



| CRITICAL ISSUES |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1               | Closely monitor pasture growth |
| 2               | Hold milk production           |
| 3               | Graze rape re-growth           |
| 4               | Re-grass fodder crop areas     |



## SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

| Pasture Information    |               | Animal Production    |                                     |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| LER                    | 15 days       | Cows                 | 388 (twice a day)<br>418 (dry cows) |
| Rotation Length        | 45 days       | Litres/cow/day       | 12                                  |
| Pasture Growth Rate    | 41kgDM/ha/day | MS/cow/day           | 1.08kg                              |
| Average Pasture Cover  | 2245kgDM/ha   | MS/ha/day            | 1.13kg                              |
| Soil Temperature 9AM   | 14.5°C        | Cow intake           | 15 kgDM/cow/day                     |
| Rainfall (past 7 days) | 8 mm          | Supplement Fed       | 5kgDM/cow/day rape                  |
| Soil Tension           | 10 kpa        | Body Condition Score | 4.3 (milking herd)                  |

### Pasture and Forage Crop Management

- 64mm of rain fell between March 5 and 10 meaning an early autumn break has occurred. Soil tension is currently 10kpa.
- Soil temperatures have fallen slightly to 14.5°C from 16°C.
- Pasture growth rates increased to 40kgDM/ha/day from 20kgDM/ha/day, the rain fell at the perfect time as the soil profile got approximately 30mm between February 9 and 23. Average pasture cover has increased 2245kgDM/ha from 1968kgDM/ha. This rain has caused some pasture management challenges because of pasture supply being significantly above demand (see table below).

#### Pasture supply versus demand

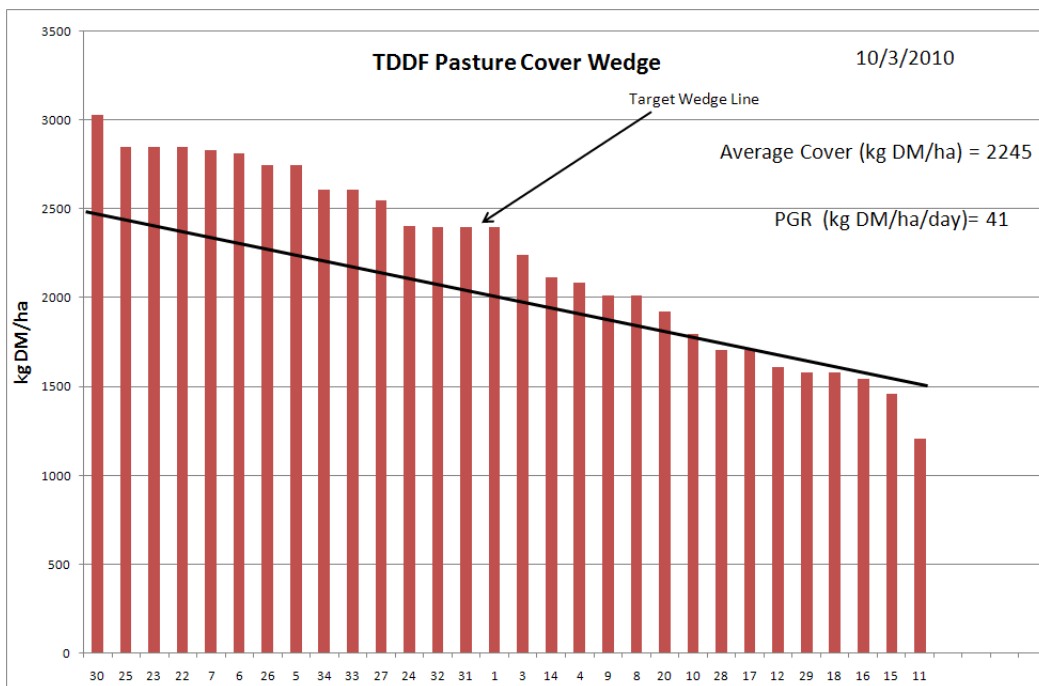
| Supply        | Demand (no fodder crop)  | Change in cover |
|---------------|--|-----------------|
| 41kgDM/ha/day | 25kgDM/ha/day<br>Assuming pasture allocations of:<br>388 milkers @ 15kgDM/cow/day<br>418 dry @ 8kgDM/cow/day                             | 16kgDM/ha/day   |
| 41kgDM/ha/day | Demand (fodder crop)<br>20kgDM/ha/day<br>Assuming pasture allocations of:<br>388 milkers @ 10kgDM/cow/day<br>418 milkers @ 8kgDM/cow/day | 21kgDM/ha/day   |

The strategies that were discussed to deal with an oversupply of pasture;

- Defer graze paddocks that are too high in cover.
- Lock up a certain area and conserve paddocks as silage.
- Bring back a portion of the rising 2 year olds from the heifer block to increase demand.

\*The current pasture supply and demand situation means in the next 2 – 3 weeks major decisions will have to be made on how best to manage the situation.

- Concentrates have been removed from the ration because of there being no need to supplement grass. Re-growth from 23ha of rape has caused some issues as it lowers the pasture demand off the grazing platform. The estimated regrowth yield is 3tDM/ha. This will be eaten off as quickly as possible to get the 23ha back into pasture. Already 22ha of the fodder crop ground that was sown to turnips has been drilled and rolled using a pasture mix of 10.5kg Banquet 2, 10.5kg Extreme AR37, 2kg Bounty and 2kg Tahora). This area has been top dressed with 500kg/ha of single super (0.9.0.11).



- Pre-grazing pasture covers have increased to 2800kgDM/ha from 2450kgDM/ha and the post grazing residuals remain at 1500kgDM/ha on average. The targeted rotation length is 45 days. The dry herd is following behind to tidy the post grazing residuals.

### Animal Performance

- 388 cows make up the milking herd; the sick herd continues to average around 10 cows. Another 232 have been dried off since the last the edition making a total of 417 dry cows. The majority of newly dried off cows had the concentrates removed from their ration and following the removal their production fell and as a result they were dried off. 40 empty cull cows were removed off farm over the past fortnight. There are a small number of cows that are not in calf in the milking herd and these will be culled at drying off.
- Milk production has increased to 1.08kgMS/cow/day. The milk test is averaging 5.08% fat and 3.92%, which is a significant increase. Bulk milk cell count remains steady at 190,000.
- The bacto issue has been rectified.
- Feed allocation to the milkers

|   |                        |                      |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| Pasture                                       | 10kgDM/cow/day         | = 110MJME/day        |
| Rape  | 5kgDM/cow/day          | = 60MJME/day         |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>14 kgDM/cow/day</b> | <b>= 170MJME/day</b> |
| Requirements to produce 12 litres at 1.08kgMS |                        | = 150MJME/day        |

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

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