

Macalister Demonstration Farm

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NEWSLETTER 48

Monday April 4th 2011



Extension projects at the MDF are funded by Dairy Australia, Sustainability Victoria and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, with support from GippsDairy.

Show me the MONEY!!

As the MID Tracker Project comes to an end it shows a difference in feed margin of at least \$150,000 per year for a 200 cow farm between the top and bottom performers. Here's your chance to find out how they did it!

An invitation to all dairy farmers

Tuesday April 12th 2011

10.30-12.30 at the MDF (Lunch provided)

For more information contact Neil Baker on 51411 712

Yellow Rag Bit

Bree Walshe, Dairy Advisor DPI Maffra

How full is your effluent system?

Given the wet summer and early autumn so far, I thought a reminder on managing your effluent storages could be timely!

Go out and check how full it is! Your autumn fertiliser application may be there, ready to be utilised. Make a plan now to empty your pond(s) as much as possible heading into winter. This is especially important for those that shandy with irrigation water, as the season closes on May 15. Often there will be management issues around where to irrigate your effluent, whether it be, my farm is too wet or my system doesn't allow me to spread my effluent very far and I may water log my pastures in doing so. These are valid management concerns, but choose a utilisation area and method! There are a few different options to consider including: what your system allows for, soil fertility or perhaps you could choose to use effluent on freshly renovated, or laser graded country providing organic matter and nutrients.

"The environment protection framework in Victoria places the onus of environment protection on those that manage the land and water resources. Farmers should be doing the following in regards to dairy effluent management in order to comply with the objectives of the Environment Protection Act and associated policies:

1. All effluent from the dairy, feedpads, standoff areas, underpasses and tracks must be contained and reused (most commonly spread back on pastures and crop).
2. Effluent must not enter surface waters (including billabongs, canals, springs, swamps, natural or artificial channels, lakes, lagoons, creeks and rivers).
3. Runoff containing effluent must not leave the property boundary.
4. Effluent must not enter ground waters either directly or through infiltration (for example seepage from ponds).
5. Effluent must not contaminate land (discharging effluent onto the same small area over time will cause nutrient overload and contaminate land).

Offensive odours must not impact beyond property boundaries." See the following website for further information. ([www.dairyingfortomorrow.com/cds/Understanding Dairy Catchments/Dairy Effluent Regulations.html](http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com/cds/Understanding_Dairy_Catchments/Dairy_Effluent_Regulations.html))

