



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Maximise pasture intakes (+15kgDM/cow).
2	Maintain 1500kgDM/ha post grazing residuals.
3	Progress the lame cows back into the main herds.
4	Manage the feedwedge.



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA			
Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	8 days/leaf	Cows	810
Rotation Length	25 days	Litres/cow/day	16
Pasture Growth Rate	75 kgDM/ha	MS/cow/day	1.18 kg
Average Pasture Cover	2294 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.60 kg
Soil Temperature	10.79°C	Cow intake	+15 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	10 mm	Supplement Fed	-
		MOFC (\$/cow)	\$5.32
		Body Condition Score	4.1

*Note the added information of MOFC and cows in milk

TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

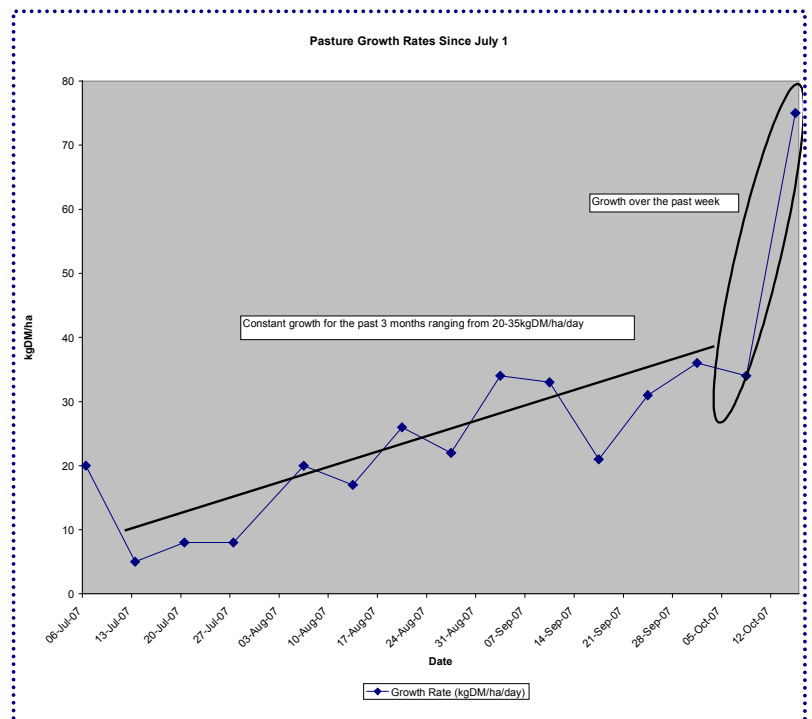
Pasture Management

Soil Temperatures remain around 10-11°C.

Pasture Growth Rates have risen sharply over the past week to **75 kgDM/ha/day**. With soil temperatures remaining similar to the previous weeks, the substantial increase in growth could be attributed to increased day length, improved soil nutrient levels (**N, P, and K**), and non-limiting soil moisture.

*Note data from the weather station was not downloaded this week due to technical problems. This data will give a more accurate idea of the climate on the demonstration farm over the past week, hopefully this will give an idea on why there was substantial change in growth over the past week.

Average Pasture Cover has increased significantly to **2294 kgDM/ha** over the past week.

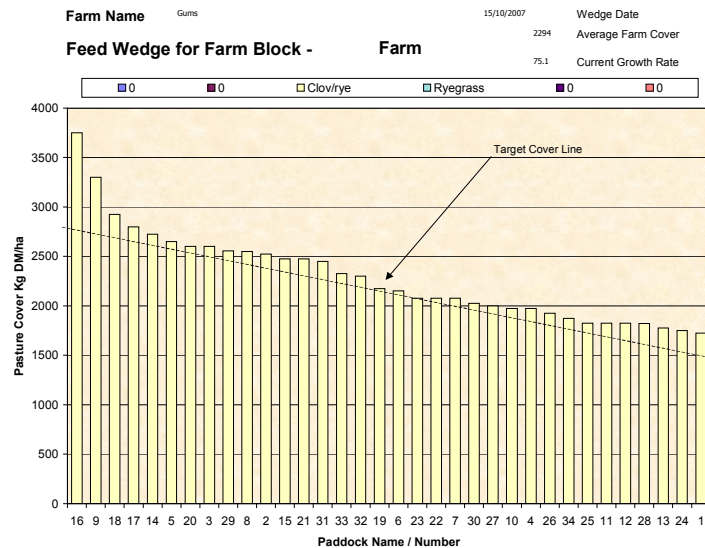


Pasture Demand is being maintained at **~33 kgDM/ha/day** (Stocking Rate of 2.2 X 15 kgDM/cow/day). The farm is genuine pasture surplus at the moment with the APC increasing at **50kgDM/ha** over the past week.

Rotation Length remains at 30 days.

Fertiliser Plan. The application of the **12:5:8:6** blend continues to follow the cows. Over ½ of milking area has had **345kg/ha** applied.

Silage. Currently 35% of the farm has been removed from the rotation for silage. If the current pasture growth rate is maintained over the coming to 2–3 weeks. The FMG have decided that the paddocks furthest from the dairy will be cut for silage wherever possible to help with the lameness problem.



Animal & Financial Performance

There are currently **810 cows** in the milking herd, with a further **4 cows** being culled over the past week. There are now **30 cows** (down from **50** last week) in the lame herd who are being milked once-a-day.

Feed Intake. At a rotation length of **25 days**, the cows are grazing about **10 ha/day** (35% farm shut up for silage). Pre-grazing covers have increased to **3200 kgDM/ha/day** and residuals are **1500 kgDM/ha/day**. The cows are taking in (3200-1500) kgDM/ha/day = **1700 kgDM/ha/day**. A 10 ha area offers the herds 13600 kgDM/day = **21 kgDM/cow/day (available)**. This is well above the targeted **15kgDM/cow/day**. At **12.8 MJME/kgDM**, the herds daily available energy allocation is **268 MJME/cow/day**.

Concentrates were removed out of the ration 3 weeks before mating because the farm was at break even (pasture supply was greater than pasture demand). If the concentrates were maintained in the ration past 3 weeks before mating, it would have meant that they would have to be fed right through mating. Removing the concentrates out of the ration may have compromised reproductive performance. The FMG decided that with the high quality pasture on the grazing platform, between 12.8 – 13.5MJME/kgDM (80% Digestible), that continuing with concentrates would not have been cost effective in the system. Furthermore, the FMG has very little knowledge of the cows and their milk production through not having the infrastructure to herd record at this time.

Reproduction. AI finished last Friday October 12, the 3-week submission rates will be communicated shortly. The farm has 35 bulls to use over the next 9 weeks of mating. Bulls will be rotated in and out of the herd to maximise performance and maintain bull health, especially in preventing lameness.

Production has dropped to **1.18kgMS/cow/day** compared with **1.26kgMS/day** last week. This can be attributed to a drop in production from the lame herd, who are being milked once a day. The milk test has reduced slightly to **4.08% Fat** and **3.27% Protein**.

Milk Quality. Bulk Milk Cell Counts averaged **181,000** compared with **132,000** last week.

MOFC. The Margin Over Feed Costs (MOFC) is \$5.32/cow (with a \$5.40/kgMS milk payout and the cost of pasture being 7¢/kgDM).

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be Monday October 22.

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

COME ALONG TO THE TDDF LAUNCH FIELD DAY ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 31!

RSVP to DairyTas on (03) 6432 2233 or TIAR Dairy Centre on 1300 368 550