



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Monitor pasture growth rates and soil moisture
2	Hold milk production
3	Plant turnips ASAP
4	Rotate the bulls every 7 days



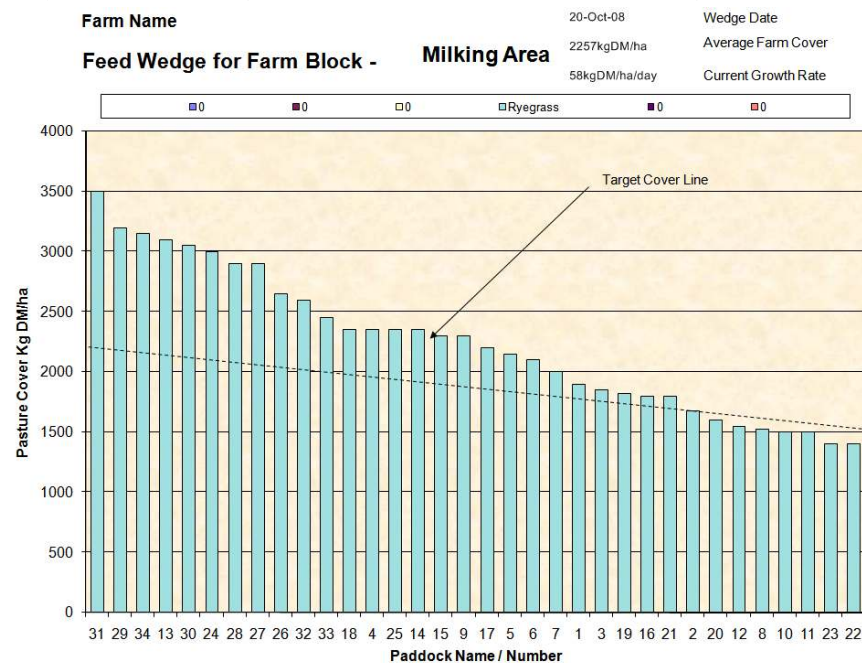
SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	8 days/leaf	Cows	780 (milking)
Rotation Length	20 days	Litres/cow/day	18
Pasture Growth Rate	58 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.40kg
Average Pasture Cover	2257 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	3.00kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	13.2°C	Cow intake	15 kgDM/cow/day (milking herd)
Rainfall (past 7 days)	9.5 mm	Supplement Fed	Nil
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$6.60	Body Condition Score	4.1 (milking herd)

Pasture Management

- Soil tension has increased to 14kpa from 12kpa last week. The weather forecast for the next 2 weeks is not looking too promising with very little rain predicted. Although soil moisture is not limiting pasture production, 2 weeks of dry weather will play a significant role in shaping the season. This is quite ironic as only a few weeks ago too much soil moisture was limiting pasture production.

- Average pasture cover is 2257kgDM/ha up from 2105kgDM/ha last week. Pasture growth rates have increased to 58kgDM/ha/day up from 43kgDM/ha/day last week. It is planned that the silage will be cut in 10 days; the expected yield is 350,000kgDM. Rotation length has been reduced to 20 days. This is a proactive step to manage seed



heads. Although seed heads are yet to appear, the way the season is shaping they will not be too far way.

- The nitrogen policy is to hold off until pasture growth rates get below demand. The FMG are budgeting to apply nitrogen to the silage paddocks once they have been cut. There have been discussions on starting a rotation of nitrogen behind the herd. The FMG will wait and see what pasture growth rates do over the next week before any decision will be made. Current pasture growth rates are still above pasture demand ($780 \div 228\text{ha} = 3.4 \text{ SR} \times 16\text{kgDM}/\text{cow} = 54\text{kgDM}/\text{ha}$).

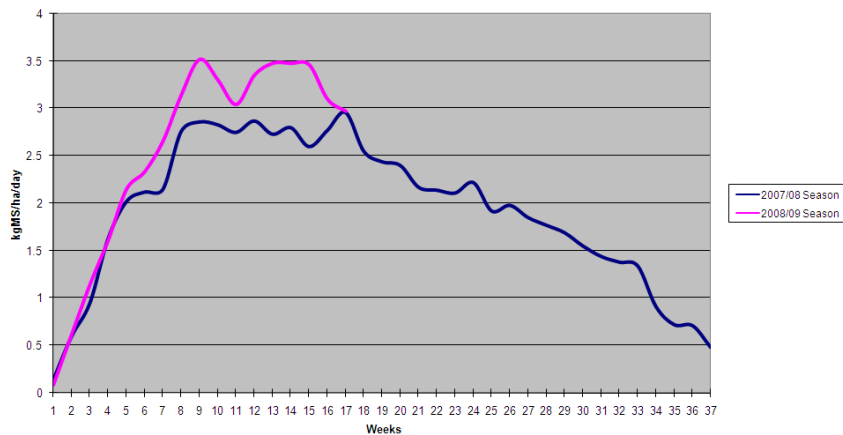
- *Pasture allocation*

Pre-grazing cover	2550kgDM/ha
Post grazing residual	1500kgDM/ha
Rotation length 20 days	$228 \div 20 = 11.4$ (140ha are out of the rotation for silage and turnips)
Available pasture	$11.4 \times 1050 = 11969\text{kgDM}/\text{day}$
Per cow	$11969 \div 780 = 15\text{kgDM}/\text{cow}/\text{day}$

Animal Performance

- Lameness continues to be an issue with 24 animals making up a separate once-a-day lame herd. White line disease and bruising are the main two problems that plague this herd. The majority of these animals are expected to make a full recovery. A total of 781 animals are being milked on the farm.
- Milk production has fallen from 1.45kgMS/cow/day to 1.40kgMS/cow/day. The milk test is averaging 4.24% fat and 3.34% protein. The decline in production continues to be an issue, the herds are being allocated 15kgDM/cow/day (170 – 180 MJME/cow/day), which is more than enough to hold production in terms of metabolisable energy intake.

TDDF Daily Per Hectare Milk Production



- Current year to date milk production is 22% up on last season. The graph above shows that milk production has fallen on a per hectare basis to exactly where it was last season. The aim will be to start to hold production and stop the current rate of decline.
- 26 bulls being rotated in and out of the herd every 7 days to maintain bull health. Bulls will be in with the herd for the next 8 weeks. The mating period will be 12 weeks inclusive of the 4 weeks of AI.
- 190 calves have been weaned with only 50 still on milk. Before the calves are sent off farm it is a requirement by the VDL that they are weaned off the calf pellets. This will be done with the heaviest calves over the next week. The first calves will leave the farm at the end of next week.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday October 27 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).