TDDF FMG Walk Notes

Volume 1, Issue 2 Monday August 13, 2007

FMG's Critical Issues	
1	Maintain milking cow intake at 15kgDM
2	Manage rotation length and use of supplements
3	Management of limited supplements
4	Inductions and empties in the dry mob
5	Feedwedge management

Tasmanian Dairy Demo Farm

Summary of Farming Operation Data			
Pasture Information		**Animal Production**	
LER	20 days/leaf	**Litres/cow/day**	17L
Rotation Length	60 days	**MS/cow/day**	1.3kg
Pasture Growth Rate	17 kgDM/ha	**MS/ha/day**	2.12kg
Average Pasture Cover	1742 kgDM/ha	**Cow intake**	15 kgDM
Soil Temperature	11°C	**Supplement Fed**	2 kg Pellets 3kg Silage
Rainfall (past 7 days)	52mm	**Body Condition Score**	4.25

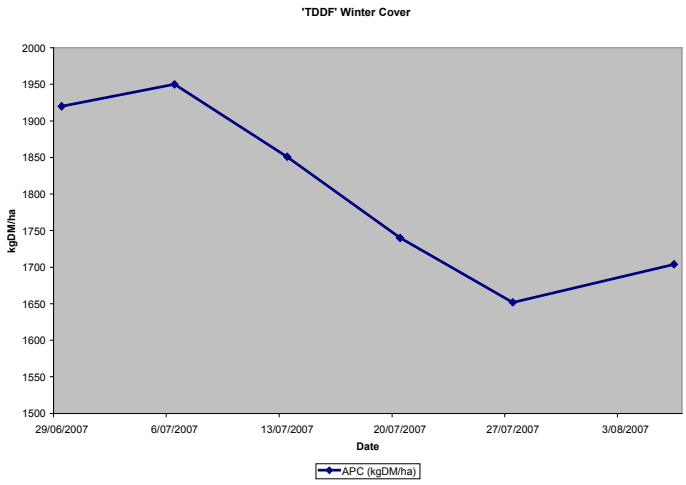
TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

Grazing Management

Soil Temperatures have increased over the past week to **11°C**. If this trend continues we will see improved pasture growth rates and the grazing rotation can be sped up.

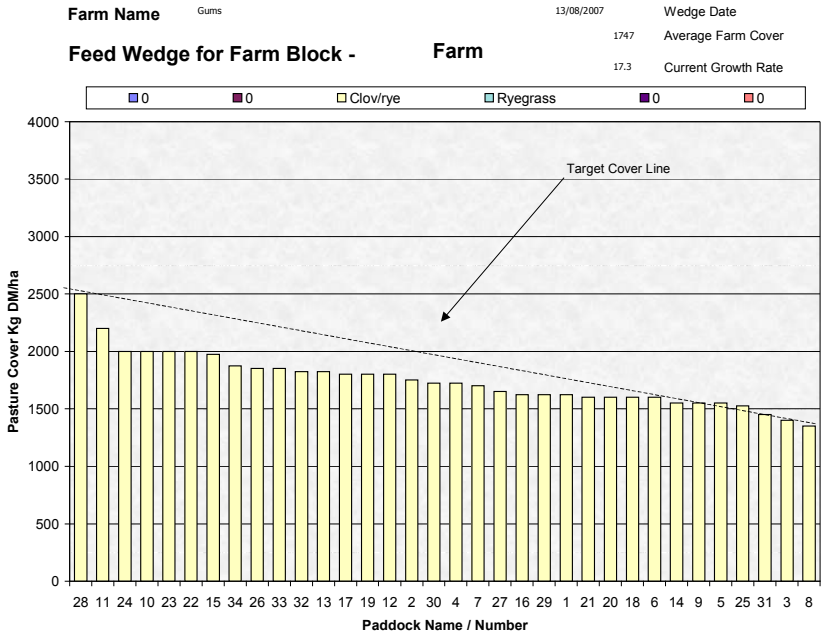
Pasture Growth Rate is **17kgDM/ha/day** compared with last week which was **20kgDM/ha/day**. The reduction in growth rate is negligible with many paddocks at different stages in growth.

Average Pasture Cover (APC) has risen to **1747kgDM/ha** compared with **1704kgDM/ha** 7 days ago. As soil temperatures and day length start increasing we expect the pasture supply to shift in a positively away from demand causing an increase in APC. The last mob of dry cows were induced on Tuesday August 14, this will increase the overall pasture demand on the platform once they enter their first round.



Nitrogen application of **8 tonnes** of urea was applied to 80ha over the past week to paddocks which have been recently grazed. This brings the total amount of nitrogen applied since July 1 to 50 kg N/ha

Rotation Length is **60 days** (same as last week) and additional silage has been used to maintain this as more cows enter the herd. Rotation length will shorten as LER increases over the next few weeks. (Soil temperature and moisture permitting).



Grazing management will be **critical** in the coming weeks when LER and growth rates increase and the section in the middle of the feedwedge gets to **3-leaf stage** (all at once).

Pasture Allocation to the milking herd is 5 hectares per day, the dry and colostrum herds get a total of 1 hectare per day. The milking herd is currently entering the paddocks at a pre grazing level of **2500kgDM/ha** and leaving a post grazing residual of **1500kgDM/ha**. Dry cows are entering at a pre grazing level of **2400kgDM/ha** and leaving a post grazing residual of **1000kgDM/ha**.

As a rule of thumb the grazing area for the milking herd will increase by 1 ha for every additional 100 cows in the herd.

Animal Performance

The final **200** cows in the dry herd were pregnancy tested and or induced on Tuesday August 14, with the pregnancy test showing that **40** cows were empty (13 heifers and 27 cows).

Cow Intakes for the milking herd are **15kgDM/day**; this ration consists of 10kgDM pasture, 3kgDM silage and 2kg pellets. Silage will run out by the end of the week, and the concentrates will be increased to **4kgDM** to supplement the pasture. When pasture growth increases the pellet percentage in the total ration will be reduced. The intake of the dry cows and springers is **9kgDM/day**, and consists of 7kgDM pasture and 2kgDM hay. This is a maintenance plus pregnancy ration for the herd. No feed being allocated for weight gain and the dry cows average CS 4.6.

Production for the milking herd is **1.3kgMS** per cow at a **4.66% Fat** and **3.36% Protein** test. Bulk Milk Cell Count has increased to around **200,000.**

The next **WEEKLY TDDF FMG** farm walk will be Monday August 20.

TDDF Farm Management Group – Basil Doonan (Davey & Maynard), Rob La Grange (TIAR), Chris Haynes (TIAR), and Justin McGowan and Nicki Devantier (TDDF Sharefarmers).