



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Continue to improve body condition
2	Manage ryegrass staggers within the herd



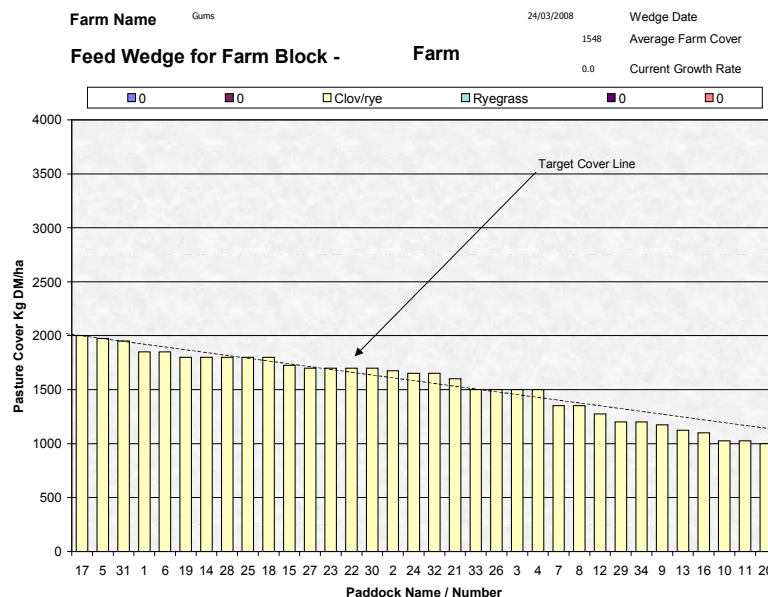
SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	30 days/leaf	Cows (dry)	781
Rotation Length	90 days	Litres/cow/day	0
Pasture Growth Rate	0kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	0kg
Average Pasture Cover	1548 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	0kg
Soil Temperature	15°C	Cow intake	11 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	8 mm	Supplement Fed	7 kgDM Silage
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$0.00	Body Condition Score	4.3

TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

Pasture Management

- Average pasture cover continues to decline, as there is no pasture growth. Feedbudgets suggest that under the current conditions that there is around 30 – 40 days of pasture left on the grazing platform. This has taken into account current rotation length and supplement feeding.
- Over the past week soil tension has fallen to 20 kpa. The FMG are very suspicious of this reading, as the farm has only received 8mm of rain. Even though the acid sand/sandy loam soil are able to improve water content faster than the heavier clay soil types, 8 mm should not have decreased soil tension to 20 kpa. It is likely that cracks in the soil have allowed a considerable amount of water to reach the probe at 300mm causing an inaccurate reading. Next weeks soil tension reading will provide us with a more conclusive answer. Stay tuned!



- The feedwedge is giving a clear indication of the state of the grazing platform. Pre grazing covers remain at 2000kgDM/ha and the herd is leaving a post grazing residual of 1000 – 1200kgDM/ha.
- Ryegrass staggers continue to be issue amongst the herd. It was anticipated that the high levels of supplementary feeding would reduce its impact but it appears to have little effect. In last weeks walk notes it was mentioned that the FMG would split the herd, draft out the empties and weigh a portion of the animals. This could not be done because of stagger problems. Currently when the herds need to be moved out of paddocks they do so at their own accord, any perceived pressure results in some cows to fall over. Silage is being fed in the new paddock to promote voluntary movement.
- The TDDF C-Dax Field Day was very well attended with 30 people. The FMG envisage the use of the technology on the farm when it can be calibrated for Tasmanian grazing conditions. See pictures below:



Animal and Financial Performance

- There are 781 dry cows on farm.
- Over the next week cows will be fed a diet of silage and pasture. Silage will be fed at a rate of 7kgDM/cow/day, and pasture 4kgDM/cow/day. The majority of body condition needs to be gained before pregnancy starts to limit total dry matter intake. To ensure that the herd leaves a post grazing residual of 1000 – 1200kgDM/ha, silage will be fed out on the day after the new break of pasture is given. Pasture will be supplemented with hay once the silage runs out. Since the herd has not been able to be split on body condition, we will feed for the lightest animals.

Cow requirements	Maintenance:	55 MJ ME/day (450 kgLW)
	Pregnancy:	14 MJ ME/day (7 months pregnant)
	Weight Gain:	43 MJ ME /day (1kgLW/day)
	Total:	112 MJ ME/day

Current daily ration	Silage (@10.5 MJ ME) 7kgDM	= 74MJ ME/cow/day
	Pasture (@ 8.5 MJ ME) 4 kgDM	= 34 MJ ME/cow/day
	Total	= 108 MJ ME/cow/day

Under these feeding conditions the herd should be increasing body condition by ~1.0kgLW/cow/day. . Ideally we do not want to be feeding empty cows this ration, but since there are other mitigating circumstances (ryegrass staggers) effecting management we just deal with the situation the best we can. Another option was to wait and feed the rest of the silage to the lighter herd once they were split. It was decided that it would be too late to put body condition back on, as splitting the herd would not happen until autumn rains trigger pasture growth.

- Body Condition Score of the herd averages 4.3, ranging from 4.0 to 5.0.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday March 31 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).