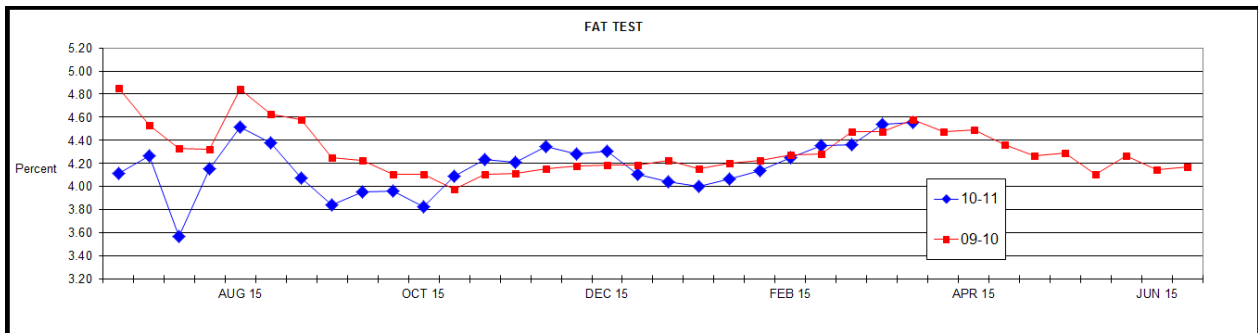
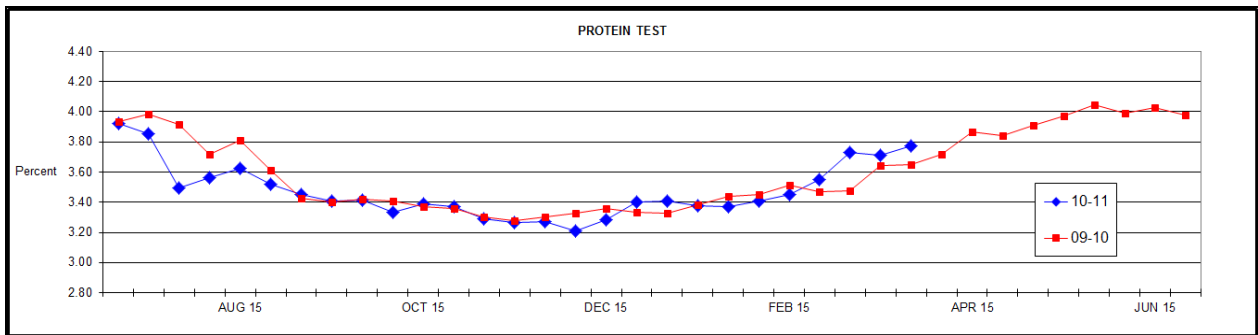
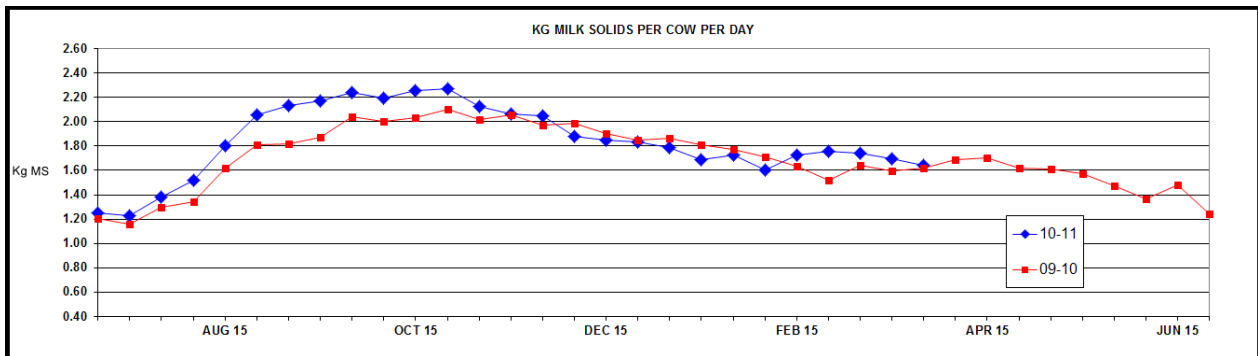
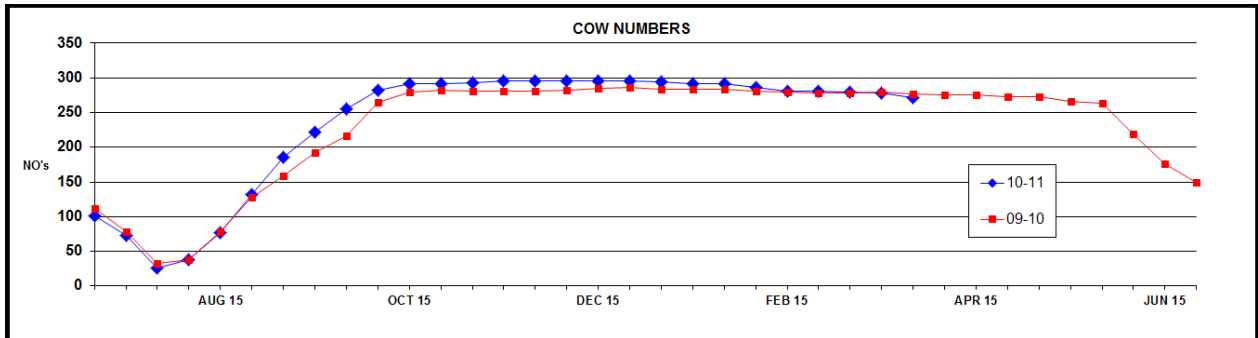
Re-use systems are for irrigation runoff only, not effluent. Irrigation reuse systems are not to be used as a safe guard against over flowing effluent systems. The EPA considers reuse systems as surface water bodies, therefore farmers can be fined if effluent is allowed to contaminate any surface water body.

