



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Maximise pasture intake.
2	Monitor pasture growth and silage paddocks.
3	Lameness.
4	Maintain the health of the bull team.



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA			
Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	8 days/leaf	Cows	810
Rotation Length	25 days	Litres/cow/day	17
Pasture Growth Rate	45 kgDM/ha	MS/cow/day	1.26kg
Average Pasture Cover	2212 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.77 kg
Soil Temperature	12.41°C	Cow intake	+15 kgDM/cow/day
Rainfall (past 7 days)	14.5 mm	Supplement Fed	-
		MOFC (\$/cow)	\$5.75
		Body Condition Score	4.1

TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

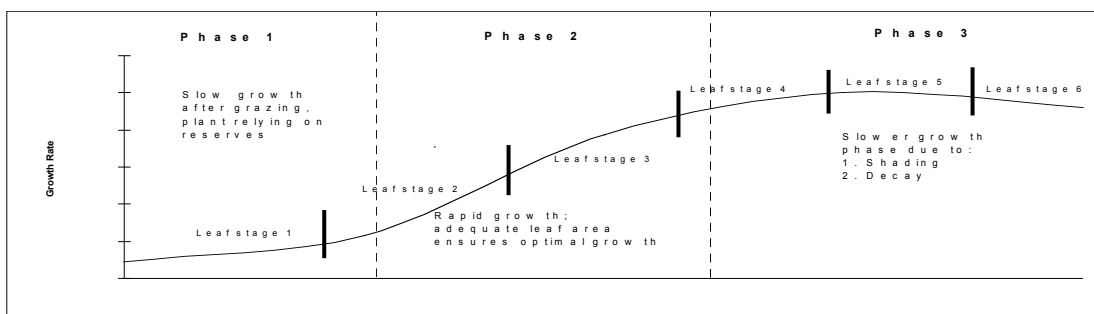
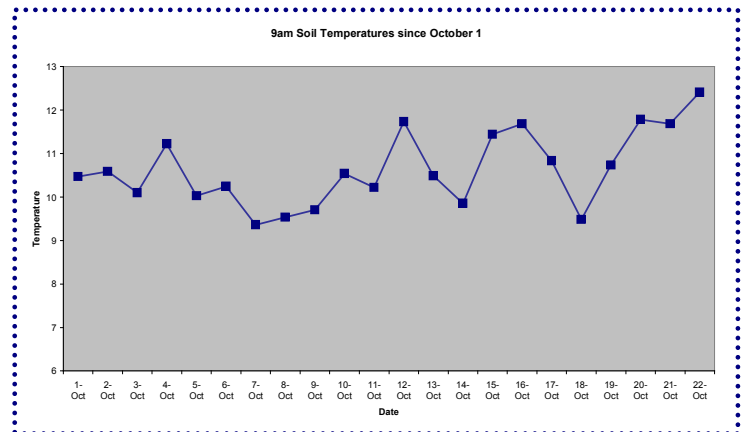
Pasture Management

Soil Temperatures have improved to **12.41°C**, over the past week. The figure illustrates the soil temperatures since the start of the month.

Pasture Growth Rates have decreased to **45 kgDM/ha/day** from **75kgDM/ha/day** over the past week. This is likely to be due to grazing at the earlier leaf stage associated with the faster rotation and the dropping of silage paddocks.

Average Pasture Cover has decreased to **2212 kgDM/ha** from **2294kgDM/ha** over the past week.

**The significant change in pasture growth rate over the past week does not represent an immediate cause for concern. A ryegrass plants rate of growth is not constant, at this time of year changes in growth rate will from occur week to week (see figure below).*



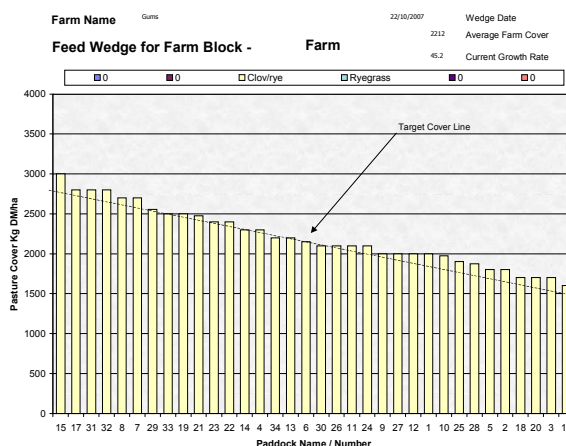
Pasture Demand continues at ~33 kgDM/ha/day (Stocking Rate of 2.2 X 15 kgDM/cow/day).

Rotation Length has reduced to 25 days, with 35% of farm being removed from the rotation for silage this has decreased the grazing area and rotation length.

Fertiliser Plan. An application of 345 kg/ha of 12:5:8:6 is being applied after grazing. The FMG intends to improve soil fertility over the next 2 years of the project. A capital fertiliser budget will be drafted up over the coming months to indicate the capital cost to increase soil fertility. The table below expresses the soil fertility targets:

Soil factor	Current level	Target level
pH	6.3	6.3
Phosphorus (Olsen P)	15	20
Potassium (PPM)	100	150
Sulphur (MCP)	10	10

Pasture Sample. A pre-grazing pasture was taken for testing. Results from the test will be available in next weeks walk notes.



Animal & Financial Performance

There are currently **810 cows** in the milking herd; the majority of lame cows (which got up to about 50) are now back in the herd.

Feed Intake. At a rotation length of **25 days**, the cows are grazing about **10 ha/day**. Pre-grazing covers are **2700-3000 kgDM/ha** and residuals are **1500 kgDM/ha**. The cows are taking in (3000-1500) kgDM/ha/day = **1500 kgDM/ha**. A 10 ha area offers the herds 15000 kgDM/day = **18.5 kgDM/cow/day**. This is above the targeted **15kgDM/cow/day**, with the extra feed intake going body condition score. At **12.8 MJME/kgDM** the cows are on a daily energy allocation of **237 MJME/cow/day**.

Reproduction. The 3-week submission rate for the herd was 95%, which is above the in-calf target of 90%. AI mating was carried out for 3 weeks. Bulls are being rotated in and out of the herd on a weekly basis to maximise health and performance.

Production has increased to **1.26kgMS/cow/day** compared with **1.18kgMS/day** last week. The removal of the lameness problem in the herd has improved production. The milk test has improved to **4.10% Fat** and **3.40% Protein**.

Milk Quality. Bulk Milk Cell Counts averaged **189,000** compared with **181,000** last week.

MOFC. The Margin Over Feed Costs (MOFC) is **\$5.75/cow** compared **\$5.32/cow** last week.

THE NEXT WEEKLY TDDF FMG farm walk will be Monday October 29.

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