



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Shorten the rotation length to 30 days
2	Resume nitrogen application ASAP
3	Gradually reduce the amount of concentrates in the ration
4	Getting mating underway

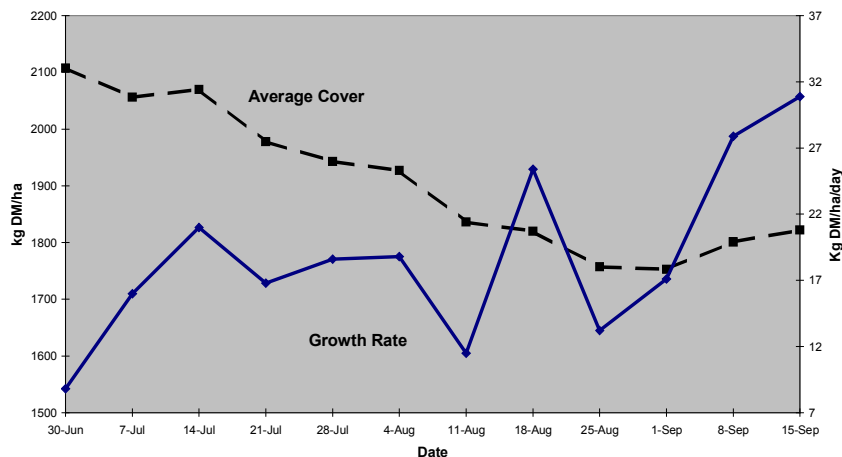


SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA			
Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	12 days/leaf	Cows	796 (milking)
Rotation Length	30 days	Litres/cow/day	20.8
Pasture Growth Rate	32 kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.55kg
Average Pasture Cover	1821 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	3.05kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	11.5°C	Cow intake	15.6 kgDM/cow/day (milking herd)
Rainfall (past 7 days)	16 mm	Supplement Fed	3.6 kgDM/cow/day pellets
MOFC (\$/cow)	\$5.98	Body Condition Score	4.0 (milking herd)

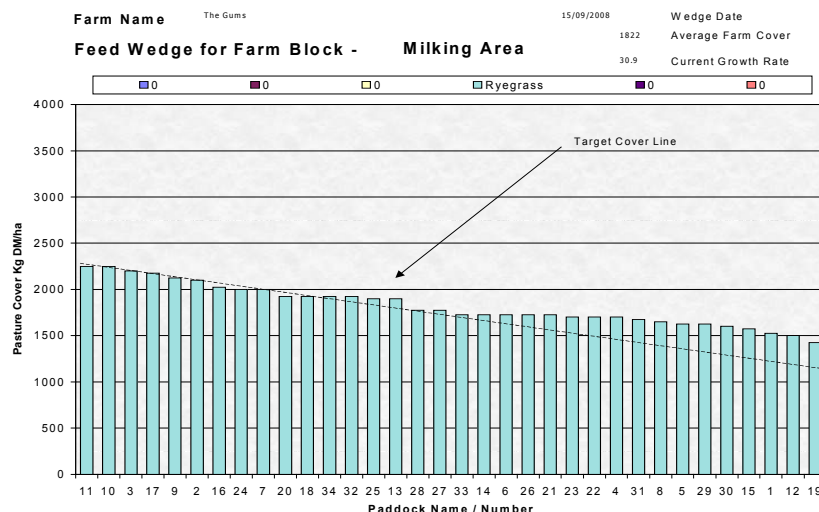
Pasture Management

- Pasture growth rates have increased to 32kgDM/ha/day. The average covers have held, indicating that pasture demand and supply are in balance. At a stocking rate of 2.16 this equates to a demand of $32/2.16 = 14.8$ kg DM/cow/day which is more than actual. If we work from pre graze covers of 2250 and residuals of 1500, this translates to a calculated pasture demand of $(2250-1500) \times 12.3$ ha for the herd = 11.6 kg DM/cow/day. This is more likely to be correct when we factor in the pellets being eaten.

TDDF Average Pasture Cover and Growth Rate (08-09)



- Rotation length over the next week will be 30 days and we expect the pre graze covers to continue to rise. No silage was needed this last week and we don't expect this to change.
- Whilst the intention was to keep on applying nitrogen following the cows to have the whole farm covered, this last week's rainfall has seen all paddocks under water once again and so nitrogen will be applied as soon as the surface water drains away.



- The feedwedge has started to re-establish itself. Once the pasture supply moves above demand, the pre-graze covers coupled with the average covers will determine the amount of pasture to be locked up for silage.

Animal Performance

- Production has started to recover following the disappointing drop as a result of a decision (outside of the FMG's control) to change the concentrate feed on offer. The quicker round has resulted in more area allocated and this has meant that no silage was fed. The energy density of the daily ration is higher without the silage and coupled with the fact that the cows are adjusting to the pellets, this has resulted in milk production rising.
- The challenge is that we expect the growth rates to take off within the next two to three weeks. Ideally we should be feeding lower levels of concentrate and even winding these down completely. We don't really want to be busy shutting up quality surplus pasture when we are still feeding pellets. However to make any negative adjustments in daily energy consumption through mating (starts this week on the 20th September) is not good for mating performance. We will monitor pasture intakes over the next two weeks and slowly reduce the pellets. The following table is a guide to ME intakes on a per cow per day basis with and without pellets.

Ration	Pasture and Pellets		Pasture Alone	
	DM Intake (kg)	ME Intake (MJ ME)	DM Intake (kg)	ME Intake (MJ ME)
Pasture	12.5	150	15	180
pellets	4	50	0	0
Total	16.5	200	15	180

Assumptions:

1. Average maximum pasture intake on a pasture only diet = 15 kg DM/cow/day
2. Me value for pasture = 12.0 MJ ME/kg DM and for the pellets = 12.5 MJ ME/kg DM
3. Substitution formula = $[0.314 \times ((\text{Pasture Intake}/(\text{Cow Lwt}/100))] - 0.5$ (Dexcel NZ)

The 20 MJ difference is quite significant!

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday September 22 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).