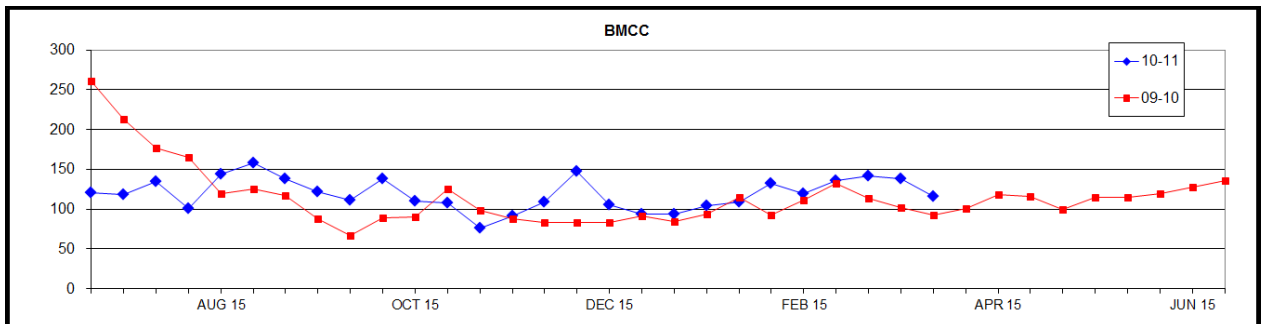
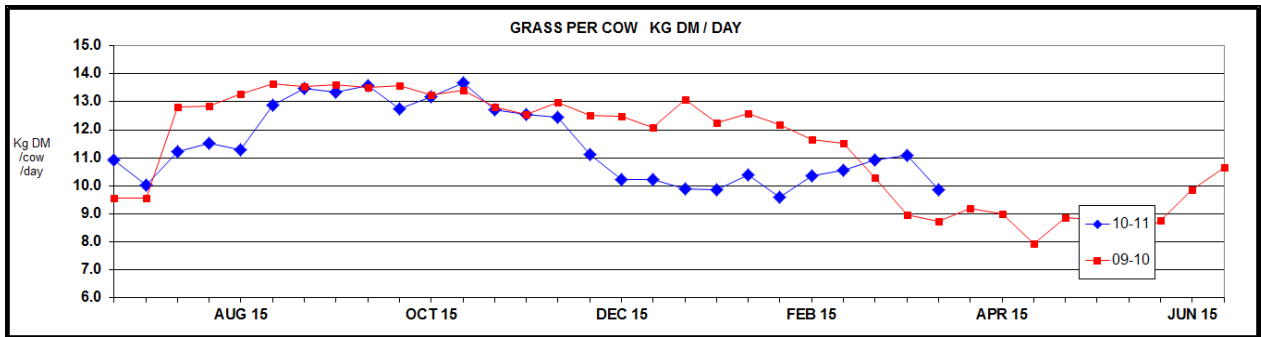
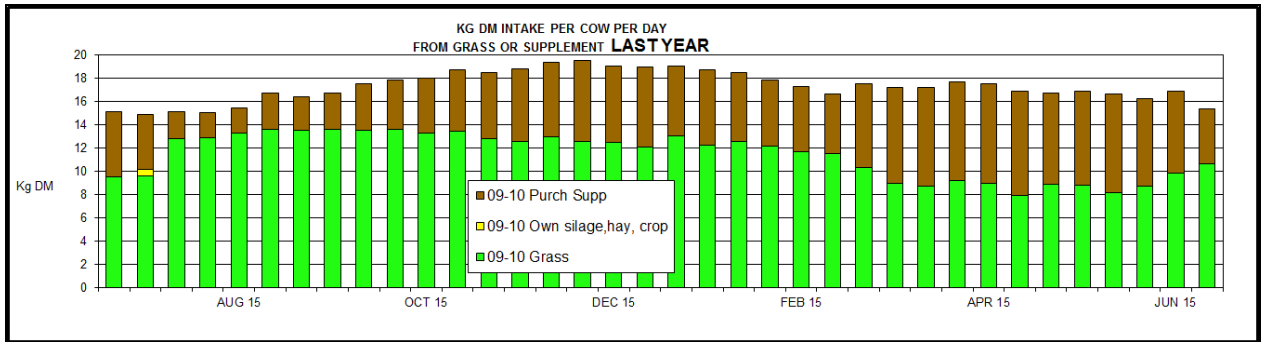
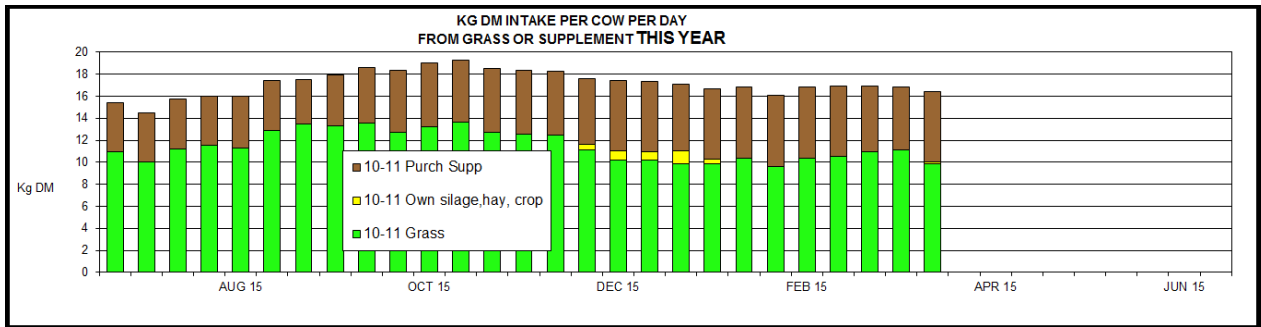
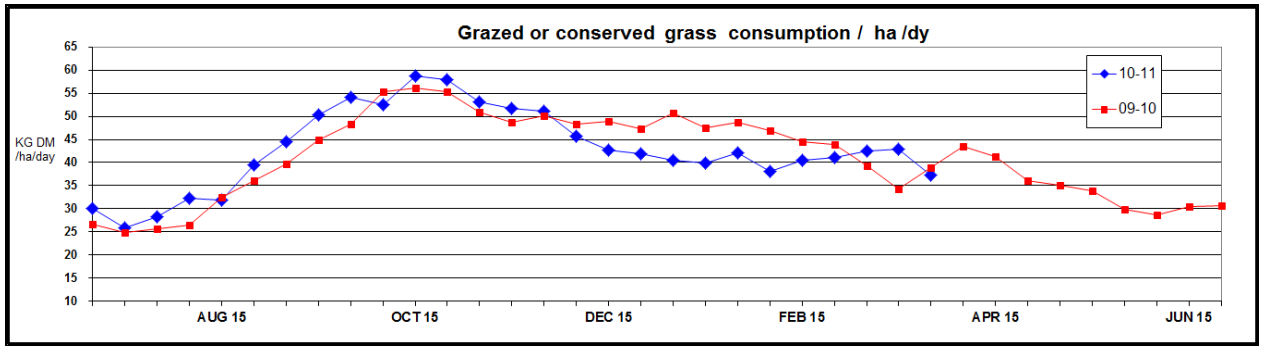
Remember, it is your legal responsibility to ensure that effluent does not leave your property, including in a storm and flood scenario. There are always choices to consider, doing nothing, is still a conscious choice! Effluent is not all doom and gloom, research has proved it to be a valuable resource both locally and around the state. For more information on boosting winter growth from pastures or fodder crops with effluent check out www.dairyingfortomorrow.com

