

TDDF FMG Walk Notes

Volume 1, Issue 5

Monday September 3, 2007



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Monitor concentrates fed in accordance with pasture intakes, monitor rotation length and graze at 3-leaves
2	Preparation for mating
3	Spring fertiliser strategy
4	Increasing cow intake as growth rates increase



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	15 days/leaf	Litres/cow/day	17 L
Rotation Length	40 days	MS/cow/day	1.27kg
Pasture Growth Rate	33 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.86kg
Average Pasture Cover	1863 kgDM/ha	Cow intake	15 kgDM
Soil Temperature	9.6°C	Supplement Fed	3 kg Grain
Rainfall (past 7 days)	7.2mm	Body Condition Score	3.9

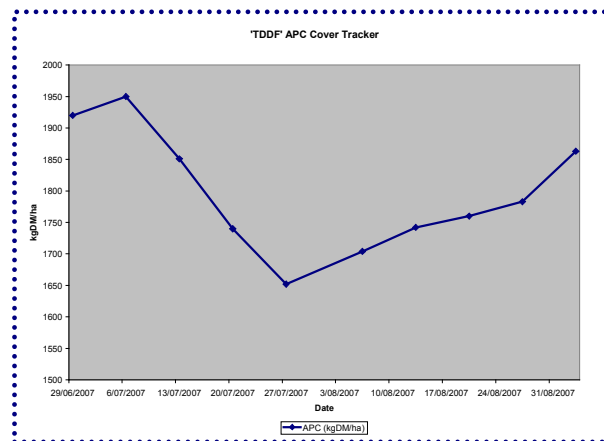
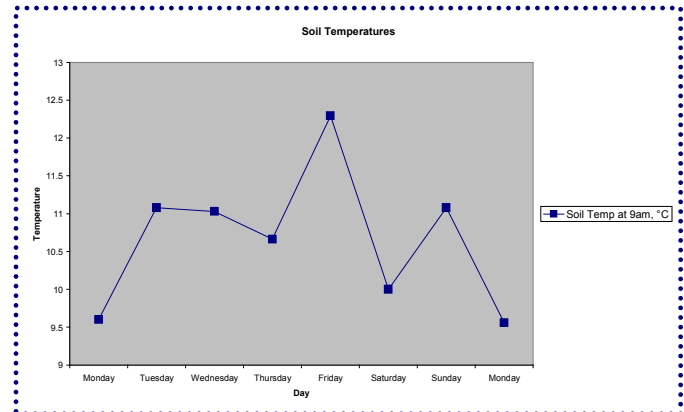
TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

Grazing Management

Soil Temperatures have **fluctuated** over the past week. (Refer to graph) →

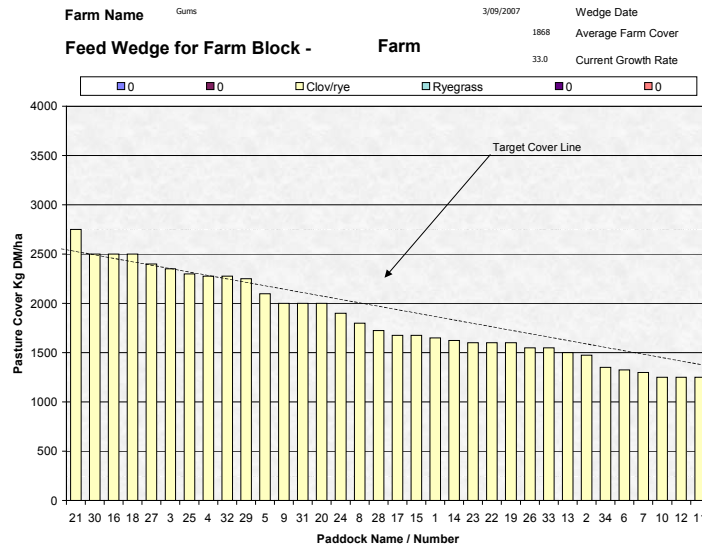
Pasture Growth Rate is at **33kgDM/ha/day** compared with **26kgDM/ha/day** last week. Increased average soil temperatures and more effective **nitrogen** applications have increased pasture growth rates

Over the past week Average Pasture Cover (APC) has had its most significant increase since the 1st of July, increasing from **1783kgDM/ha** to **1863kgDM/ha**.



A spring fertiliser application (16%N, 4%P, 7%K and 5%S blend) will be applied to paddocks following grazing by the cows. It will be applied at a rate of **290kg/ha** in the coming weeks for the whole farm.

Rotation Length is currently **40 days** compared with **45 days** last week. The slight decrease in rotation length is in accordance with a budgeted decrease in **leaf emergence rate** over the next week. **LER** has remained constant at **15 days/leaf** for the past 7 days.



3 paddocks were found to be at **3-leaf** stage but well below the pre grazing level of **2400kgDM/ha**. These paddocks will be the next grazed to maintain optimal growing conditions for next round and pasture quality in the ration.

Pasture Allocation to the milking herd is 9 hectares per day. For the first time in 4 weeks cows will be entering paddocks above a pre-grazing level of **2400kgDM/ha**. By maintaining the **tight** rotation length over the past month and feeding **supplements** a feed wedge has been reestablished. Post grazing residuals will be increased to **1400-1500kgDM/ha** from **1300kgDM/ha** over the next few weeks providing the improved growth rates continue.

Animal Performance

There are currently **830 cows** in the milking herd.

Feed Intake for the milking herd has increased to **14.7kgDM/cow/day** compared with **12kgDM/cow/day** last week. Concentrates have been maintained at **3 kg/day (2.7 kgDM)**. The ration consists of **12kgDM pasture** (up from **9kgDM** last week), and **3kg grain** (which is a total energy allocation of 194 MJME).

The first herd recording will take place over the coming weeks and cows will be culled in respect to **production** and **milk quality**.

AI will commence on September 22nd using unproven **New Zealand Fresian, Aussie Red** and **Jersey** semen.

BCS for the herd has remained constant at **3.9** which means that the herd (except the late calvers) is out of negative energy and will start putting on condition.

Production for the milking herd is **1.27kgMS** per cow down from **1.30kgMS** per cow last week. The reason for this can be attributed to problems with the grain feeding system. Fat and protein has remained the same at **4.40%Fat** and **3.12%Protein**. Bulk Milk Cell Counts average **220,000** compared with **250,000** last week.

The next **WEEKLY TDDF FMG** farm walk will be Monday September 10.

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