



CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Hold milk production
2	Maintaining 1500kgDM/ha post grazing residuals
3	Nitrogen strategy in the event of an early autumn break
4	Milk responses to feeding barley



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	30 days	Cows	700 (twice-a-day)
Rotation Length	60 days	Litres/cow/day	10
Pasture Growth Rate	8kgDM/ha/day	MS/cow/day	0.9kg
Average Pasture Cover	1825kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	1.64kg
Soil Temperature 9AM	16°C	Cow intake	14 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	20 mm	Supplement Fed	4kgDM/cow/day fodder crop 3kgDM/cow/day barley 3kgDM/cow/day silage
Soil Tension	50 kpa	Body Condition Score	4.2 (milking herd)

Pasture and Forage Crop Management

- 20mm of rain fell over the past 7 days which has produced a green tinge across the grazing platform. Follow up rains have been forecast for the weekend (February 13 and 14) and believe if this rain is significant the grazing platform would come out of dormancy.
- Applying nitrogen was discussed in the event of further rainfall. The FMG that it would be less risky to feed barley than apply nitrogen if the farm did receive a follow up rain, as there still is quite a lot of volatility in the season and the response to nitrogen could be short lived especially if it went dry. There were 4 critical aspects addressed in the decision making process behind feeding concentrates:
 1. The response to the concentrates
 2. The milk price and the chances of further step ups
 3. Fodder supplies on farm
 4. The chances of follow up rainfall

At the current milk price of \$3.89/kgMS (including the latest step up) marginal analysis at a 1:1 concentrate to milk response suggests there is a small margin of 2 cents per kgMS if concentrates start being fed. See analysis below:

Milk price (\$3.89/kgMS)

Response (75gramsMS/kgDM concentrate)

Income received

29 cents

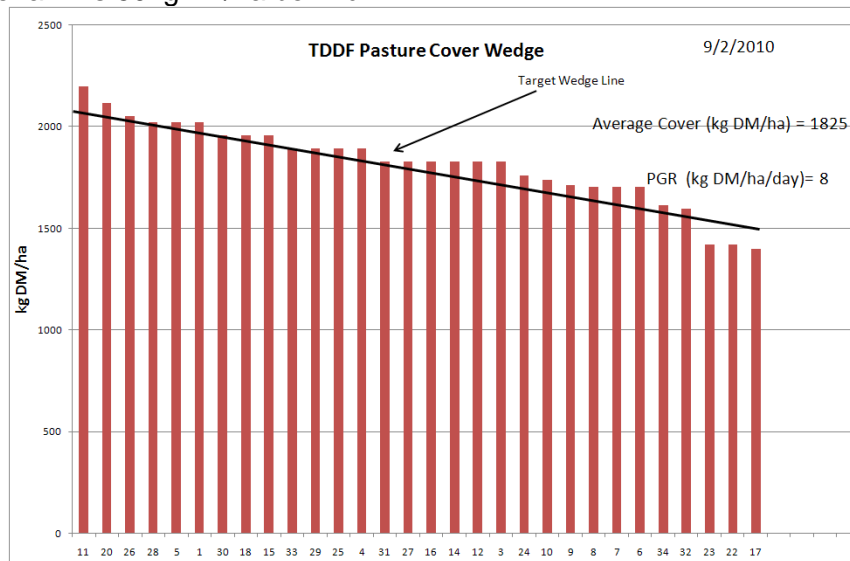
Feed costs 27cents/kgDM (including wastage)

27cents

Margin

2 cents/kgMS

- Rotation length has been held at 60 days (allocating ~5.5ha per day). Pre-grazing pasture covers have reduced to 2000-2100kgDM/ha. Post grazing residuals are averaging 1500 kgDM/ha. All paddocks are on 12 hour breaks to ensure post grazing residual targets are being achieved. The silage in the diet has been causing the cows to not sufficiently graze out some paddocks.
- APC continues to decline to 1825kgDM/ha from 1865kgDM/ha (last edition) and in comparison with last season the farm is 50kgDM/ha behind.



- Pasture renewal planning for the fodder crop paddocks has commenced. These paddocks will be sown with a perennial ryegrass and clover blend when the first significant autumn rains occur.
- Supplements on-hand are:
 - 140tonneDM pit silage
 - 42tonneDM bailed silage
 - 116tonneDM hay

Animal Performance

- 700 cows make up the milking herd, another 60 have been dried off since the last the edition making a total of 115 dry cows. These cows were dried off as they were producing low quantities of milk. Interestingly milk production has not changed since these cows were culled.
- 4 cases of photosensitivity have come up in the herd and are being monitored. It is more than likely that these cows will be culled. The sick herd continues to average around 10 cows.
- Barley will start being fed to the milking cows at a rate of 3kgDM/cow/day
- Milk production has held at 0.9kgMS/cow/day. The milk test is averaging 4.9% fat and 3.65%. Bulk milk cell count has decreased to 200,000 from 240,000..
- Feed allocation to the milkers (700 cows @ 5.5ha/day)

Pre-grazing cover at 2500kgDM/ha and post-grazing 1500kgDM/ha		
Pasture	4kgDM/cow/day	= 40MJME/day
Silage	3kgDM/cow/day	= 32MJME/day
Turnips	4kgDM/cow/day	= 48MJME/day
Barley	3kgDM/cow/day	= 38MJME/day
<u>Total</u>	<u>14 kgDM/cow/day</u>	<u>= 158MJME/day</u>
Requirements to produce 10litres at 0.9kgMS		= 130MJME/day

(Note this will change as extra silage enters into the ration. Latest Research from DairyNZ advises that it takes 80 MJME on top of maintenance to produce 1kgMS.)

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Tuesday February 23 at 11am.

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