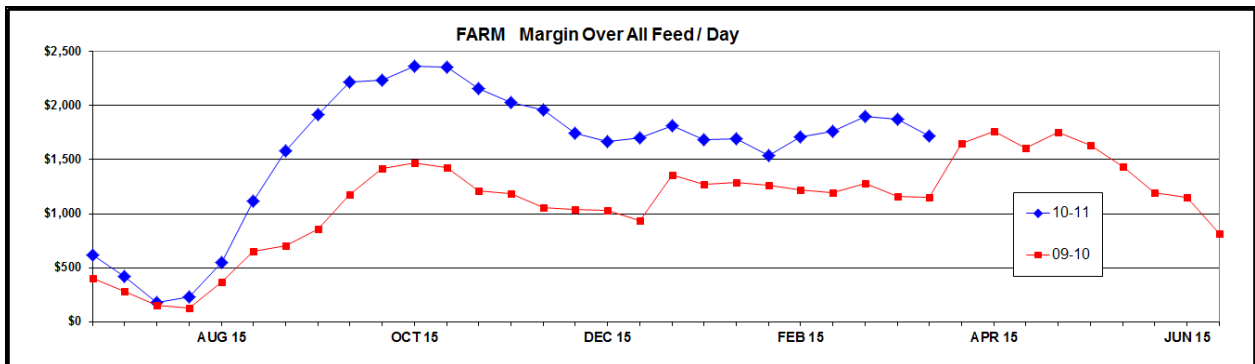
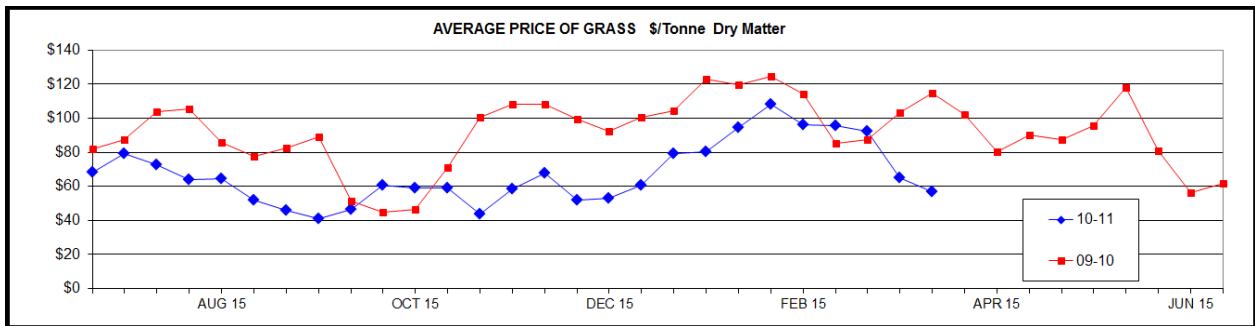
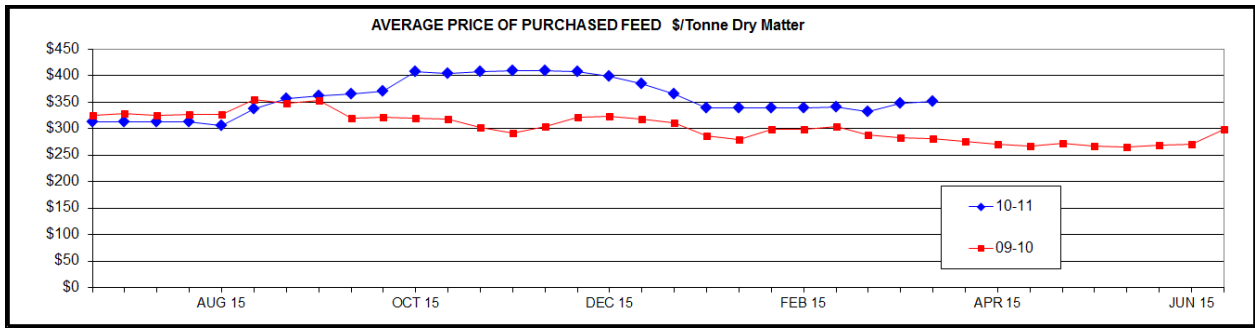
For further advice refer to the [Management of Dairy Effluent, DairyGains 2008 Victorian Guidelines](http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com/uploads/documents/file/Reports/DairyGains%20Victorian%20Guidelines%202008.pdf)
<http://www.dairyingfortomorrow.com/uploads/documents/file/Reports/DairyGains%20Victorian%20Guidelines%202008.pdf>

