



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Maximise pasture intakes
2	Monitor the feedwedge for surpluses
3	Remove cull cows off farm
4	Nitrogen strategy



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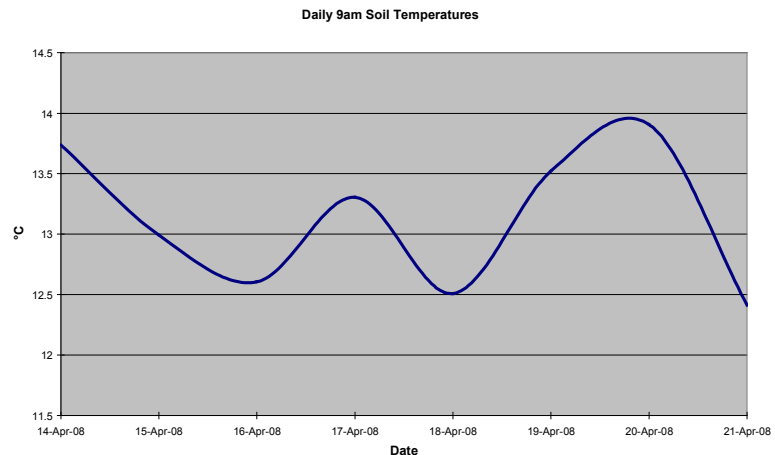
SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	12 days/leaf	Cows (dry)	700
Rotation Length	60 days	Litres/cow/day	0
Pasture Growth Rate	43kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	0kg
Average Pasture Cover	1882 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	0kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	12.5°C	Cow intake	10 – 11 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	0 mm	Supplement Fed	-
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$0.00	Body Condition Score	4.5 (Heavy herd) 4.0 (Light herd)

TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

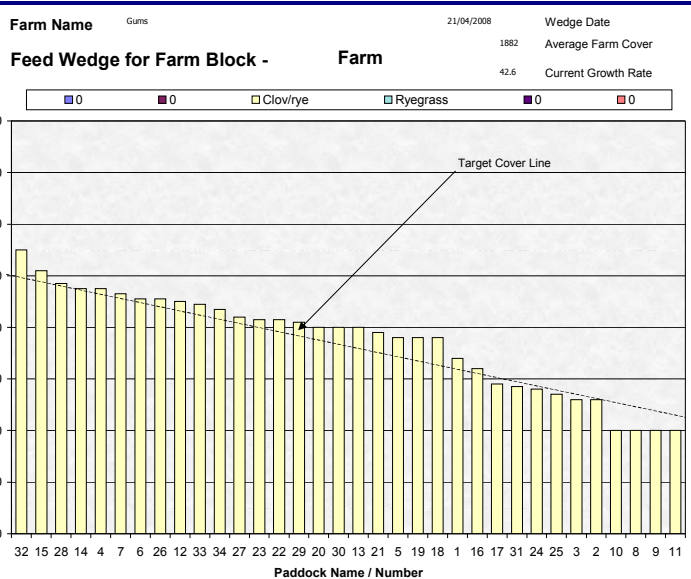
Pasture Management

- Daily 9am soil temperatures have varied over the past week. This can be attributed to fluctuations in nightly ambient temperatures. The FMG will be keeping a close eye on the soil temperatures in the coming weeks in regards to changes in pasture growth rates.
- Average pasture growth rates have decreased slightly since last week to 43kgDM/ha. This is still well above budget which means the FMG may have to refine its nitrogen strategy.



- Nitrogen has been applied to 180 ha and a decision has been made hold off applying any more until next weeks walk. This decision was made on the basis of the higher than expected pasture growth rate coupled with the lower pasture demand (lower stocking rate). The FMG are conscious of having too much average pasture cover going into winter.
- Discussed at this week's farm walk was the possibility of bringing the replacements on-farm a month earlier to help accommodate manage the higher than predicted pasture growth rates. A decision will be made around this issue next week.

- Over the past week average pasture cover has increased to 1882kgDM/ha. This rise is not as sharp as expected last week, and is due to reductions in average covers in renovated paddocks. There is a potential issue with a number of paddocks in the middle of the wedge being between 1800kgDM/ha – 2200kgDM/ha being ready to be grazed at the same time. Under the current rotation length of 60 days, for the cows to get their daily intakes need to enter paddocks at a pre-grazing cover of 2600kgDM so a 1200 – 1300kgDM/ha post grazing residual is left. If the cows enter paddocks that are higher than the desired pre-grazing cover they will need extra time to get residuals down, thus slowing rotation length and increasing pasture cover. This is the main reason the FMG are toying with the idea of bringing the replacements home earlier to increase pasture demand and help manage the higher than predicted pasture growth rate.



- Renovated paddocks have been cultivated and will be finished by the start of next week.

Animal and Financial Performance

- There are 700 cows on-farm, split into light (280 cows) and heavy (420 cows) herds.
- Over the next week the FMG will a trial following the heavy herd behind the light herd. The light herd will be allocated a fresh break of 5 – 6 ha per day, and the heavy herd will follow behind eating what is left. It is hoped that this will maximise intakes for the light herd and help control residuals without compromising intakes. With the light herd being relatively small in numbers and paddocks being about 10 – 11 ha, it is hoped this grazing practice will make it easier to manage post-grazing residuals as well as maximise intakes for the lighter herd. The heavy herd will be back fenced so that new pasture growth is not compromised.
- The body condition score of the light and heavy herds are 4.0 and 4.5 respectively. The FMG are not concerned with the BCS of the light herd, as there is still 40 days to significantly increase body condition before pregnancy becomes limiting. Pasture quality and total dietary metabolisable energy intakes are good amongst both herds. It was mentioned in last week's notes that the cows had the potential to put on 1 BCS in 23 days if they were eating their total allocation.
- A number of cull cows will have liver biopsies to determine if there are any mineral deficiencies in the herd. At this stage there is no mineral supplementation planned, therefore having this information will be very beneficial in helping make those decisions.
- All cows and calves will be vaccinated against salmonella for this coming season. (See below for details about the up coming salmonella vaccination information day)

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday April 28 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).

VDL along with the Smithton Veterinary Service will be holding a free demonstration and information day on vaccinating against salmonella at the TDDF.

Monday April 28 at 12:30pm, which includes a free BBQ lunch.

Make sure you do your best to come along, as it will be a good day!