



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Lift milk production.
2	Cut first round of silage.
3	Staff.
4	Why 1500kgDM/ha residual?



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	8 days/leaf	Cows	810
Rotation Length	21 days	Litres/cow/day	15.5
Pasture Growth Rate	59 kgDM/ha	MS/cow/day	1.16 kg
Average Pasture Cover	2930 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.55 kg
Soil Temperature	12.5°C	Cow intake	+15 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	3.25 mm	Supplement Fed	-
Silage Area Shut	150ha (40%)	MOFC (\$/cow)	\$5.21
		Body Condition Score	4.2

TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

Pasture Management

Soil Temperatures have lifted to **12.5°C**, with the soil tensiometer is reading **12kpa**. Ryegrass plants will start to shut down from moisture stress at **35kpa**. Since only **9mm** of rain has fallen over the past 2 weeks, the FMG will monitoring rainfall and more importantly soil moisture over the next few weeks.

Pasture Growth Rates have decreased to **59kgDM/ha/day** from **85kgDM/ha/day** over the past week.

**This growth rate is indicative of the current grazing platform, and does not include the grazing area allocated for silage. Last weeks growth rate was calculated using the entire grazing platform, the overall pasture growth rate did not alter by removing any of the silage the paddocks from the calculation.*

Average Pasture Cover continues to increase rapidly to **2930kgDM/ha** from **2562kgDM/ha** over the past week.

Rotation Length has reduced to **21 days**, this does not correlate with the Leaf Emergence Rate of **8 days per leaf**. The farm is in genuine pasture surplus and a further 40 ha has been removed out of the rotation for silage therefore rotation length and LER do not correlate at this during period of phenomenal pasture growth.

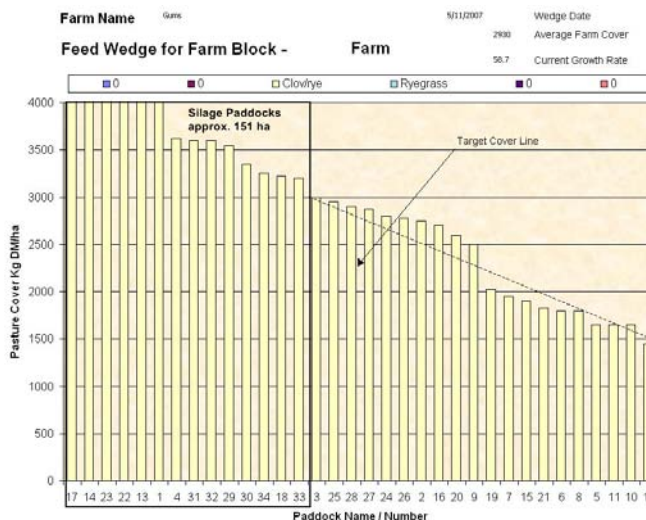
Fertiliser Plan. All fertiliser inputs have ceased until silage is removed off the grazing platform. The FMG expect the farm will apply nitrogen at **30kgN/ha** on those paddocks cut for silage.

"We will only use nitrogen at a lower rate (30kgN/ha) because we want to apply a capital P and K fertiliser application in the autumn. By using less N (<200kgN/ha) than what was budgeted, money will be freed up to use for a capital application of a P and K blend in the autumn."

Silage. The silage policy is that any paddocks above the pre-grazing cover of 2800kgDM/ha will be shut . A further 4 paddocks have been removed from the rotation for silage, which means that approximately 40% (150ha) of the farm is out for silage. The first batch of silage will cut over the coming week.

Feedwedge. With 40% of the grazing platform removed for silage, maintaining a wedge will be one of the FMG's tasks over the coming weeks. "If current growth rates continue it is more than likely that more of the farm will be cut for silage/hay. Rain over the coming weeks will be critical in determining how the season will turn out. The windy Woolnorth climate combined with sandy soils results in conditions drying out very quickly. The FMG want to cut as much good quality silage as possible, without compromising pasture intakes."

Staff. Staff retention has been a problem for the farm, the FMG has encouraged the sharefarmers to draw up a staff roster, and to obtain another full time worker. Currently there are 3 FTE (full time equivalents), 4 FTE should be sufficient for the rest of the season, with some casual relief to make up the 5 FTE.



Animal & Financial Performance

There are still **810 cows** being milked twice a day; with **10 lame** cows on once-a-day.

Feed Intake. At a rotation length of **21 days**, the cows are grazing about **10 ha/day**. Pre-grazing covers are **2800 – 3000kgDM/ha** and residuals are **1500kgDM/ha**. The cows are taking in (2800-1500) kgDM/ha/day = **1300kgDM/ha**. A 10 ha area offers the herd 13000 kgDM/day = **16 kgDM/cow/day**. This is above the targeted **15kgDM/cow/day**. At **12.8 MJME/kgDM** the cows are on a daily energy allocation of **203 MJME/cow/day**.

"The cows are struggling to graze to 1500kgDM/ha, and this is comprising intake. The science (benefits to the pasture in the grazing system) is the reason behind why we are grazing down to 1500kgDM/ha. It is important to maintain post-grazing residuals at 1500kgDM/ha and we believe that any losses due to lower intakes will be made up later on in the season and next season by:

- Improving plant densities throughout the grazing platform (Less decay and dead matter promotes ryegrass tillering)
- Pushing better quality tucker forward into the next rotation.

The emergence of seed heads in the pasture will reduce the energy concentration of the grazed sward and affect production.

Reproduction. Bulls are continuing to be rotated in and out of the herd on a weekly basis to maximise health and performance.

Production has decreased to **1.16kgMS/cow/day** compared with **1.32kgMS/day** last week. The milk test has improved to **4.20% Fat** and **3.45% Protein**.

Milk Quality. Bulk Milk Cell Counts averaged **179,000** compared with **191,000** last week.

MOFC. The Margin Over Feed Costs (MOFC) is **\$5.21/cow** compared to **\$6.08/cow** last week.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be on Monday November 12.

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

"TDDF.com.au will be fully operational by the end of next week"