Macalister Demonstration Farm Profitability Project & Ten day Tracker Project

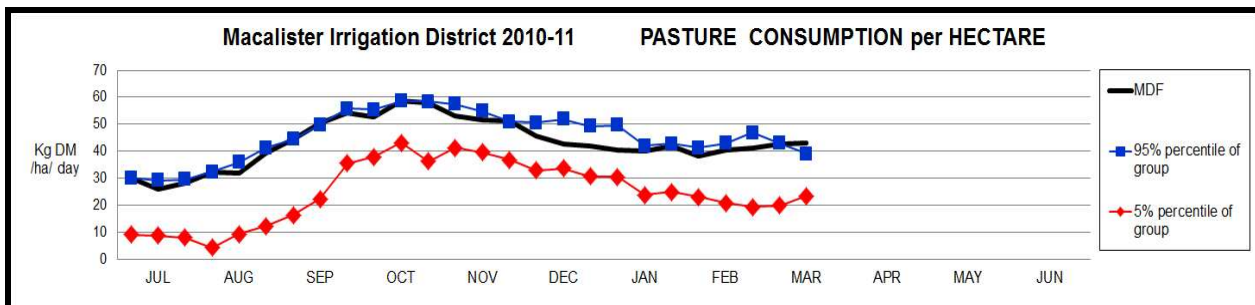
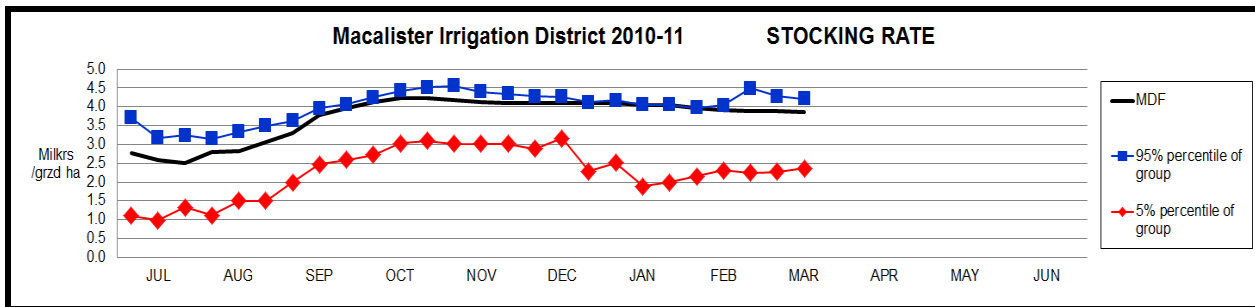
The following graphs show the MDF feeding performance, to March 30 2011, this year compared to last.

