

Macalister Demonstration Farm

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NEWSLETTER 10

Monday, OCT 27th, 2008



Funded by
Dairy Australia
and your
Regional
Development
Program



Extension projects at the MDF are funded by Dairy Australia and the Gardiner Foundation with support from GippsDairy.

Spring Sessions continue @ the MDF

Wednesdays 11am – 12.30pm BBQ lunch provided

Week 6: Oct 29th Grazing & Feeding Cows during Seed heading, Frank Tyndall

Week 7: Nov 5th Irrigation Budgeting, Gavan Lamb (DPI)

For further information please call DPI Maffra 5147 0800

Yellow Rag Bit

Bree Walshe Dairy Advisor DPI Maffra

Fertiliser prices have sky rocketed, therefore, it makes sense to only put on what the pastures require. Soil testing is an important component of the farming system.

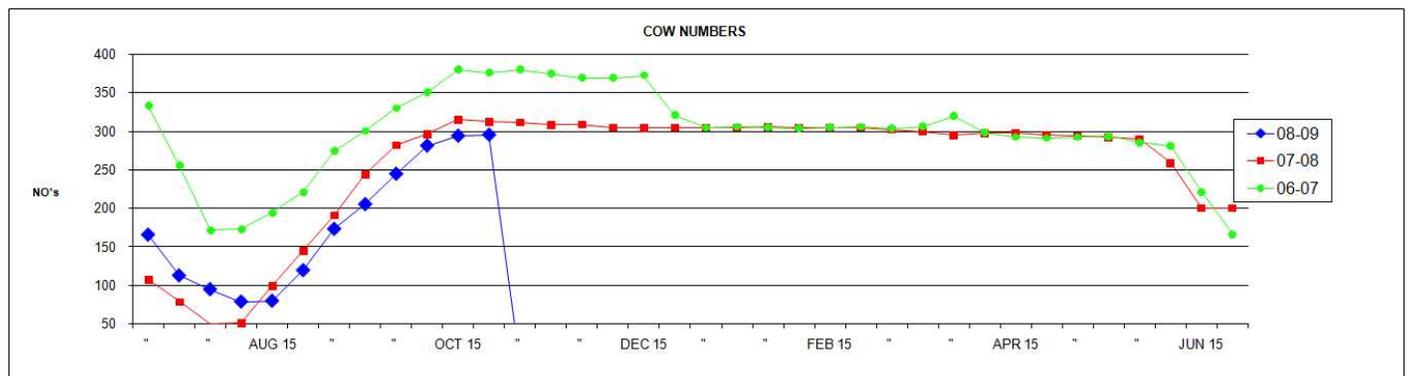
At the first Spring Session – Cameron Gourley discussed his recent research into soil fertility and response to fertiliser. 80% of farmers have greater than optimal Olsen Phosphorous (P) levels in soil, whilst 50% of farmers are twice that of recommended levels.

Many farmers have significantly high Potassium (K) levels and unlike P, this may not cause any environmental impacts, but animal health issues such as milk fever and grass tetany.

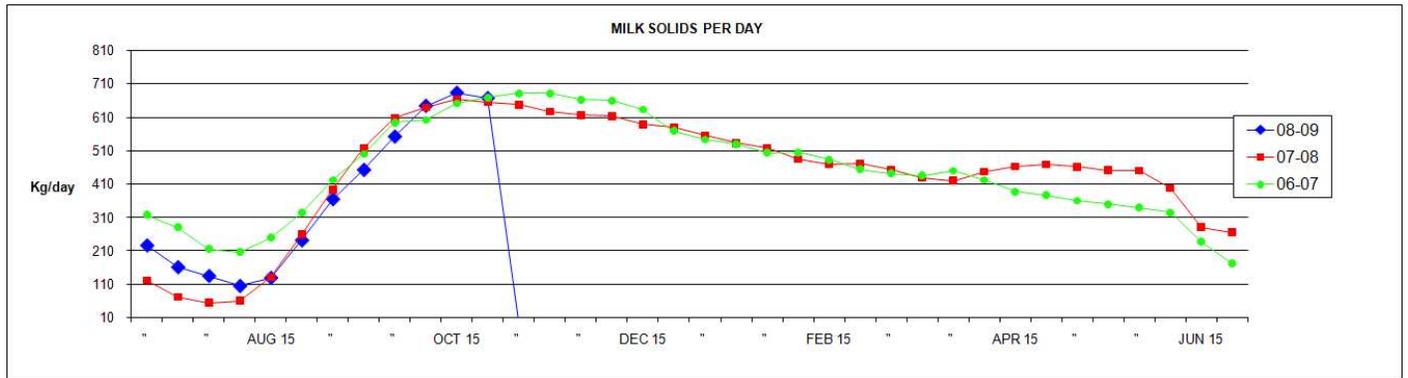
The research also found that Sulphur (S) was not a limiting factor.

Like many things in dairy farming the law of diminishing returns applies to fertiliser use. Once soil fertility has reached its critical value, extra fertiliser applications will see a reduced response.

