



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Maintain pasture intakes of 15kgDM/cow/day.
2	Address the lameness problem in the herd
3	Weigh calves
4	Vet check non-cycling early-calved cows
5	Start identifying potential silage paddocks



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA			
Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	10 days/leaf	Litres/cow/day	17
Rotation Length	30 days	MS/cow/day	1.26 kg
Pasture Growth Rate	34kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.79 kg
Average Pasture Cover	1939 kgDM/ha	Cow intake	15 kgDM/cow/day
Soil Temperature	10.68°C	Supplement Fed	-
Rainfall (past 7 days)	24 mm	Body Condition Score	4.2

## TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

### Pasture Management

Soil Temperatures continue to remain down around 10 °C.

Pasture Growth Rates remain in the thirties at 34 kgDM/ha/day.

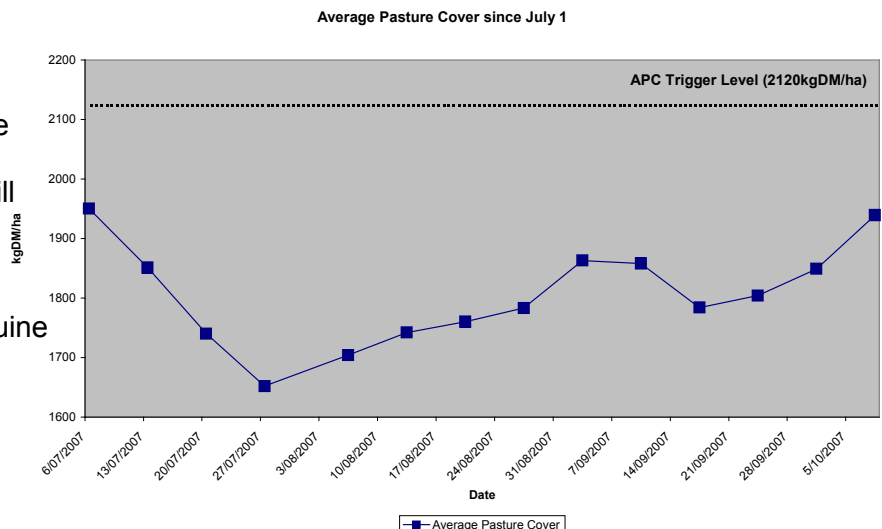
Pasture Demand is around 33 kgDM/ha/day (Stocking Rate of 2.2 X 15 kgDM/cow/day). Last week available pasture was around 13kgDM/cow/day.

Fertiliser Plan. The application of a 12:5:8:6 blend will continue to follow the cows over the coming weeks until the 345 kg/ha (41kgN) has been applied to whole farm.

Rotation Length remains at 30 days.

Average Pasture Cover has been increasing gradually over the past few weeks. The figure indicates the change in APC since July 1, and line above signifies the APC of the farm when it will be in genuine pasture surplus.

Below is the methodology used to determine whether the farm is in a genuine pasture surplus:



Calculate the **Pasture Trigger Level (PTL)**, the optimum pre-grazing cover needed to satisfy the herds nutritional requirement.

$PTL = (\text{Stocking Rate} \times \text{Daily per cow DM requirement (include wastage)} \times \text{Rotation Length}) + \text{Optimum Post Grazing Residual (1500kgDM/ha)}$ .

PTL (TDDF) =  $(2.21 \times 18.75 \times 30) + 1500$   
= 2743 kgDM/ha (pre-grazing cover)

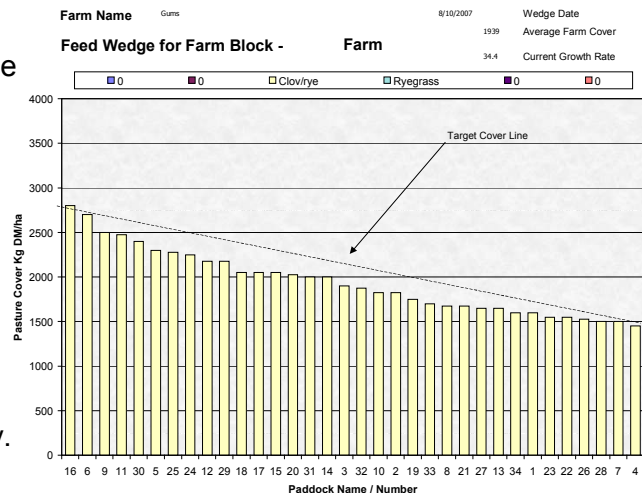
Calculate the **APC Trigger Level**, which is a more reliable indication of whether the farm is genuine pasture surplus. \*If the APC is above the APC Trigger Level the farm is in a genuine pasture surplus.

$APC \text{ Trigger Level} = (PTL + \text{Optimum Post Grazing Residual}) \div 2$ .

APC (TDDF) =  $(2743+1500) \div 2$   
= 2120kgDM/ha

**Feedwedge.** Pasture covers are starting to reach the target line on the feedwedge. Pasture surpluses have been budgeted for over the coming weeks providing the growth rates are sustained and improve.

The herd is entering paddocks at a pre-grazing cover of **2800kgDM/ha** leaving a post grazing residual of **1500kgDM**. This is up from 2400kgDM/ha and 1500kgDM/ha last week. By managing the rotation length in accordance with **LER**, pre-grazing covers have improved significantly.



## Animal Performance

There are currently **814 cows** in the milking herd, 6 cows have been culled over the past week because of lameness problems.

**Lameness** is becoming a major management concern in the production system. Over the past week **50 cows** have become lame due to **stone bruising** on inadequate laneways. Urgent maintenance needs to be conducted on the major problem areas. Lame cows are being kept in paddocks close to the dairy to minimise walking.

**Feed Intake.** At a rotation length of **30 days**, the cows are grazing about **12 ha/day**. The cows are taking in (2800-1500) kgDM/ha/day = **1300 kgDM/ha/day**. A 12 ha area offers the herds 15600 kgDM/day = **15 kgDM/cow/day (including wastage @ 20%)**. This is the targeted **15kgDM/cow/day**. The herds daily energy allocation is **192 MJME/cow/day**.

Over the coming week the early-calved cows that did not submit in the first 3 weeks of mating will be veterinary checked.

**Heifer calves.** The early calves are due to be sent off the farm on October 15. These animals will be weighed before they are to be sent to make sure they have reached their targets weights of **100kg**, calves under this weight will not be submitted. The demonstration farm is required to rear **270 heifer calves** for VDL.

**Production** has increased to **1.26kgMS/cow/day**, compared with **1.23kgMS/cow** last week. The milk test has improved slightly to **4.10% Fat** and **3.34% Protein**.

**Milk Quality.** Bulk Milk Cell Counts averaged **136,000** compared with **192,000** last week.

**THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG** farm walk will be Monday October 15.

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