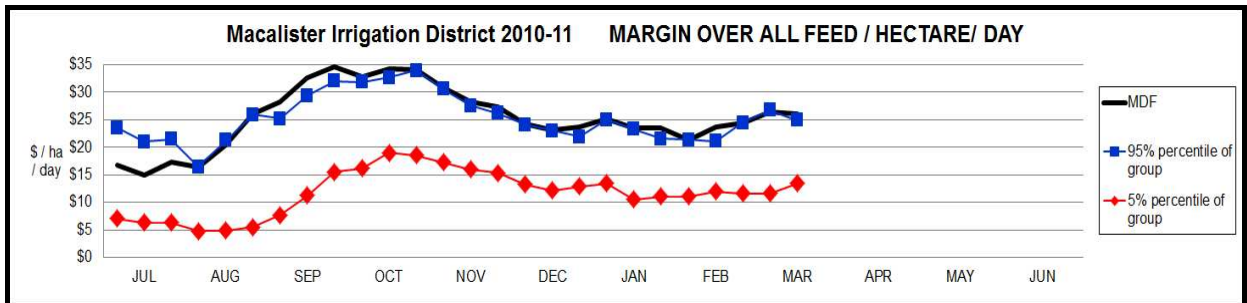
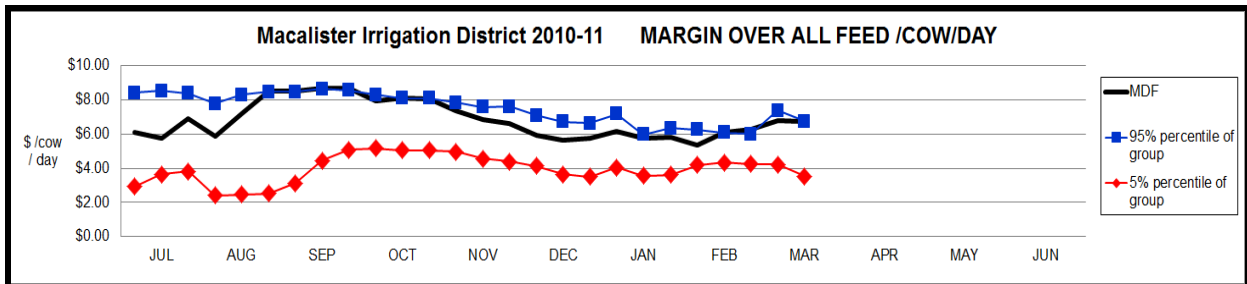
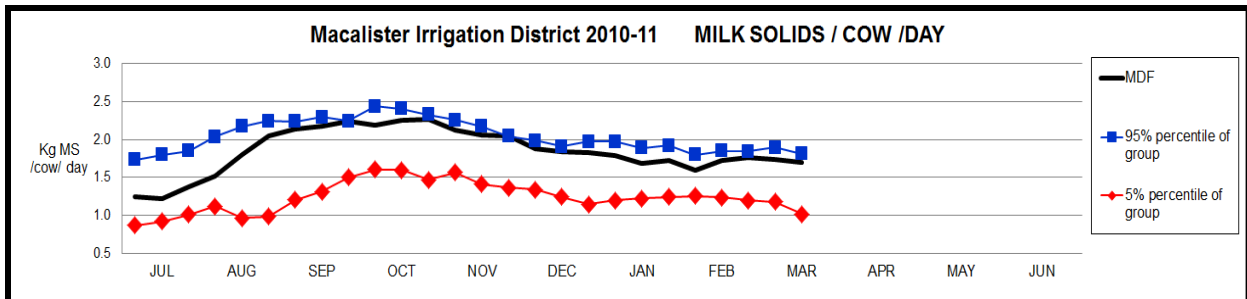
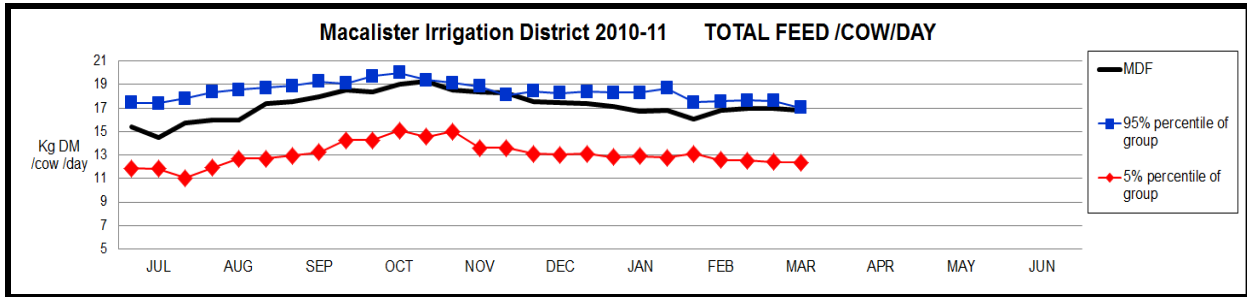
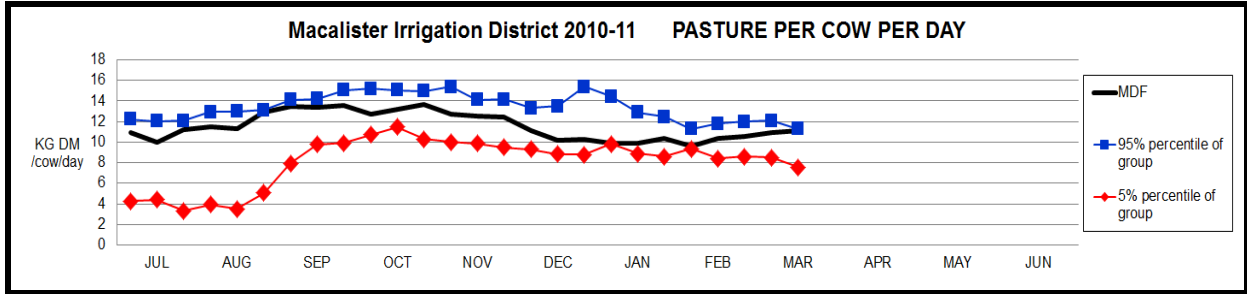






