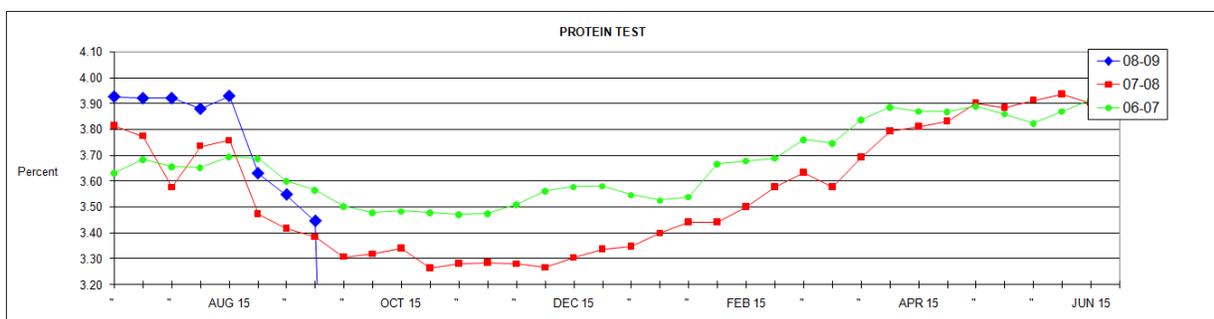
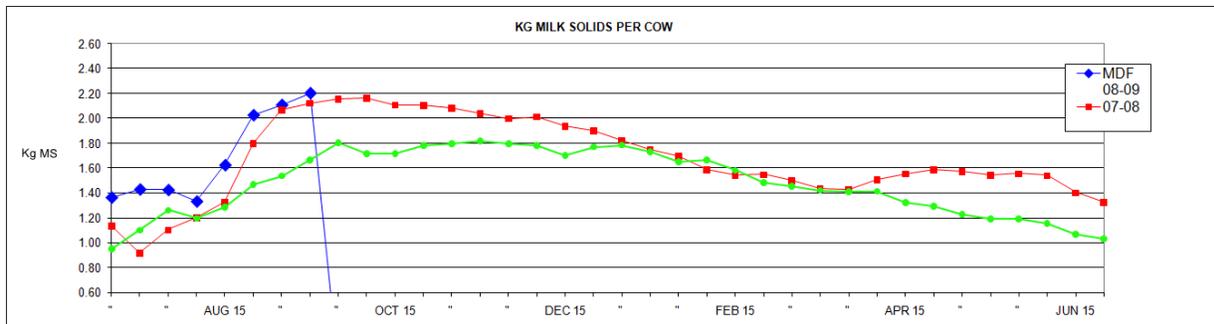
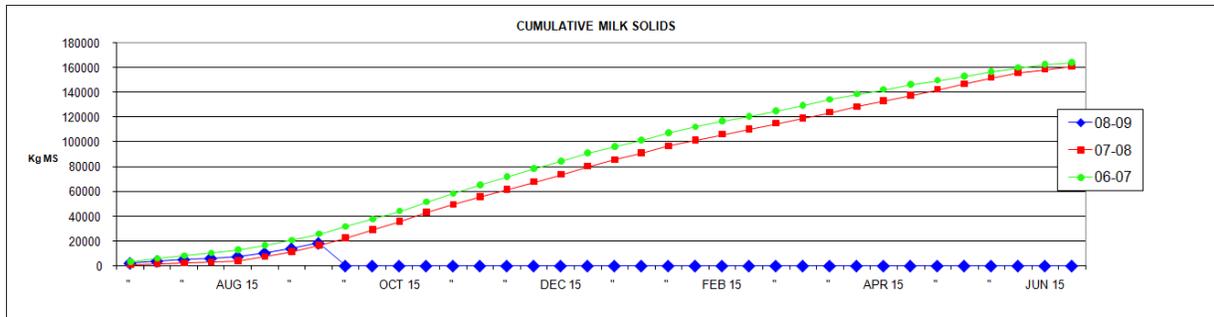
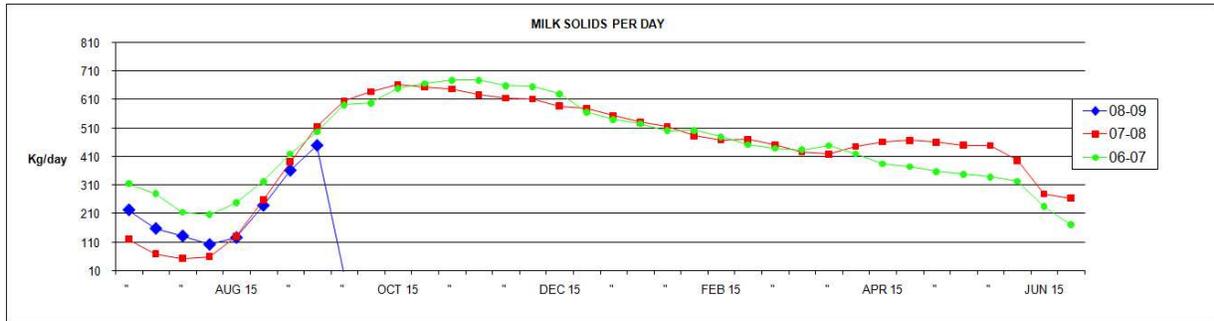
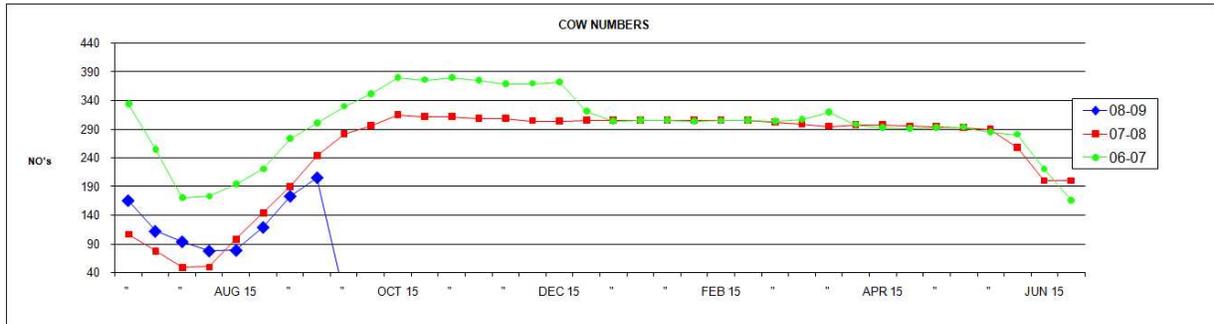
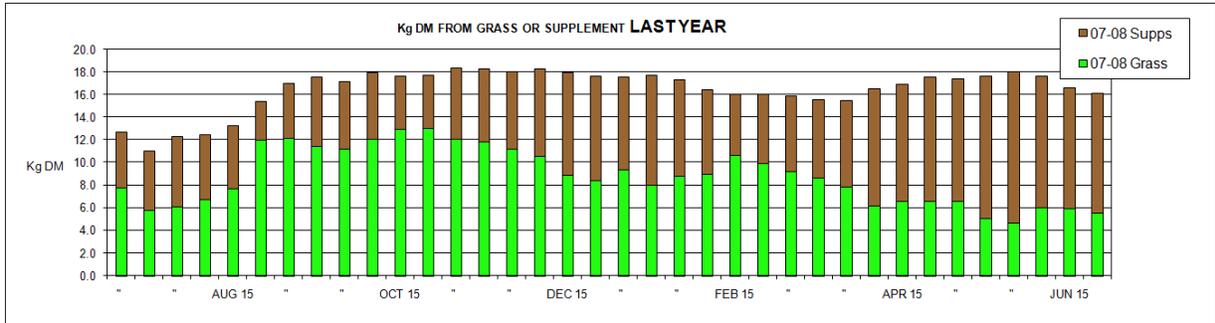
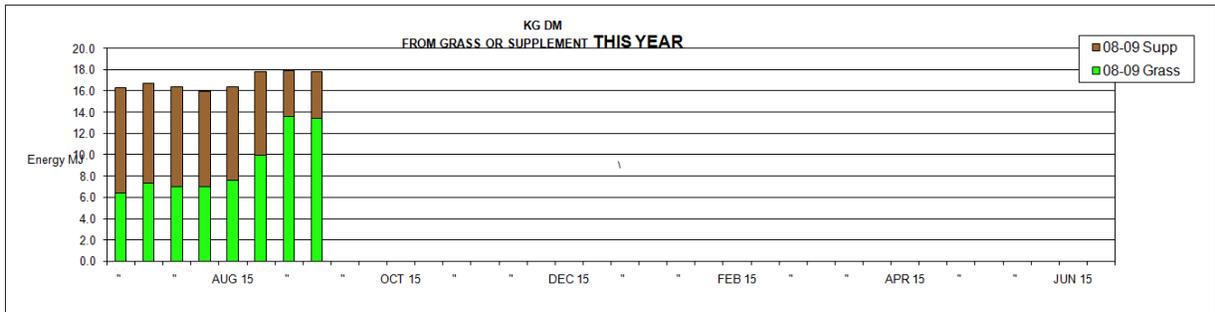
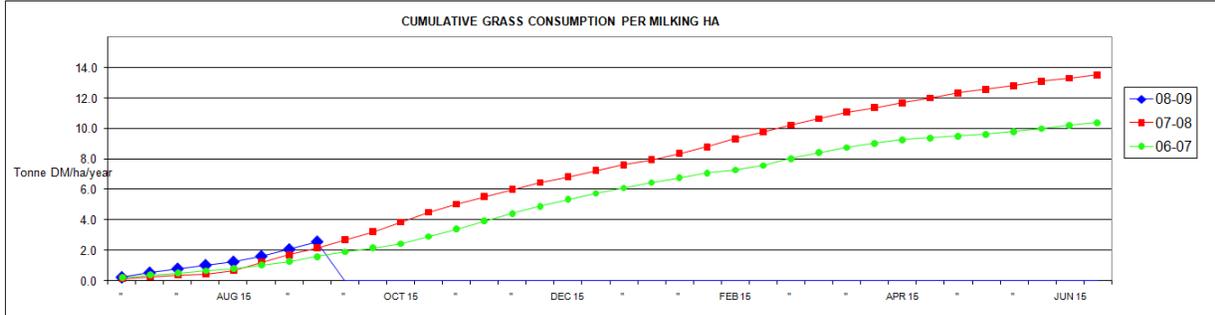
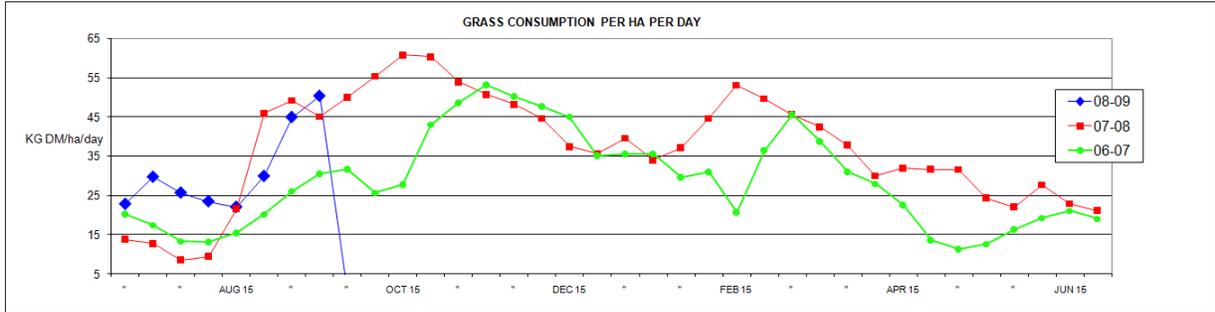
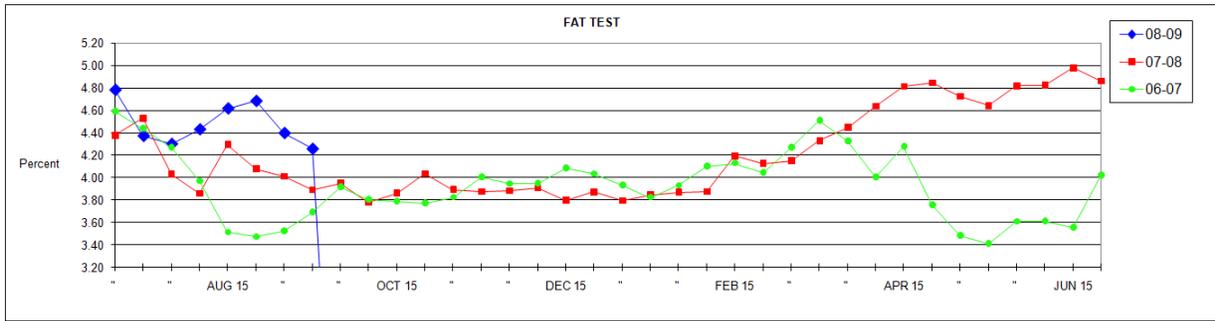
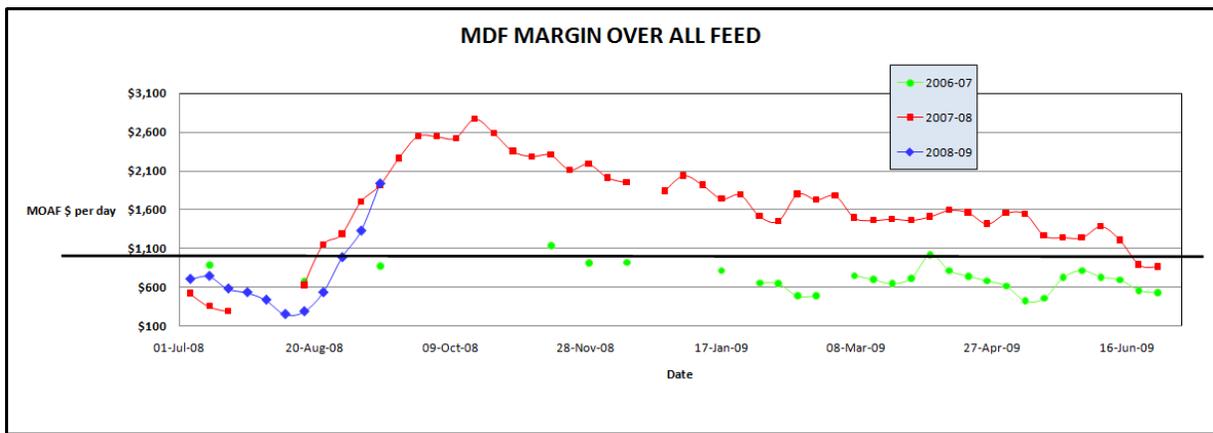
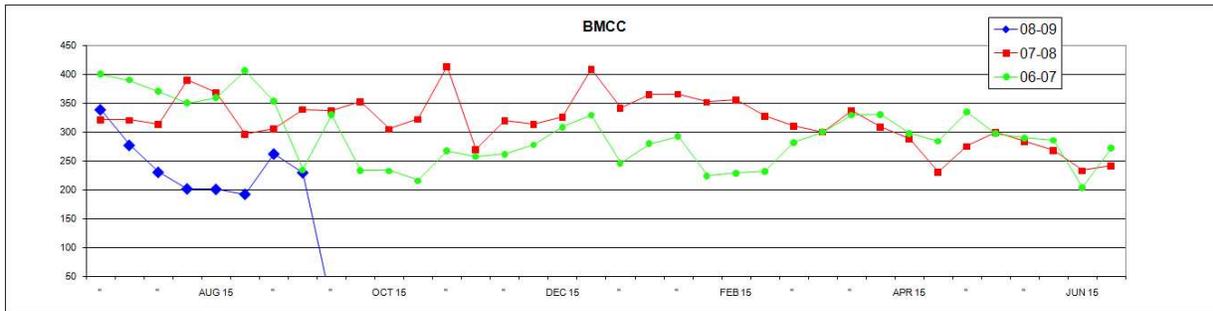
