



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Monitor pasture intakes
2	Reduce the rotation length
3	Continue to apply nitrogen
4	Drench the herd



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## SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

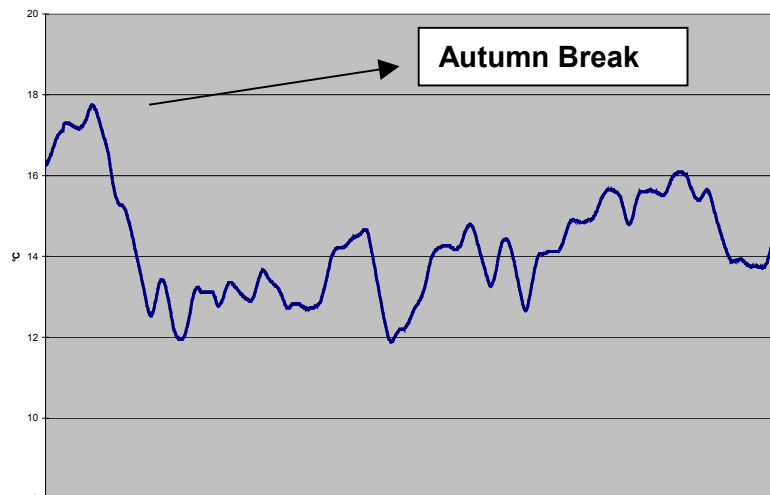
Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	12 days/leaf	Cows (dry)	700
Rotation Length	60 days	Litres/cow/day	0
Pasture Growth Rate	47kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	0kg
Average Pasture Cover	1863 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	0kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	14°C	Cow intake	10 – 11 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	42 mm	Supplement Fed	-
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$0.00	Body Condition Score	4.3

## TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

### Pasture Management

- Soil tension remains at 10 – 12 kpa, the farm has received another 42mm of rainfall over the past week. Soil temperature has increased to be around 14°C at 9am. The figure below illustrates soil temperature since March 24, the grazing platform has responded well since the break because of soil moisture and good soil temperatures.
- The grazing platform is actively growing at 47 kgDM/ha/day (34 kgDM/ha/day last week). This has seen average pasture cover (APC) increase sharply to 1863 kgDM/ha (1656 kgDM/ha last week). The herd has remained on a 90-day rotation since the break, which has allowed pasture cover to grow out in front. If soil temperatures stay the same, the farm should continue to see this pasture growth over the next 2 – 3 weeks.
- Rotation length has been reduced to 60 days to align more closely with LER (12 days / leaf). The farm is not nearly as desperate as it was 2 weeks ago in putting cover in front of the cows because of the excellent pasture growth rates; therefore there is no need to be on a 90-day rotation. Feedbudgets indicate at the current pasture growth rate APC will be at ~2000kgDM/ha in a week.
- Nitrogen continues to be applied behind the cows at 46kgN/ha.

Soil temperatures since March 24 2008



## Feedbudget

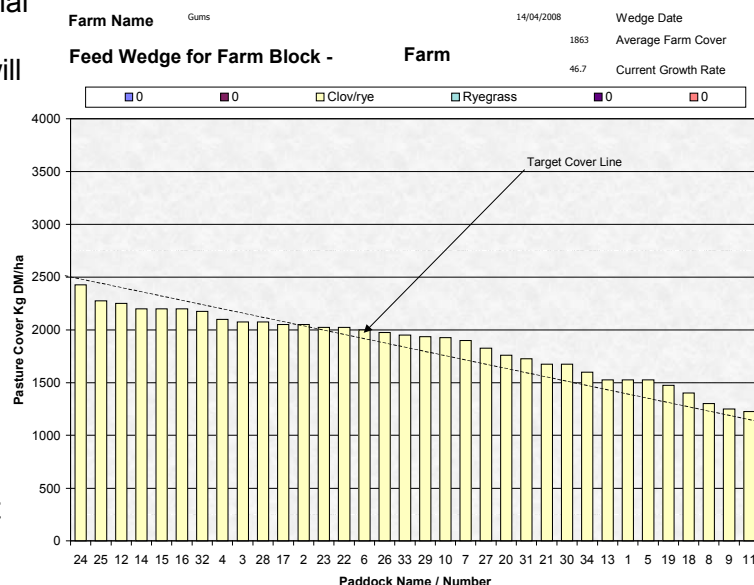
Animal demand = 10 - 11kgDM/cow/day

Per ha demand = stocking rate x animal demand = 2.1 x 11 = 22 kgDM/ha/day

Current pasture growth = 47kgDM/ha/day

$\Delta$  Pasture supply – Pasture Demand (47 – 22) = 25 kgDM/ha/day (surplus / daily increase in APC)

- The feedwedge is showing potential feed surpluses if current pasture growth rates continue. The aim will be to leave residuals of 1200 – 1300kgDM/ha, with a portion of the herd needing to put on a minimum of 1 body condition score (BCS) before calving the FMG do not want compromise intakes by leaving too low residuals. The challenge will be to maintain APC at 2000 – 2100kgDM/ha for calving if pasture growth rates continue to be above average. However, at calving last year the FMG thought APC was too high but because of the lower than expected pasture growth in July and August the farm appreciated the extra pasture cover.



- The 30ha to be renovated has been sprayed out and grazed in preparation for cultivation. This is expected to be done over the coming week.

## Animal and Financial Performance

- There are now 700 dry cows on farm with 81 cull cows waiting to be sent off.
- On Monday the herd was split into two mobs <4.0 and >4.0 BCS. By splitting the herd decisions can be made around feeding the lighter cows better and allowing those animals to not have to compete with their heavier counter parts.
- Both herds are being allocated 10 - 11kgDM/cow/day consisting only of pasture. Pregnancy is starting play a minor role in the energy partitioning of the cow; therefore it is paramount that the lighter cows start to put on condition. The current maintenance and pregnancy requirement of herd is 55 MJ ME/cow and 14 MJ ME/cow respectively; the pregnancy requirement will increase to 25 and 43 MJ ME over the next two months.
- At the allocated feeding levels, cows are being allocated a total ration of 132 MJ ME per day (11kgDM @ 12 MJ ME). 63 MJ ME is being partitioned to liveweight gain (LW) and 69 MJ ME to maintenance and pregnancy. This equates to 1.5kgLW gain per day, where 43 MJ ME is needed per kg LW. At this rate of gain it will take around 23 days to put on a BCS (35kgLW per BCS for a crossbred animal).
- Pasture will be feedtested next week.
- It was mentioned in last weeks notes that the entire herd was to be drenched in accordance with the TDDF's Animal Health Plan, this will be done over the coming week.

**THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG** farm walk will be on Monday April 21 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).