

# TDDF FMG Walk Notes

Volume 1, Issue 7

Monday September 17, 2007



| FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1                     | Maintain pasture intakes of 15kgDM/cow/day.                             |
| 2                     | Address the low concentration of phosphorous and potassium in the soil. |
| 3                     | Commence AI.  |



## SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

| Pasture Information    |              | Animal Production    |         |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------|
| LER                    | 10 days/leaf | Litres/cow/day       | 17      |
| Rotation Length        | 30 days      | MS/cow/day           | 1.23kg  |
| Pasture Growth Rate    | 21 kgDM/ha   | MS/ha/day            | 2.75kg  |
| Average Pasture Cover  | 1784 kgDM/ha | Cow intake           | 15 kgDM |
| Soil Temperature       | 10.67°C      | Supplement Fed       | -       |
| Rainfall (past 7 days) | 27.5mm       | Body Condition Score | 4       |

## TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

### Grazing Management

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

Pasture Growth Rate is at **22kgDM/ha/day** compared with **33kgDM/ha/day** last week.

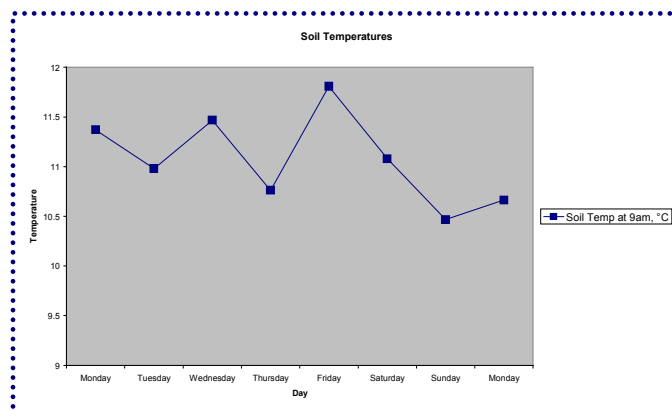
*\*The FMG have identified soil nutrient limitations that have affected growth rates. Yellowing of the pastures suggest that nitrogen is limiting, but it was identified that a reduced concentration of soil phosphorus is limiting growth which in turn would reduce the response to nitrogen.*

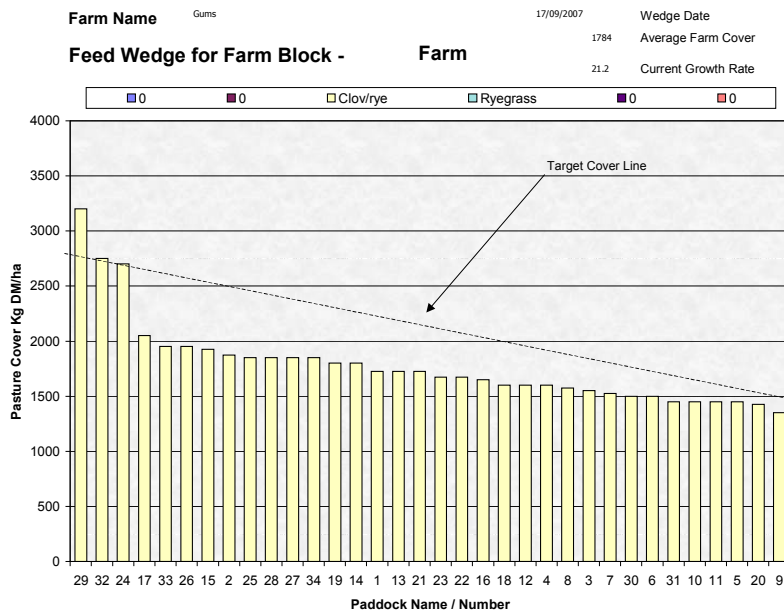
Average Pasture Cover (APC) has reduced over the past week from **1858kgDM/ha** to **1784kgDM/ha**. This change can be attributed to growth rates falling over the past week.

Rotation Length has remained at **30 days** with LER at **10 days/leaf**.

Nitrogen is being applied behind the cows at **46kgN/ha**, as part of the spring fertiliser blend consisting of 16%N, 4%P, 7%K and 5%S. A total of **290kg/ha** of the fertiliser blend will be applied. With the heavier demand for nitrogen by the pasture, it will be critical for **nitrogen** to follow behind the cows to maximise the spring growing conditions.

*\*Addressing low soil phosphorus concentration in the soil will be important to improve the efficiency of the system. The FMG will develop a fertiliser strategy to address the current soil fertility levels.*





*Pasture Allocation* to the milking herd is 12 hectares per day. Post grazing residuals have remained at **1500kgDM/ha** with cows entering paddocks at pre-grazing levels of **2800 – 3200kgDM/ha**. The falling growth rates have indicated that the farm may not be past break even. Next week's farm walk will help in identifying where the farm is in terms of feed supply versus demand.

A **Feed Test** on the pasture was carried out 7 days ago:

- 12.8MJME/kgDM
- 84% Digestibility
- 14.4% Drymatter
- 26.4% CP
- 43.5% NDF

### Animal Performance

There are currently **824 cows** in the milking herd compared with **827 cows** last week.

*Feed Intake* for the milking herd has been restricted to **15kgDM/cow/day**. Reduced growth rates has meant that available pasture may be reduced especially as supply is less than demand. The total energy allocation of the ration is **192MJ ME/cow/day**.

The planned start of mating (**PSM**) is September 22<sup>nd</sup> and excellent reproductive management over the next few weeks will be crucial for the TDDF to meet its reproduction targets. The FMG will aim for reproductive targets for the 2008/09 season of:

- 70% 6 WICR;
- 13% NICR; and
- <10% induced.

These are industry best management targets obtained from the inCalf project.

*Production* for the milking herd is **1.23kgMS** per cow down from **1.26kgMS** per cow last week. The milk test is **4.01% Fat** and **3.24% Protein** up from **3.96% Fat** and **3.22% Protein** last week. Bulk Milk Cell Counts averaged **193,500** compared with **226,000** last week.

The next **WEEKLY TDDF FMG** farm walk will be Monday September 24.

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