



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Move to a 60 day rotation length
2	Address milk fever
3	Monitor bulk milk cell count
4	Magnesium and calcium supplementation



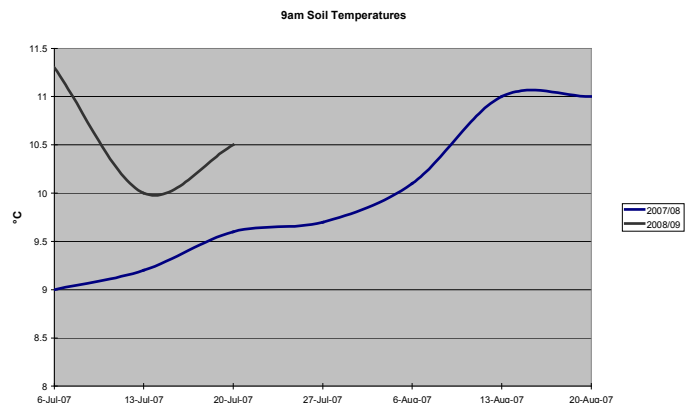
SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	20 days/leaf	Cows	495 (dry herd) 350 (milking herd)
Rotation Length	60 days	Litres/cow/day	15
Pasture Growth Rate	20 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.2kg
Average Pasture Cover	2117 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	1.15kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	10.5°C	Cow intake	8 kgDM/cow/day (Dry) 15 kgDM/cow/day (Milking)
Rainfall (past 7 days)	33 mm	Supplement Fed	2kgDM/cow/day grain (milking herd) 6 kgDM/cow/day hay (dry herd)
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$5.50	Body Condition Score	4.7 (milking herd) 5.0 (dry herd)

*Note the herd gets body condition scored every 2 weeks.

Pasture Management

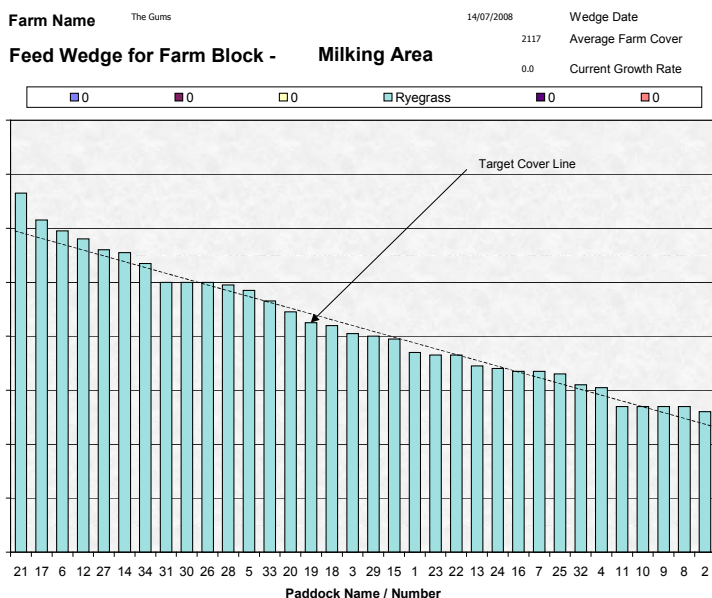
- Average pasture cover has increased to 2117kgDM/ha, which is a dramatic rise at this time of the year. The FMG strongly believe that this can be attributed to 2 reasons, differences in readings due to plate meter error / malfunction and different people walking the farm. The FMG have been suspicious of the pasture growth data gathered over the past two weeks, as it was not aligning with the other climate information. Next week should provide a good insight into accurately working out what is happening on farm.
- Soil temperatures have risen to 10.5°C, which is well above last year. Unseasonal frosts through July and August seriously affected soil temperature and pasture production last season (see adjacent graph).
- Daily pasture growth has been calculated at 20kgDM/ha/day, which is well above last week's figure and can be attributed to the reasons stated earlier.



- The feedwedge is looking very healthy with the average pasture cover being ahead of budget. With the rotation length being above 90 days for the past 3 weeks and leaf emergence being at 20 days per leaf, there are 2 – 3 paddocks that are past the 3-leaf stage. Quality is starting to reduce in these paddocks, so it is priority that these get grazed ASAP.

- Rotation length has been reduced to 60 days, as there is no need to build pasture cover in front of the cows. This aligns with the leaf emergence rate of 20 days per leaf.

- Nitrogen at 46kgN/ha is continuing to get applied behind the cows. Approximately half the farm has had nitrogen applied to it since the start of the season.



Animal and Financial Performance

- The herd consists of approximately 350 Milking, 50 Colostrum, 300 Springing, and 195 Dries. There have been 7 deaths.
- Milk production varies quite a bit at the moment and it is hard to get a good handle on it because of cows entering the milking herd each day. The FMG predict the milkers are producing 15 litres or 1.2kgMS per day, which is what has been budgeted for July. Around 5 – 6 weeks after the mean calving date will indicate what the farm has achieved in regards to peak milk production.
- BMCC has fluctuated between 200,000 and 300,000 over the past week. This has resulted in all milking animals having their quarters stripped. If no clinical cases of mastitis are found an early herd test will be completed to detect problem animals.
- The milking and colostrum herd are being allocated a total ration of 15kgDM (13kgDM pasture and 2kgDM concentrates). Dry cows and the springers are being allocated 6kgDM hay and 2kgDM pasture.
- Milk fever continues to be a major issue with approximately 7.5% (30) of the cows calved succumbing to the metabolic disorder. The FMG view this as being unacceptable. The pre-calving pasture based diet puts the animals at a higher risk. It was mentioned last week that the colostrum herd has not been taking to the post-calving transition cow brew because of the dolomite fines being unappealing and unpalatable. The FMG have made alterations to this brew. Furthermore, CauseMag will re-commence getting spread onto hay and pasture as the bike spreader has been fixed.
- Body condition of the herd is 4.7 milkers and 5.0 dry cows. Condition of the milking cows is well above that at the same time last year. Cows are still in the negative energy balance continuum post-calving and so further condition loss is expected. The FMG have budgeted for cows to average a CS of 4.0 at break-even.
- The autodrafting and shed ID system will be installed over the next 3 – 4 weeks.

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