

# TDDF FMG Walk Notes

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Monday September 10, 2007



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Increase pasture intakes to +15kgDM/cow/day.
2	Remove concentrates from the ration.
3	Reduce rotation length in accordance with LER
4	Identify silage paddocks
5	Tail painting in preparation for mating (commences September 22 <sup>nd</sup> )



## SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	10 days/leaf	Litres/cow/day	17.5L
Rotation Length	30 days	MS/cow/day	1.26kg
Pasture Growth Rate	33 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.83kg
Average Pasture Cover	1858 kgDM/ha	Cow intake	+15 kgDM
Soil Temperature	11.4°C	Supplement Fed	-
Rainfall (past 7 days)	1.75mm	Body Condition Score	3.9

## TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

### Grazing Management

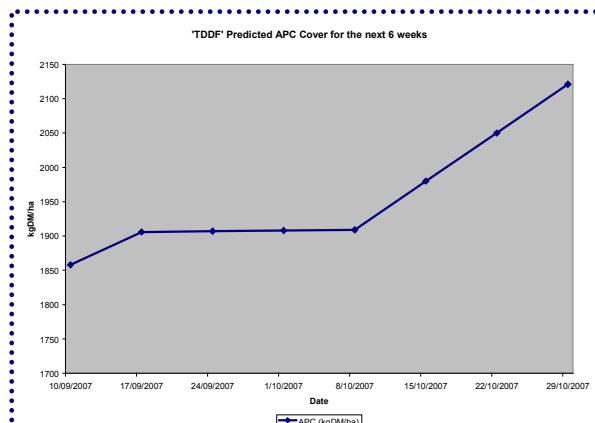
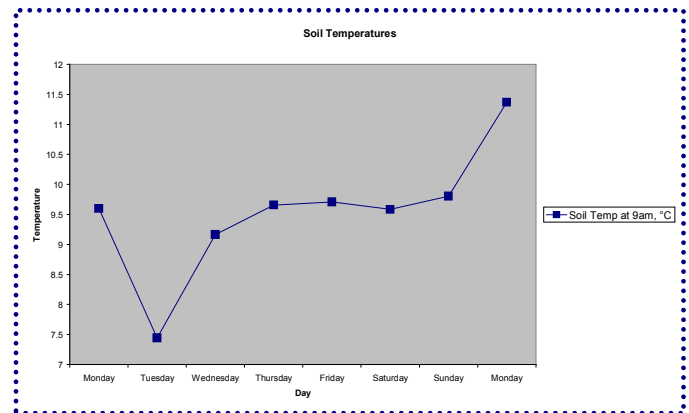
Soil Temperatures have **fluctuated** over the past week. (Refer to graph)

Pasture Growth Rate is at **33kgDM/ha/day** compared with **34kgDM/ha/day** last week. Growth rates have been budgeted to increase sharply over the next 6 weeks.

Average Pasture Cover (APC) has reduced over the past week from **1863kgDM/ha** to **1858kgDM/ha**.

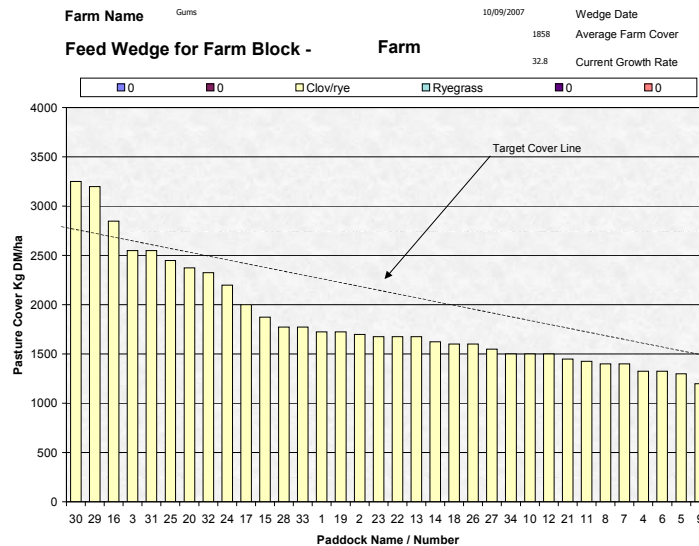
Below is the predicted APC for the next 6 weeks

assuming: 40% farm is removed out of the rotation for silage, there are average growth rates, herd pasture demand remains at **34kgDM/ha pasture** and cow numbers are 827.



*Rotation Length* is currently **30 days** compared with **40 days** last week. **LER** has decreased to **10 days/leaf** compared with **15days/leaf** 7days ago. There has been substantial change in leaf emergence over the past week, which clearly indicates how important it is to monitor **LER** to adjust **rotation length**.

Over the next week **10 tonnes** of a spring fertiliser blend consisting of 16%N, 4%P, 7%K and 5%S will be applied to **35ha** following the cows. This equates to **46kgN/ha**.



*Pasture Allocation* to the milking herd is 12 hectares per day. Post grazing residuals have increased to **1500kgDM/ha** from **1300 – 1400kgDM/ha** over the past few weeks. The farm is past break even, where pasture **supply** is greater than **demand**. **Concentrates** have been omitted from the ration. Genuine surpluses have been budgeted for over the next 6 weeks. Paddocks will be identified to be taken out of rotation for silage over the next week.

A feedtest of the pre-grazing pasture in paddock 30 was carried out on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September and results are due shortly.

\*The next months grazing management is of critical importance for whole farm productivity and profitability. Surpluses have to be identified and removed quickly, and the grazing management has to be managed precisely (maintain **1500kgDM/ha** residuals) to maximise pasture quality and to ensure that intakes are not compromised.

### Animal Performance

There are currently **827 cows** in the milking herd compared with **830 cows** last week.

*Feed Intake* for the milking herd has increased to **+15kgDM/cow/day** compared with **14.7kgDM/cow/day** last week. The aim is maximise pasture intake while maintaining a **1500kgDM/ha** residual. The total energy allocation of the ration is **+195MJ ME/cow/day**.

**AI** is to commence on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and pre-mating tail paint has been applied.

*Production* for the milking herd is **1.26kgMS** per cow down from **1.27kgMS** per cow last week. The milk test is **3.96% Fat** and **3.22% Protein** down from **4.40% Fat** and **3.12% Protein** last week. Bulk Milk Cell Counts averaged **226,000** compared with **220,000** last week. With an increase of total energy in the ration, milk production is expected to lift over the next few weeks.

The next **WEEKLY TDDF FMG** farm walk will be Monday September 17.

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