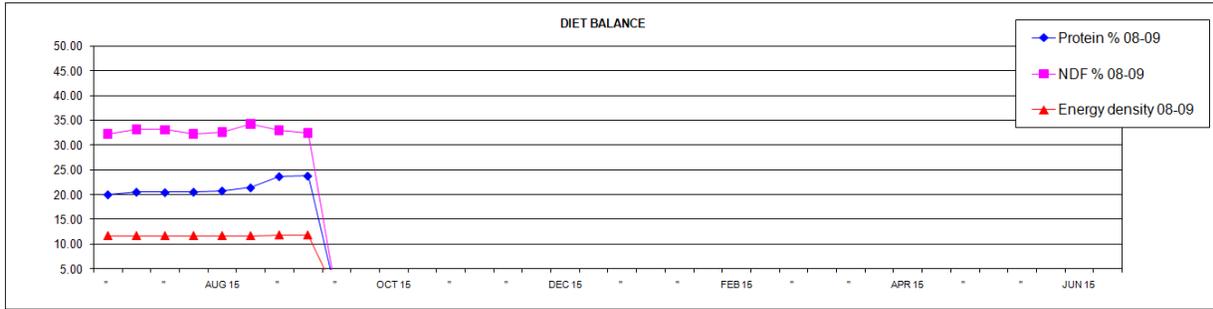
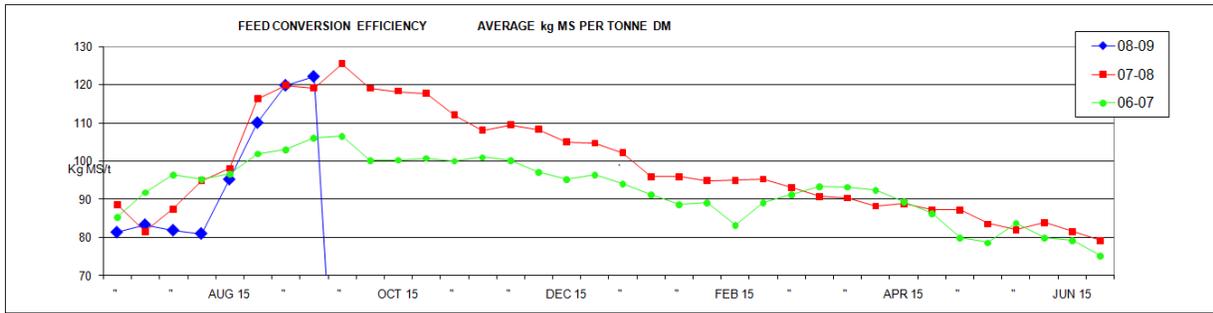


MDF FARM PERFORMANCE GRAPHS

2006-07, 2007-08 and the beginning of 2008-09 cow numbers, milk production, and some indicators of feeding performance are shown in the following graphs.







The graph above shows the Margin over All Feed for the Macalister Demonstration Farm over three years. Some dots are missing, especially in 06-07 when it wasn't being calculated all the time.

Feeding is the major expenditure on any dairy farm. It is where profits can be made or lost. All the non-feed expenses (herd, shed, replacements, overheads, labour, and depreciation) for the MDF are represented by the horizontal black line in the graph, averaging \$1,000 per day. More profit would be made if the black line could be lowered. However it should not be lowered without care. For example, a certain amount has to be spent to keep the cows healthy, milking plant clean, labour well paid and retained, etc. etc.

The green circular dots represent the drought year of 2006-07. A loss of \$200,000 was made because only at a couple of stages did the dots rise above the black line.

The red squares represent 2007-08, when a profit of \$257,000 was made. The feed margin was significantly above the black line, most of the time. The feed margin cannot be above the black line all the time, because in winter not enough cows are milked. (See the cow number graph below).

The blue diamonds in the graph above represent this season. During the recent winter, the feed margin was below the black line, but, at times in winter, it was better than the previous year. In early August this year, the feed margin dipped to its lowest while the lowest number of cows was milked. It is now climbing strongly as the cows calve and start lifting in milk production per cow (see graph below) The aim is \$400,000 profit this year, so obviously the margin has to climb much higher than last year and stay there for longer.