



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	keep the rotation length at present levels
2	Manage a high incidence of milk fever
3	Magnesium and calcium supplementation
4	Supply quality colostrum to new born calves



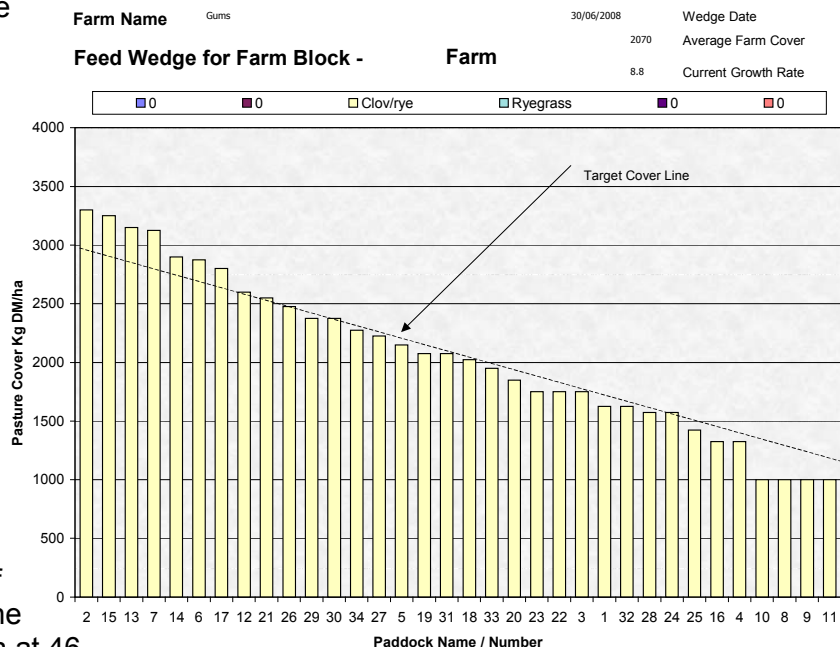
SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA			
Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	18 days/leaf	Cows	902(dry herd) 22 (colostrum herd)
Rotation Length	120 days	Litres/cow/day	13
Pasture Growth Rate	9 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1kg
Average Pasture Cover	2070 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	0.85kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	11.3°C	Cow intake	8 kgDM/cow/day (Dry) 15 kgDM/cow/day (Colostrum)
Rainfall (past 7 days)	21 mm	Supplement Fed	6 kgDM/cow/day hay (dry herd)
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$0.00	Body Condition Score	4.9

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

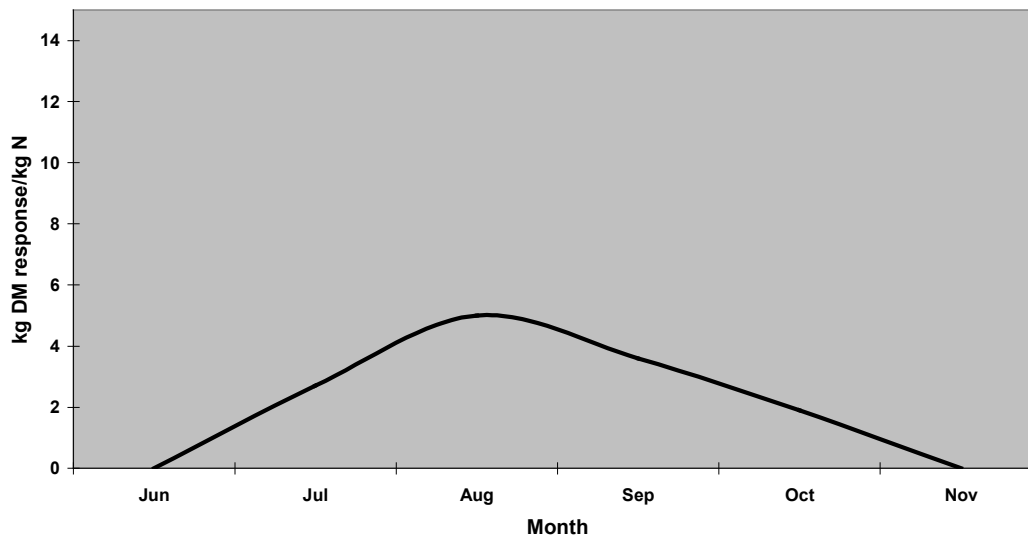
Pasture Management

Rotation length has been extended to over 90 days. The dry cow and springer mobs are being fed hay at 6 kg DM/cow/day, which means that they are likely to be eating about 2.5 kg DM pasture/day. At current pre-graze covers of about 2800 kg DM/ha and a residual of 1300 kg DM/ha the cows are being offered 1500 kg DM/ha. This means that the 790 dry cows need 1.8 ha/day. The 110 colostrums and milkers will be needing about 14 kg DM/cow/day and the area needed for these cows = 1.2 ha/day. The effect of this is a round length of 122 days. Because of the tight pasture supply the area offered daily will be calculated to prevent the average covers from falling too quickly to low levels.

The FMG are very happy with the adjacent feedwedge, as the targeted average pasture cover is holding up well. Concentrates will be fed to the milkers from the start and will help fill the gap in feed demand because daily allocations of pasture will be inadequate early in the season. Nitrogen continues to go on at 46 kg/ha when enough paddocks are available for a bulk spread. About 30 ha received N on the 13th June and a further 42 ha on the 25th June.



The following graph shows typical N responses based on AgResearch Ruakura (NZ) trial results. Soil temperatures will influence the level of the response. Providing no major leaching occurs, N applied in winter continues to have a response for several weeks.



Animal and Financial Performance

- 110 cows have calved. 30 cows are being milked into the vat and pick-ups have commenced.
- There are about 400 cows in the springing herd. The induced cows are in with these. This mob is fed a small quantity of grain in the shed every day to cut out the calved cows. The average BCS of the mob is about 4.7.
- The dry mob has just under 400 cows and are holding condition on the predominantly hay ration. The ME requirements for these dry cows is about 90 MJ ME/day. The ration ME is as follows:

2.5 kg DM pasture @ 12 MJ ME/kg DM = 30 MJ ME
6.0 kg DM hay @ 9.2 MJ ME/kg DM = 55 MJ ME
Total energy intake = 85 MJ ME/cow/day

This is close to requirements and should see condition holding. The cows in this mob are at an average BCS of 4.9.

Herd Health Issues

- The incidence of milk fever is high at present. Magnesium is still not going on due to the broken bike spreader. The colostrums are not eating any significant amounts of the dolomite fines and magnesium sulphate brew and the amount of granulated molasses will be increased to encourage intakes.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday July 7th at 10:30am. This is the first walk for the new season. We will be having our **Monthly BBQ** and we welcome farmers to come and join us. TDDF Farm Management Group – Basil Doonan (Davey & Maynard), Rob La Grange (TIAR), Chris Haynes (TIAR), and Justin McGowan and Nicki Devantier (TDDF Sharefarmers).