The following graphs show the where the MDF performance sits when measured against other MID Tracker Project farms, to Mar 20 2011.





The promised article:
'An assessment of the Governments new Carbon Farming Initiative – What's in it for dairy farmers?'
 has been held over to the next issue

SENDER:



Macalister Demonstration Farm
PO Box 87 **MAFFRA** VIC 3860



Young Dairy Development Program
"Developing Dairy Communities"

The East Gippsland LAC, the Department of Primary Industries & The Macalister Demonstration Farm
proudly invites you to:

What does this Carbon Tax mean for my dairyfarm?

Monday 11th April, 2011

Prompt 7pm start

Macalister Hotel

Johnston St, Maffra



Dinner \$5, drinks at bar prices

Our Guest speaker Neil Baker from the MDF will discuss:

- the potential implications of the proposed carbon tax
- impact on farm costs
- what you can do to minimise the impact to your business

For any questions and to RSVP, as it is essential for catering purposes, by Friday 8th April
please contact Bree Walshie @ DPI on 0408 519 013

Developed by YDDP and all are welcome

See www.yddp.org.au for more information



Proudly supported by Fonterra Australia, Bonlac Supply Company, Warrambrook Cheese and
Butter Factory Co. Ltd. Department of Primary Industries, United Dairyfarmers of Victoria,
National Centre for Dairy Education Australia-0074E

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