

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 499 (Week ending 2nd August 2019)

Paddock 21 is about to be grazed and at 51 days rested it has 2.4 leaves regrown at an average leaf appearance rate of 21 days. The third leaf is growing faster than the first and second leaves in some paddocks. By eye, there is 1,100 kg DM/ha of good milker feed that has re-grown since the previous grazing on offer. This means the growth rate, held against the 51 days since last grazing, is 22 kg DM/ha/day. The growth rate is not the harvest or consumption rate, that is determined by how efficiently it is grazed. Soil moisture in paddock 21 is excellent, down to 12 cm only.

The milkers, 65 late lactation adult cows and 30 newly calved 2yr olds, are grazing quite laxly and the dry cows are cleaning up the after the milkers. The advantages of a dry cow clean-up are that the dry cows are being fed, and they can bring the residue down to an ideal level. If not carefully managed, the risk is that the residue may be taken too low and the regrowth from plant reserves is being eaten off, setting the plant back in its recovery.

Dry cow body condition score is estimated at an average of 4.75 and reflects the dry conditions and the struggle to feed the cows well in the second half of the season. Cows will produce more milk in early lactation if the body condition score at calving is higher.

Note the indicator at the bottom, "Feed cost \$/kgMS": almost exactly the same, while the other farm's feeding profitability is miles in front. "Feed cost \$/kg MS" is not a reliable indicator of profitable feeding performance. Rather, it is a risk indicator. Any margin or profit number should always be held against the investment, and/or other ongoing costs, that are required to get that margin or profit (e.g. the hectares or the cows), not against the product.

To help us deliver the outcomes of the Futures Forum held last year the MDF is looking to employ a part time Dairy Extension Officer to co-ordinate and deliver on-farm projects and dairy farming extension activities as well as to act as the Executive Officer of the MDF. The role is an independent role that sits alongside the farming operation but has strong links to the Farm Manager and Farm Consultant. This is a great job for a creative person to make a real difference to the dairy extension model and the impact is has on dairy farmers and their livelihoods. Check the advert in Situation Vacant in today's Gippsland Times.

Macalister Demonstration Farm

FEED MARGIN PERFORMANCE		LAST YEAR	One Month ago	TEN DAYS AGO	Monthly TARGET	THIS TEN DAYS	ANOTHER FARM	Units
1	Ten days to date:	31/Jul/18	30/Jun/19	21/Jul/19	July	31/Jul/19	31/Jul/19	
2	Milker graze area	60	55	47	55	47	108	ha
3	Milkers	100	150	90	113	95	350	head
4	Stocking rate	1.7	2.7	1.9	2.1	2.0	3.2	cows/ha
5	Grazing allocation 1/	57	45	50		55	35	th of graze area
6	Average graze rest time	57	40	43		51	35	days
7	mm irrigation/hectare/day	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	mm water/ha/day
8	Element Nitrogen	0.7	1.1	0.4		0.4	1.0	kg element/ha/day
9	Element Phosphorus	0.10	0.10	0.10		0.10	0.05	kg element/ha/day
10	Element Potassium	0.20	0.20	0.20		0.20	0.20	kg element/ha/day
11	Renovation	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25		\$0.25	\$0.05	\$/ha/day
12	Topping	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$/ha/day
13	Estm'd grass consmp'n (incl cons'vd forage)	14	18	15	15	16	24	kg DM/ha/day
14	Grass consum'd per cow	8.3	6.5	7.9	7.5	7.7	7.5	kg DM/cow/day
15	Grass growing spend	\$1.67	\$2.09	\$1.39		\$1.39	\$1.88	\$/ha/day
16	Estm'd grass price	\$121	\$119	\$92		\$89	\$78	\$/T DM
17	Conc (incl additives)supp fed/cow	5.4	6.3	5.4	5.4	4.5	6.1	kg DM/cow/day
18	Hay/silage supp fed/cow	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	kg DM/cow/day
19	Other supp fed/cow	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	1.8	kg DM/cow/day
20	Estim'd supp waste	3%	4%	3%		3%	4%	%
21	Conc (incl additives)supp price	\$400	\$523	\$523		\$523	\$522	\$/T DM
22	Hay/silage supp price		\$444				\$378	\$/T DM
23	Other supp price						\$378	\$/T DM
24	Feed Conversion Efficiency	89	89	90		82	95	kg MS/tonne DM
25	Total feed intake/cow	13.5	13.8	13.2	12.6	12.1	15.1	kg DM/cow/day
26	Energy density of diet	12.6	12.2	12.6		12.6	12.2	MJ ME/kg DM
27	Crude protein % of diet	19.2%	16.6%	19.0%		19.6%	20.1%	% CP
28	NDF Fibre in diet	29.3%	28.9%	29.5%		30.3%	33.4%	% NDF
29	Estm'd body cond't'n change	0.20	0.20	0.20		0.20	0.10	kg LWT/cow/day
30	Litres/cow	17.2	14.9	16.6	15.8	14.1	19.7	l/cow/day
31	Fat test	3.09%	4.38%	3.19%	3.05%	3.14%	3.86%	%
32	Protein test	4.01%	4.03%	4.01%	4.04%	3.99%	3.62%	%
33	Fat per cow	0.53	0.65	0.53	0.48	0.44	0.76	kg/cow/day
34	Protein per cow	0.69	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.56	0.71	kg/cow/day
35	Milk Solids per cow	1.22	1.25	1.19	1.12	1.00	1.47	kg/cow/day
36	Milk price (less levies)/kg MS	\$7.01	\$6.97	\$7.48		\$7.50	\$7.13	\$/kg MS
37	Milk price (less levies)/litre	\$0.498	\$0.587	\$0.539		\$0.534	\$0.533	\$ per litre
38	Fat return per cow	\$2.51	\$3.21	\$2.54		\$2.12	\$3.65	\$/cow/day
39	Protein return per cow	\$6.51	\$5.90	\$6.39		\$5.39	\$6.83	\$/cow/day
40	Volume charge per cow	\$0.43	\$0.37	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$/cow/day
41	Milk income/cow	\$8.58	\$8.73	\$8.93		\$7.51	\$10.48	\$/cow/day
42	All feed cost/cow	\$3.16	\$4.66	\$3.55		\$3.04	\$4.46	\$/cow/day
43	Margin over all Feed/cow	\$5.42	\$4.07	\$5.38	\$5.21	\$4.47	\$6.02	\$/cow/day
44	MOAF /ha /day	\$9.04	\$11.09	\$10.31	\$10.74	\$9.03	\$19.52	\$/ha/day
45	Farm MOAF per DAY	\$542	\$610	\$484	\$591	\$424	\$2,108	\$/day
46	Feed cost \$/kg MS					\$3.04	\$3.03	

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