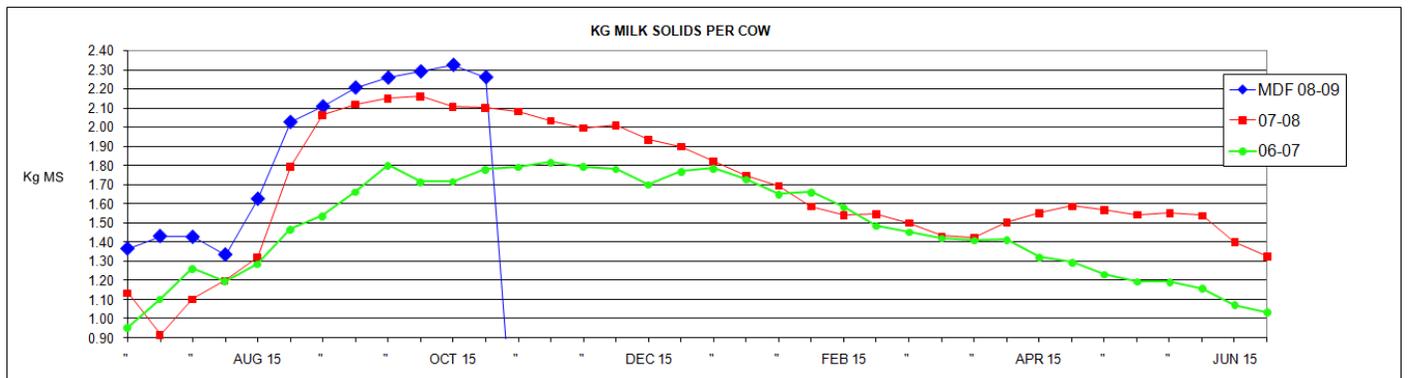
Given the cost of fertiliser this year soil testing can save you some serious money, DPI is offering up to 6 soil tests for the price of 3 from an independent lab, \$250 spent on 6 soil tests is well worth it! Please call DPI Maffra on 5147 0800 to avail yourself of this offer.



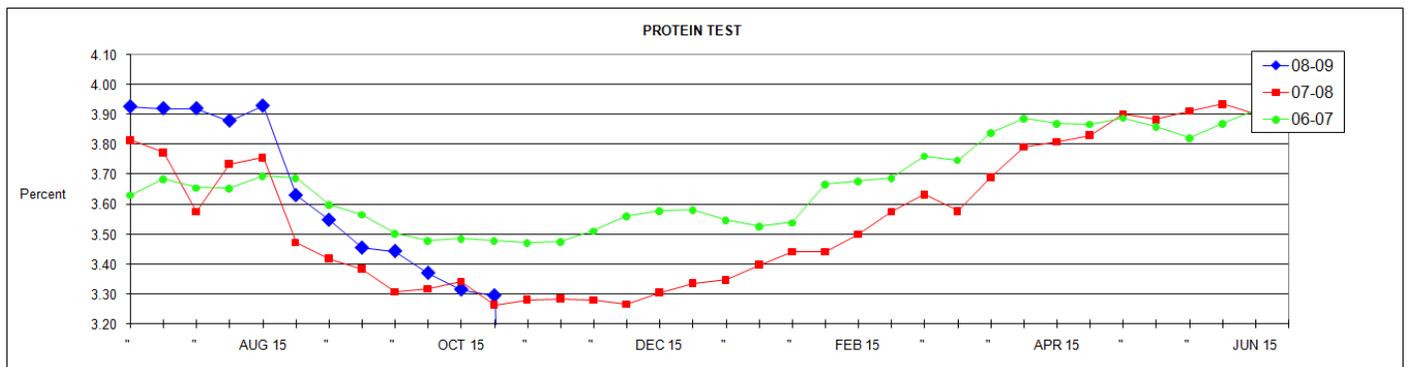
We have culled a few cows, now milking 295, 17 less than last year.



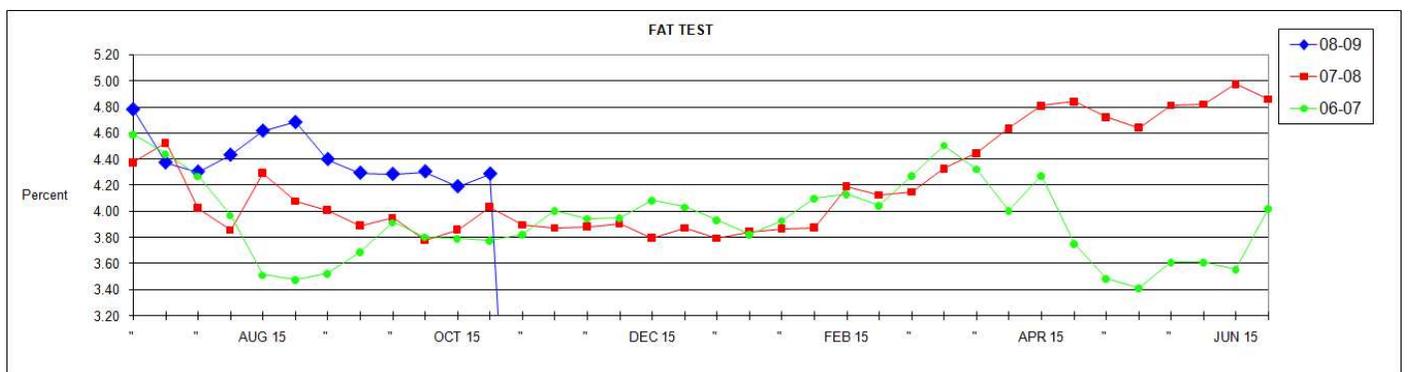
Total milk production each day is now only slightly above last years.



