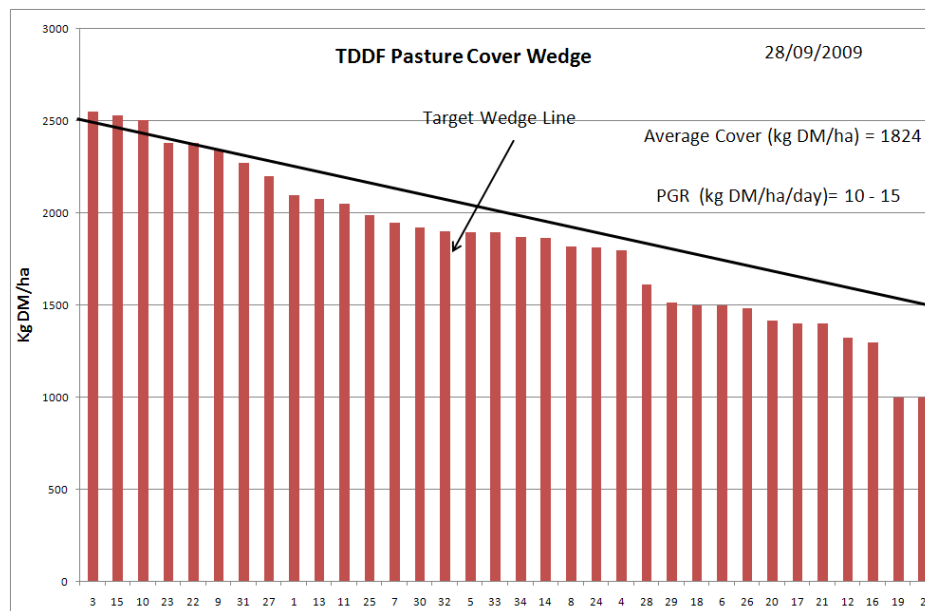
SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	11 days/leaf	Cows	700 (twice-a-day) 150 (once-a-day) 30 (sick herd)
Rotation Length	28 days	Litres/cow/day	16
Pasture Growth Rate	N/A kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.26kg
Average Pasture Cover	1824 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	3.00kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	11.3°C	Cow intake (allocated)	18.5 kgDM/cow/day (milking herd)
Rainfall (past 7 days)	30 mm	Supplement Fed	3.5 kgDM/cow/day pellet
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$1.33	Body Condition Score	4.3 (twice-a-day herd) 3.3 (once-a-day herd)

Pasture Management

- Soil temperatures are 11.3°C and more importantly soil moisture is 4kpa. The grazing platform is very wet in certain areas which is limiting pasture production.
- Pasture growth rates have not been recorded due to plate meter error. Using average cover change and supplement being fed it has been estimated to be approximately 10 – 15 kgDM/ha/day over the past week.
- Rotation length has been reduced to 28 days from 35 days, which is faster than the leaf emergence rate of 11 days per leaf. At this same time last year, the rate of leaf emergence was 11 days per leaf.
- Nitrogen is being applied behind the herd at 36kgN/ha. Once the silage area has been identified, nitrogen will be applied to these paddocks to boost pasture production. Last season, we decided not to apply nitrogen through the spring period but found our pastures going yellow, losing production and not being dense enough for silage conservation. This caused us to make very expensive silage, as silage conservation is a fixed per hour cost for this farm. The sandy soil type, in which the grazing system is based, has very low organic matter resulting in very little free nitrogen being mineralised into the soil.
- There are certain areas of the grazing platform (4 – 5ha) that have had considerable pasture damage from pugging. These areas will have perennial ryegrass seed broadcasted immediately before they are grazed again.

- 40 hectares will be sprayed out for a dryland turnip and rape crop when the weather permits. These fodder crops will be used as part of a pasture renovation process. The area chosen were identified through the weekly pasture walks as being very poor performing and in major need of renovation. A detailed cropping plan will be available next week



Animal Performance

- 700 cows comprise the main milking herd. On Monday September 28, the farm received 150 cows from another VDL property which are 1 body condition score below the main herd. These cows will be milked once a day and given priority in terms of feed. 30 cows make up a sick herd, which are mainly mastitis and lame cases. The majority of these cows are on withholding from antibiotics and will be in the main herd by the end of the week.
- Depending on pasture growth, concentrates will start to be removed out of the ration. Feed budgets are showing that pasture can form the total ration of 16kgDM/cow/day (allocated) in the next 14 days. We 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 (13.3 ha/day).

Pre grazing cover	2500kgDM/ha
Post grazing residual	1500kgDM/ha
Total available	1000kgDM/ha x 13.3ha = 13000kgDM

Per cow from pasture 13000kgDM / 880 cows = 15kgDM + concentrates (3.5kgDM/cow)
(It should be noted with the wet conditions it is more than likely that only 75% of the pasture allocation is utilised meaning that herd intake averages ~15kgDM/cow/day.)
- Early reproduction data has 92% of herd submitted by day 21. The herd will be AI for 5 weeks, and then have the bulls run with them for 5 weeks. The once-a-day and sick herd will have bulls running with them by the end of week. AI started on September 11.
- Calf information – 280 heifer calves

Milk intake	– 5L/calf/day
Pellet intake	– 1kg/calf/day

Parasite control – calves are being with an oral white drench prior to leaving the calf shed; a pour-on is administered every 28 days. All 7in1 vaccinations occur when they leave the farm.
 Calves above 80kgLW will be weaned ASAP

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Tuesday October 6 at 10:30am.
 TDDF Farm Management Group – Kevin Mills (Farm Manager), Chris Haynes (TIAR), Adrian Neasey (VDL) and Darryl Quilliam (Roberts)