



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Silage paddocks back into the rotation.
2	Maintain 1500kgDM/ha residuals.
3	Decline in milk production
4	Nitrogen



## SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	8 days/leaf	Cows	810
Rotation Length	24 days	Litres/cow/day	15
Pasture Growth Rate	36 kgDM/ha	MS/cow/day	1.11 kg
Average Pasture Cover	1883 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.44 kg
Soil Temperature	13.5°C	Cow intake	+15 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	7 mm	Supplement Fed	-
Silage Area Cut	168ha (46%)	MOFC (\$/cow)	\$4.94
		Body Condition Score	4.2

## TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

### Pasture Management

Soil Temperatures have risen to **13.5°C**, with the soil tensiometer reading at **14kpa** at 30mm.

Pasture Growth Rates have decreased to **36kgDM/ha/day** from **59kgDM/ha/day** over the past week. This is still above the **33kgDM/ha/day** (2.2 S.R x 15kgDM/cow/day) demand required to feed the herd.

Average Pasture Cover has dropped sharply to **1883kgDM/ha** from **2930kgDM/ha** due to the pasture surplus being harvested over the past week.

Rotation Length has increased to **24 days**, in accordance with the Leaf Emergence Rate of **8 days per leaf**. Since all the silage has been removed from the grazing platform, rotation length has increased with more area available for grazing on the platform.

*\*Note the FMG try to maintain the rotation length in accordance with LER, but this does fluctuate depending on the paddock, its pre-grazing cover and whether sections of grazing platform have been removed for silage. We always want the paddocks to be grazed to a post grazing residual of 1500kgDM/ha, unless the herd is dry.*

**Fertiliser Plan.** The farm will apply nitrogen at **30kgN/ha** on all of the grazing area. The parameters we used to make the decision were:

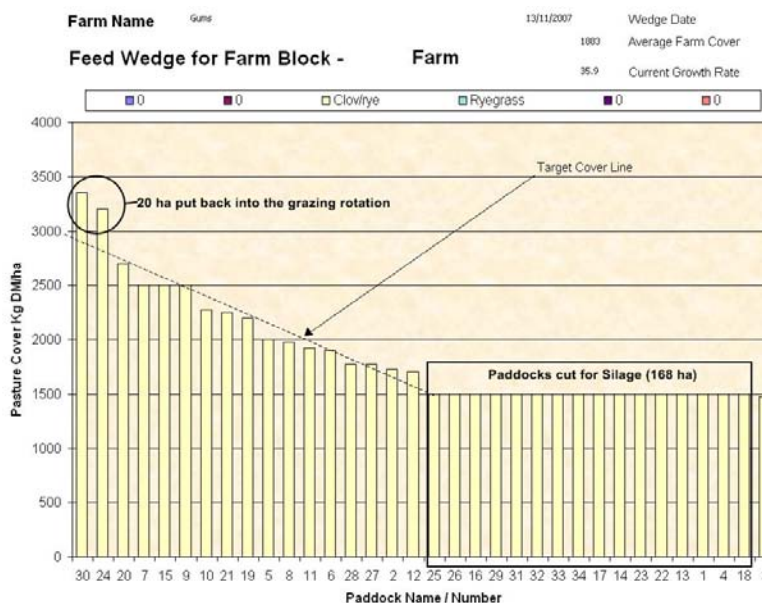
- Is there adequate soil moisture to maintain / increase growth? Yes
- Were we running into a potential pasture deficit situation? Yes
- Would we get a satisfactory response from another nitrogen application? Yes
- Would this be a cost-effective way to increase pasture supply? Yes

**Silage.** The FMG decided to cut **168ha** of the grazing platform, leaving 20 ha (10%) that was shut up to be used in the grazing rotation. The FMG felt that cutting the extra 20ha could potentially put the farm into a

feed deficit, and a cautious approach was taken. Ideally the farm would have like a couple of cuts of silage to maximise silage quality, but due to contractor restraints and the fact that the surplus was being made into pit silage meant that it all had to be done at once. The pre-grazing covers of the silage ranged from **5500kgDM/ha** to **3500kgDM/ha**. The higher covers had seed heads emerging, which meant the pasture was in its reproductive stage and therefore it would be of reduced quality going into the pit.

*\*Note a feed test was carried out of the pasture before it went into the pit to see how the quality changed during the silage fermentation process.*

**Feedwedge.** The feedwedge has quite a tail on it with the 168 ha being cut for silage. The aim will be to redevelop the wedge. To maintain intakes at 15kgDM/cow/day the herd need to enter paddocks at a minimum pre-grazing level of **2292kgDM/ha** at a rotation length of 24 days. The FMG believe if soil moisture is not limiting, the farm should get another small surplus to cut with the nitrogen going into the system.



## Animal & Financial Performance

There are still around **810 cows** being milked twice a day; with **5 lame** cows on once-a-day.

**Feed Intake.** The cows are grazing about **10 ha/day**.

*\*Note as mentioned earlier; the total hectares offered per day does depend on the pre-grazing cover of the paddock, therefore rotation length does fluctuating daily.*

Pre-grazing covers are **2800-3300kgDM/ha** and post grazing residuals are **1500kgDM/ha**. Cow are being offered +15kgDM/cow/day, with a total energy allocation of 192 MJ ME (12.8 MJ ME/kgDM)

**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 **1.11kgMS/cow/day** compared with **1.16kgMS/day** last week. The milk test has also decreased to **4.12% Fat** and **3.36% Protein**. Production decreases can be attributed to the natural decline that occurs after peak, and pasture quality being reduced due to ryegrass progressing into its reproductive stage.

**Milk Quality.** Bulk Milk Cell Counts averaged **188,000** compared with **179,000** last week.

**MOFC.** The Margin Over Feed Costs (MOFC) is **\$4.94/cow** compared to **\$5.21/cow** last week. The drop in production over the past week can be attributed to this decline.

**Animal Health.** The FMG held a meeting with Neil Leighton from Smithton Veterinary Service regarding his involvement in the TDDF project. Early indications suggest that he will consult on prominent animal health issues on the farm and develop programs and training courses in relation to animal health issues (eg. lameness) encountered throughout the season.

**THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG** farm walk will be on Monday November 19.

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](http://TDDF.com.au) will be fully operational by the end of next week”