



| CRITICAL ISSUES | |
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| 1 | Keep on top of the water supply issues |
| 2 | Monitor the herd for ryegrass staggers |
| 3 | Hold milk production |
| 4 | Continue any essential R and M |

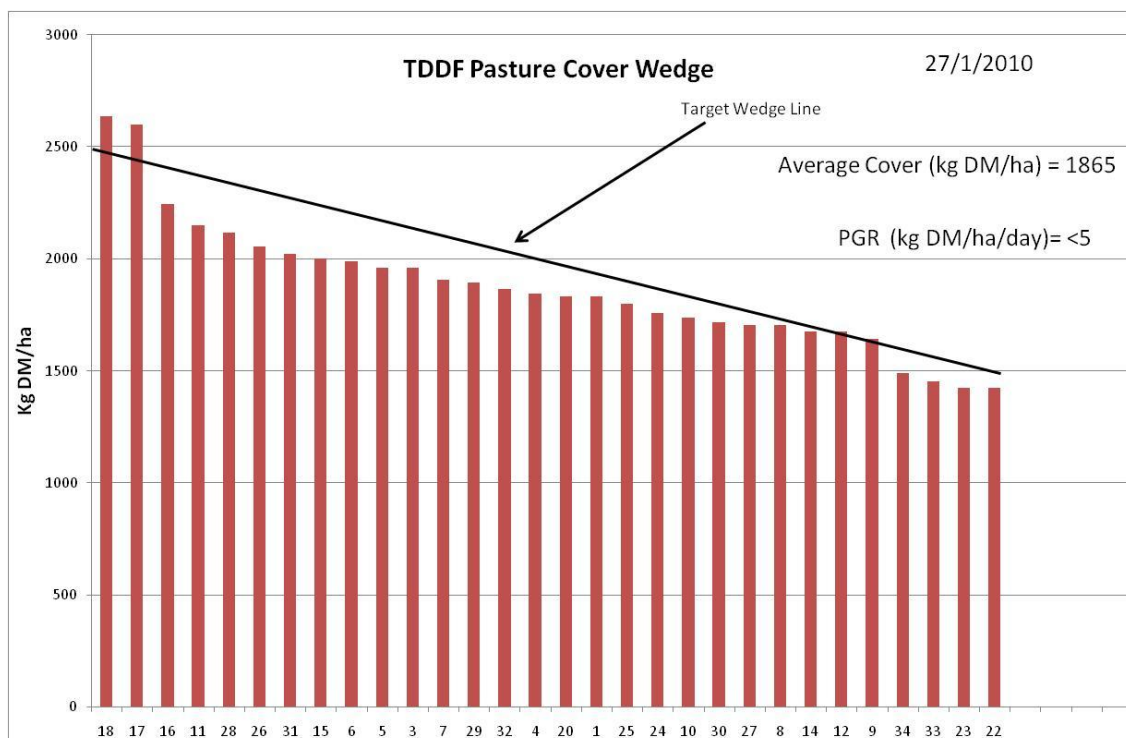


SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

| Pasture Information | | Animal Production | |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|
| LER | 30 days | Cows | 760 (twice-a-day) |
| Rotation Length | 60 days | Litres/cow/day | 10.5 |
| Pasture Growth Rate | <5kgDM/ha/day | MS/cow/day | 0.9kg |
| Average Pasture Cover | 1865kgDM/ha | MS/ha/day | 1.84kg |
| Soil Temperature 9AM | 16°C | Cow intake | 13 – 14 kgDM/cow/day |
| Rainfall (past 7 days) | 0 mm | Supplement Fed | 6kgDM/cow/day fodder crop 1.5 – 4.5kgDM/cow/day silage |
| Soil Tension | 78 kpa | Body Condition Score | 4.2 (milking herd) |

Pasture and Forage Crop Management

- The grazing platform is still very dormant and is growing at less than 5kgDM/ha/day. Soil tension remains at 78kpa.



- Rotation length has been held at 60 days (allocating ~5.5ha per day). Pre-grazing pasture covers have held at 2500kgDM/ha but will start to reduce in the coming 7 days to 2000-2100kgDM/ha. With this decline, silage will be increased in the ration to account for the decrease in allocated pasture. Post grazing residuals are averaging 1500 kgDM/ha. The ration will consist of pasture, silage and fodder crops over the next month.
- The hot dry weather has put a lot of pressure on the fodder crops with leaf matter starting to wilt. The plan is to continue to feed these at a rate of 6kgDM/cow/day. The crop that is being irrigated with effluent is still performing well, but applying effluent has ceased as the traveller's hose was pulling out the rape plants. A good rain on this paddock will ensure a crop of >6 tonnesDM/ha.

Animal and Financial Performance

- 760 cows make up the milking herd, 50 have been dried off since the last the edition with 15 of those being dried off because of ryegrass staggers. Silage will be increased in the ration resulting in a large proportion of the herd's diet being supplemented which should reduce the incidence of staggers. There are 6 cows in the sick herd with either a lameness or mastitis problem.
- Over the past few weeks water supply has been an issue for farm. Pressure has been down, which has affected the rate in which troughs are refilling. The problem is being closely monitored and appropriate actions are taking place if needed. Whether this is hampering production remains to be seen.
- Milk production has held at 0.9kgMS/cow/day. The milk test is averaging 4.7% fat and 3.75% protein compared to 4.52% fat and 3.54% protein in the last edition of the notes. Bulk milk cell count has risen to 240,000 from 190,000. The herd has been stripped and 5 clinical mastitis cases were found.
- Feed allocation to the milkers (760 cows @ 5.5ha/day)
 Pre-grazing cover at 2500kgDM/ha and post-grazing 1500kgDM/ha

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Pasture | 6kgDM/cow/day | = 65MJME/day |
| Silage | 1.5kgDM/cow/day | = 15 MJME/day |
| Turnips | 6kgDM/cow/day | = 72MJME/day |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>14 kgDM/cow/day</u> | <u>= 152MJME/day</u> |

 Requirements to produce 11litres 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 direct costs of making silage have been calculated for this season. Silage costs 15cents/kgDM in the pit and 17cents/kgDM in the bale for 2009/10. The pit silage is still very expensive but cheaper than the baled fodder. Cartage seems to have inflated the price this season and not quantity per hectare, which was the case last season.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Tuesday February 9 at 11am.

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