



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Herd test to identify low and high producers
2	Slowing down the rotation length to 42 days
3	Monitoring army worm challenge
4	Feeding the turnip crop

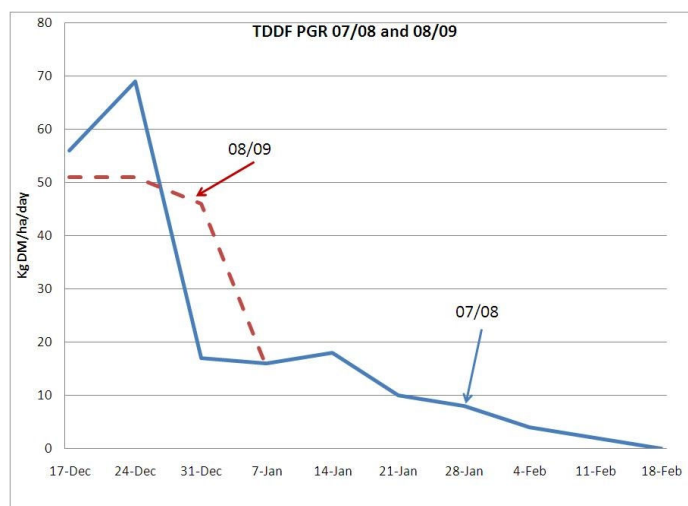


SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	12 days/leaf	Cows	740
Rotation Length	42 days	Litres/cow/day	14.2
Pasture Growth Rate	15 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.2 kg
Average Pasture Cover	2156 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.41 kg
Soil Temperature	16.3°C	Cow intake	12 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	21mm	Supplement Fed	3 kgDM/cow/day
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$4.20	Body Condition Score	4.1

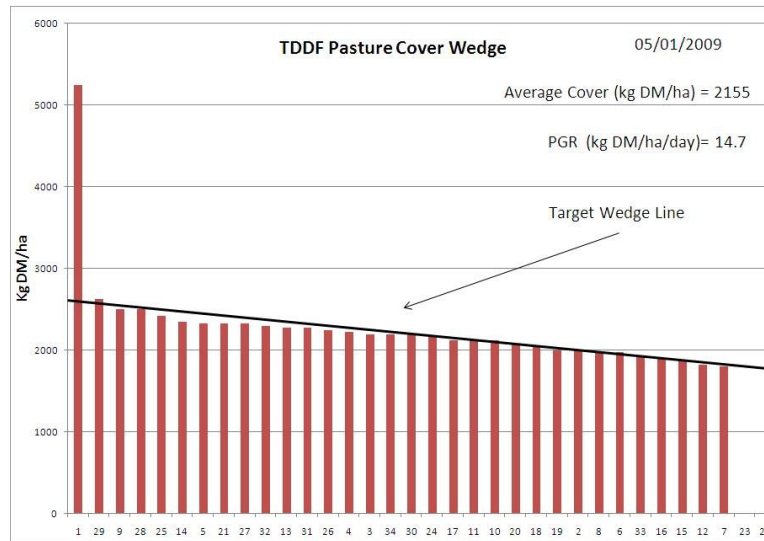
Pasture and Forage Crop Management

- Despite 21 mm of rain over the week, persistent winds have seen soil moisture levels continue to drop (soil tensiometer 40kPa)
- Pasture growth rates have fallen to 15 kg DM/ha/day (see the graph below).



- The FMG has slowed the round down and we are feeding silage to allow us to do this. We have assessed the turnip crop and rather than introducing expensive grain in the short term as stated in last week's notes, we have decided to start feeding the crop, initially at 3 kg DM /cow/day and then up 4 kg DM once the cows are used to the feed.

- We have done a estimate of the yield of the crop. Taking a representative sample, we have measured a wet turnip yield of 60 t/ha which at 10% DM content gives us a yield of 6.0 t DM/ha. This should continue to increase on a per ha basis over the remainder of the crop as we go forward.
- We have noticed a reasonable army worm presence in the hay paddocks and in those paddocks surrounding the hay paddocks. Other paddocks on the farm have an army worm presence but at a much lower level.



- The hay paddocks will be cut this week.

Animal & Financial Performance

- Details are in the table. Milk production continues to come down slightly but we are hopeful that once we start on the turnips, we will see production rising back up.
- When we are feeding 4 kg DM turnips/cow/day the daily ME intake will be roughly 7 kg DM of pasture at say 11 MJME/kg DM plus 4 kg DM silage at 10 MJME/kg DM and 4 kg DM turnips at 13 MJME/kg DM. A total of 169 MJME/cow/day. Assuming 64 MJME for maintenance this should allow 105 MJME for production which at 68 MJME/kg MS = 1.5 kg MS/cow/day. We are not convinced that we will see this at this stage of lactation and this will mean that some energy will be partitioned to condition.
- We are keen not to have low producers on quality turnips as their production response will not be as good. We are looking to a herd test this week to have a better idea of what the cows are doing on an individual basis and this might allow us to make informed decisions about what cows should be on turnips and what cows could be fed silage and pasture at a lower production level.
- A sample of silage has been sent off for analysis through Feedtest and we will submit another sample to Weston laboratories and compare the nutritive values of the two tests.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday January 12th 2009.

FIELD DAY!! (NOT TO BE MISSED)

We have started planning for our field day on **Monday the 2nd February 2009**. It promises to be an informative day covering the key take home messages from our BMPs as well as highlighting what we have learnt so far and particularly how we have managed this season compared to last season. We are hoping to present an idea of the cost benefits if any that we have seen as a result of a much higher level of grain feeding this season.

TDDF Farm Management Group – Basil Doonan (Davey & Maynard), Rob La Grange (TIAR), Chris Haynes (TIAR), and Justin McGowan and Nicki Devantier (TDDF Sharefarmers).