

TDDF FMG Walk Notes

Volume 1, Issue 8

Monday September 24, 2007



FMG'S CRITICAL ISSUES	
1	Maintain pasture intakes of 15kgDM/cow/day
2	Holding the rotation length
3	Continue AI
4	Drench the herd



SUMMARY OF FARMING OPERATION DATA

Pasture Information		Animal Production	
LER	10 days/leaf	Litres/cow/day	17.5
Rotation Length	30 days	MS/cow/day	1.29kg
Pasture Growth Rate	31 kgDM/ha	MS/ha/day	2.87kg
Average Pasture Cover	1804 kgDM/ha	Cow intake	15 kgDM
Soil Temperature	10.69°C	Supplement Fed	-
Rainfall (past 7 days)	12.5ml	Body Condition Score	4.1

TDDF Grazing and Animal KPI'S

Grazing Management

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

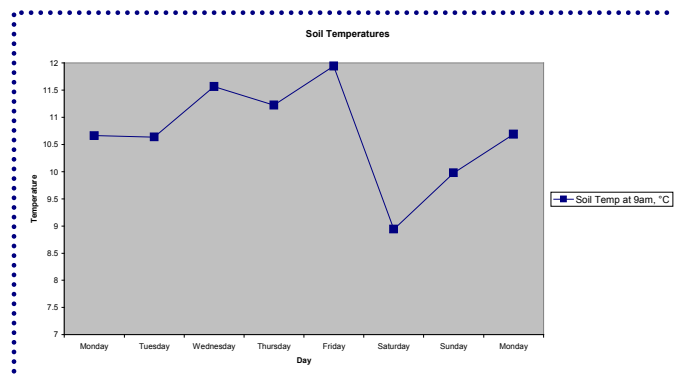
Pasture Growth Rate is at **22kgDM/ha/day** compared with **33kgDM/ha/day** last week.

Average Pasture Cover (APC) has increased over the past week from **1784kgDM/ha** to **1804kgDM/ha**. Pasture supply once again has exceeded demand and the farm should see increased growth rates over the next few weeks.

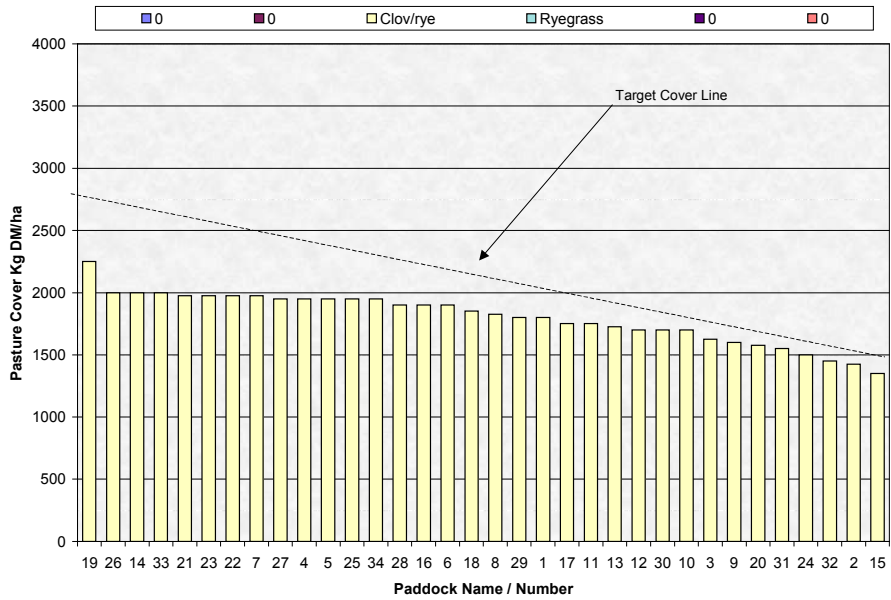
Rotation Length has remained at **30 days** with LER at **10 days/leaf**.

Nitrogen is continuing behind the cows at **46 kgN/ha**, as part of the spring fertiliser blend consisting of 16%N, 4%P, 7%K and 5%S. The last third of the farm will have the application this week (total of **290 kg/ha** applied).

Nitrogen will continue to be applied at the same rate following the cows for at least the next month to maximise the spring growing conditions. Since there are deficiencies of phosphorus and potassium in the soil, this next round of **nitrogen** will still be applied through a blend.



Urine Patches indicate how devoid the soil is of nitrogen even though 46kgN/ha has been applied post-grazing since July 1
Photo taken 10 September 2007



Pasture Allocation to the milking herd is 12 hectares per day. Post grazing residuals have decreased to **1400kgDM/ha** (1500kgDM/ha last week) with cows entering paddocks at pre-grazing level of **2400kgDM/ha** (2800-3200kgDM/ha last week). The reduction in pre-grazing levels puts further pressure on cow intakes, cow intakes **will not** be increased by increasing the rotation length. Maintaining rotation length in accordance with **LER** will optimise pasture production and quality. Over the coming weeks there will be many paddocks that reach their optimum pre-grazing level at a similar time, therefore dropping paddocks out of the rotation for silage will be important to maintain pasture quality in the ration.

Animal Performance

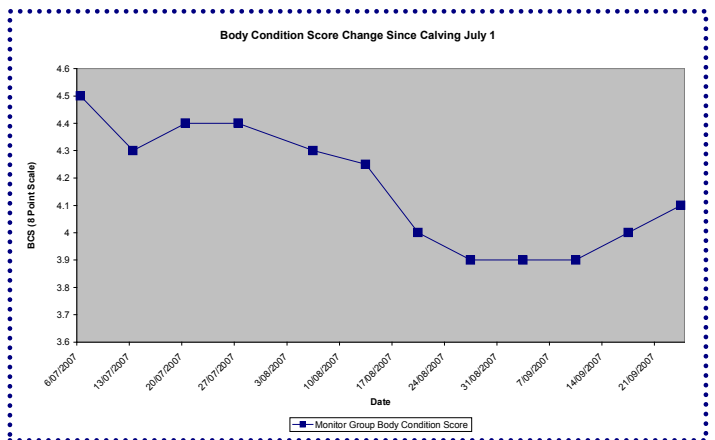
There are currently **824 cows** in the milking herd (same as last week)

Feed Intake for the milking herd has been restricted to **15kgDM/cow/day**. The total energy allocation of the ration is **192MJ ME/cow/day**.

A *faecal worm count* conducted over the past week found a significant worm problem in the herd. All of the herd will be drenched over the coming week.

BCS has increased over the past 2 weeks, indicating the herd is out of negative energy balance. As we go into mating the rising body condition should enhance conception rates.

Production for the milking herd is **1.29kgMS** per cow down from **1.23kgMS** per cow last week. The milk test is **4.10% Fat** and **3.27% Protein** up from **4.01% Fat** and **3.24% Protein** last week. Bulk Milk Cell Counts averaged **182,000** compared with **193,500** last week.



The next **WEEKLY TDDF FMG** farm walk will be Monday October 1.

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