

TDDF FMG Walk Notes

Volume 1, Issue 3

Monday August 20, 2007



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Maintain milking cow intake at 15kgDM
2	Holding rotation length
3	Finish calving
4	Feedwedge management



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	18 days/leaf	Litres/cow/day	15.58L
Rotation Length	50 days	MS/cow/day	1.20kg
Pasture Growth Rate	26 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.15kg
Average Pasture Cover	1760 kgDM/ha	Cow intake	15 kgDM
Soil Temperature	11°C	Supplement Fed	4 kg Grain
Rainfall (past 7 days)	2.6mm	Body Condition Score	4

TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

Grazing Management

Soil Temperatures have increased over the past week back to **11°C**.

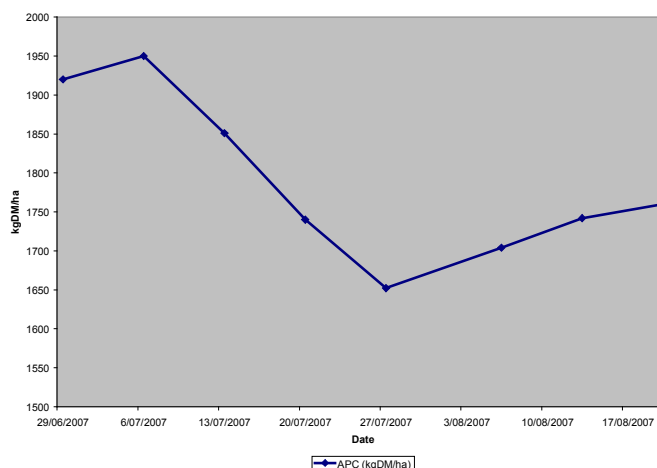
Pasture Growth Rate is at **26kgDM/ha/day** compared with last week of **17kgDM/ha/day**. This increase can be attributed to better growing conditions in terms of soil temperature and day length increasing.

We suspect that we had some leaching of **nitrogen** out of the soil profile because of the high rainfall in July. This has resulted in below budgeted **growth rates** in August.

Nitrogen application is continuing behind the cows at **46kgN/ha**. This will be reduced in coming weeks as growth rates continue to climb.

Average Pasture Cover (APC) has increased to **1760kgDM/ha** from **1742kgDM/ha** 7 days ago. Pasture demand will increase over the next 7 days as more cows enter the milking herd

TDDF APC Cover Tracker

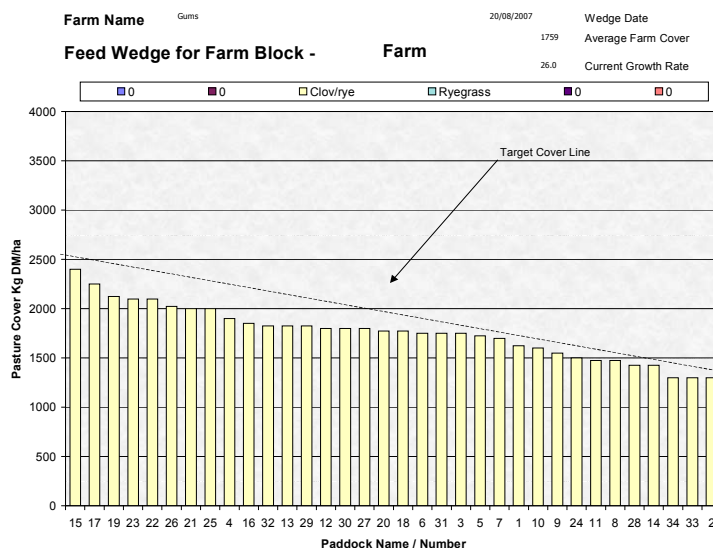


A **Feed test** on the pasture was carried out 7 days ago:

- 13.2 MJME/kgDM
- 86% Digestibility
- 16% Drymatter
- 26.3% CP
- 43.5% NDF

The results indicate that there is no pasture **quality** issues compromising herd performance.

Rotation Length is currently **50 days** (in accordance with **LER**). Leaf emergence rate increased to **18 days/leaf** from **20 days/leaf** 7 days ago. The warmer conditions over the next few months will see **LER** increase further and rotation length will be decreased accordingly.



Pasture Allocation to the milking herd is 6.6 hectares per day, dry cows and the colostrum herd are being allocated 0.4 hectares per day. The milking herd is currently entering the paddocks at a pre grazing level of **2400kgDM/ha** and leaving a post grazing residual of **1400kgDM/ha**. Dry cows are entering paddocks at a pre grazing level of **2200kgDM/ha** and leaving a post grazing residual of **1000kgDM/ha**.

Animal Performance

The final **100 cows** are due to calve over the next 7 days following a second round of inductions to ensure everything has calved in 8 weeks.

The milking herd was split today into 2 herds. Herd 1 contains the light and younger cows (2 and 3 year olds) and the second herd contains the older, better conditioned cows.

Feed Intake for the milking herd has reduced to **14kgDM/day** compared with **15kgDM/day** last week.

Silage ran out 4 days ago, which resulted in concentrates being lifted from 2 kg/day to 4 kg/day. The FMG has decided to compromise intake to maintain the grazing rotation. Concentrates can't be increased further because the cows are struggling to eat the 4 kg allocated.

The ration consists of 10kgDM pasture, and 4kg grain (which is a total energy allocation of 178 MJME). When pasture growth increases pasture will be allocated and the **level** of concentrate will be reduced. The dry matter 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 **1.20kgMS** per cow at a **4.43%Fat** and **3.23%Protein** test. Bulk Milk Cell Counts are **200,000**.

The next **WEEKLY TDDF FMG** farm walk will be Monday August 27.

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