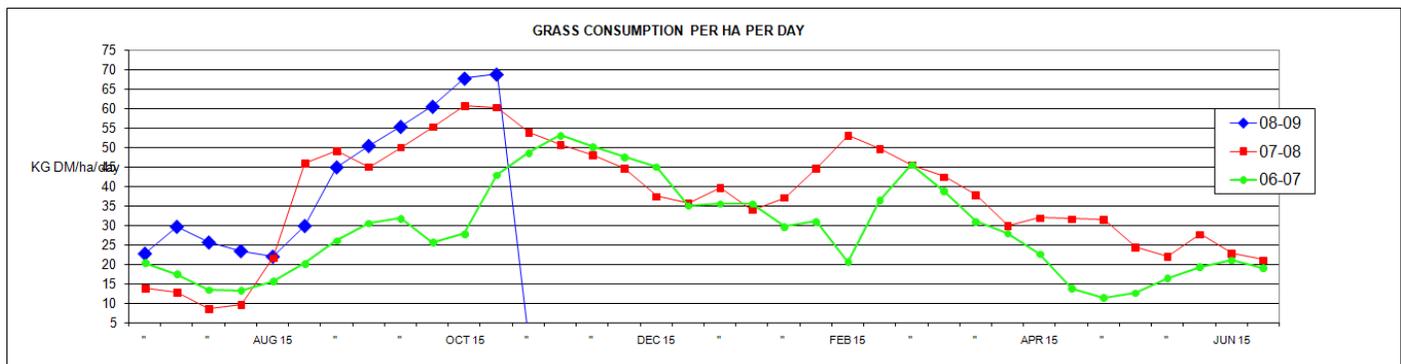
Milk production per cow is now off the peak. The cows missed the mineral pellets for a couple of milkings. The paddocks have high amounts of offer. We have made another 17.6 tonne DM silage off 5.8 hectare, to get the required residue, but trying to get the cows to clean up other paddocks has cost us a bit in production per cow.



Protein test is tracking on its typical and acceptable path.



Fat test is significantly higher than last year and has kicked higher just recently.



Grass consumption per hectare is going well; it includes the silage harvested. The graphs differ a little from the table below, because the last graph dot represents the first 4 days of the recent 10 days, whereas the table is calculated on a weekly basis.

WEEKLY FEEDING PERFORMANCE	3 weeks ago	Last week	
To date:	04-Oct-08	25-Oct-08	
Milker graze area	60	61	Hectare
Milker nos	261	295	Head
Stocking rate	4.4	4.8	cows/hectare
Grazing allocation 1/	35	32	th of graze area
Average graze rest time	38	32	Days
Estm'd pasture consmp'n	58	77	kg DM/ha/dy
Pasture consum'd per cow	13.3	14.1	kg DM/cow/dy
Estm'd pasture price	\$66	\$87	\$/T DM
Conc supp fed/cow	5.3	5.1	kg DM/cow/dy
Other supp fed/cow	0.4	0.5	kg DM/cow/dy
Estim'd supp waste	3.4%	3.6%	%
Conc supp price	\$552	\$562	\$/T DM
Other supp price	\$361	\$361	\$/T DM
Total feed /cow	18.8	19.5	kg DM/cow/dy
Estm'd body cond'n change	-0.30	-0.20	kg LWT/cow/dy
Litres/cow	29.5	30.3	l/cow/day
Fat test	4.35%	4.27%	%
Protein test	3.40%	3.31%	%
MS per cow	2.29	2.30	kg/cow/dy
Anticipated milk price	\$5.98	\$5.96	\$/kg MS
Milk income/cow	\$13.68	\$13.71	\$/cow/dy
All feed cost/cow	\$3.94	\$4.27	\$/cow/dy
Margin over all Feed/cow/day	\$9.74	\$9.43	\$/cow/dy
MOAF /ha /day	\$42.37	\$45.62	\$/ha/day
Farm MOAF per DAY	\$2,542	\$2,783	\$/day
Energy density of diet	11.8	11.6	MJ ME/kg DM
Crude protein % of diet	23.4%	23.7%	% CP
NDF Fibre level of diet	31.2%	31.7%	% NDF

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SENDER:

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