



CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Move to a 60 day nitrogen
2	Ensure post grazing residuals
3	Spray broad leaf weeds in affected renovated paddocks
4	Continue all essential R and M across the farm

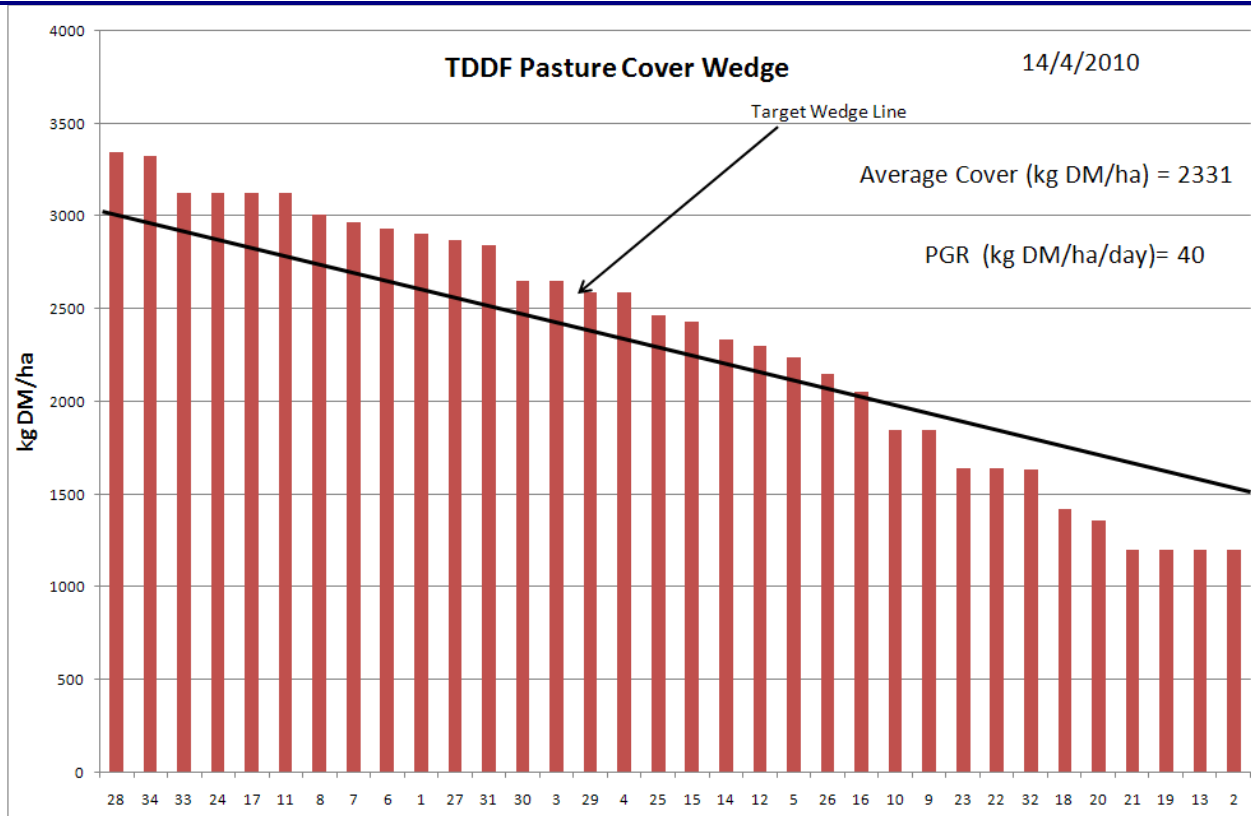


## SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	15 days	Cows	588 (twice a day) 418 (dry cows)
Rotation Length	45 days	Litres/cow/day	12
Pasture Growth Rate	40kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	1.06kg
Average Pasture Cover	2331kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	1.67kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	13.8°C	Cow intake	15 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 14 days)	47 mm	Supplement Fed	Nil
Soil Tension	10 kpa	Body Condition Score	4.6 (milking herd)

### Pasture and Forage Crop Management

- Autumn pasture growing conditions remain very good. A reduction in daylight hours is the main limitation to growth, soil temperature has reduced to 13.8°C from 14.5°C and soil moisture remains steady at 10kpa.
- 47mm of rain fell between March 24 and April 14.
- Pasture growth rates increased to 40kgDM/ha/day from 33kgDM/ha/day. Average pasture cover has increased to 2331kgDM/ha from 2062kgDM/ha. Nitrogen applications at 37kgN/ha behind the herd ensured that pasture growth increased to 40kgDM/ha/day. Over the next few weeks the platform will be monitored and nitrogen will be applied strategically to paddocks which look nitrogen deficient to ensure they remain productive heading into winter. The start of calving has been pushed forward to June 10 this season.
- The 588 milking cows are to be dried off by the end of this week (see animal performance section for more detailed information).
- Half of the fodder crop areas have struck well, with the other half not striking and growing as productively. These areas have shown a minor broad leaf weed burden which will be sprayed out this week. Rolled areas have struck and grown much better than areas that were not rolled. The first paddocks seeded will have their first minor grazing by late April. Nitrogen will be applied post grazing at 37kgN/ha.
- There seems to be no pest burden on the farm but this continues to get monitored.



- Pre-grazing pasture covers have increased to over 3000kgDM/ha and post grazing residuals remain at 1500kgDM/ha on average. When the milking cows get dried off herd pasture demand will reduce to 24kgDM/ha/day from 33kgDM/ha/day. The challenge over the next 6 – 8 weeks is to ensure pasture quality remains in the wedge, that the growing platform is growing productively and that the grazing platform reaches a APC of 2500kgDM/ha by the start of calving (June 10). The rotation length will be pushed out to 60 days, which is slightly slower than 15 days per leaf emergence but this is expected to catch up over the next few weeks.

### Animal Performance

- All cows will be dried off by the end of the week (week ending April 18). Currently on-farm there are 1006 cows and there are still about 60 empty cows to be culled off-farm.
- Milk production over the past 14 days averaged 1.06kgMS/cow/day which is slightly lower than 1.08kgDM/cow/day recorded in the last update. The milk test remained steady averaging around 5% fat and 3.9% protein. Bulk milk cell count lifted from 190,000 to 260,000 when the transferred cows entered the herd and this reduced back to 200,000 by the next pick up.
- Feed allocation to the herd for the coming 14 days:
 

Pasture	9kgDM/cow/day	= 104MJME/day
<b>Total</b>	<b>9kgDM/cow/day</b>	<b>= 104MJME/day</b>

The maintenance requirement for a 480kgLW pregnant dry cow in the 8 month of pregnancy = 80MJME/day  
 \*A dry cow has to eat 43MJME for a 1kgLW gain over and above maintenance\*
- Dry herd body condition is averaging 5 BCS and the milking herd is averaging 4.6.

**DO NOT MISS THE TDDF WRAP UP FIELD DAY ON WEDNESDAY MAY 26 AT SMITHTON RECREATION GROUND STARTING AT 10AM. CONTACT CHRIS HAYNES (TIAR) ON 0408 548 091 FOR MORE DETAILS**

Farm Management Group – Kevin Mills (Farm Manager), Chris Haynes (TIAR), David Poort (VDL) and Darryl Quilliam (Roberts)