Macalister Demonstration Farm

PO Box 87, MAFFRA, VIC 3860
Ph. (03) 5141 1712
Email: mdf@wideband.net.au Web: http://mdf.mistro.ag/

NEWSLETTER 51

Monday June 6th 2011

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

MDF Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan

To bring the Carbon Ready Dairy Demonstration Project to a conclusion this workshop will explore the options for reducing carbon emissions on a dairy farm and investigate the business case for making investments in emission reduction technologies.

Don't be caught out by the new carbon economy – stay informed and invest wisely.

A MUST ATTEND for all dairy farmers

Macalister Demonstration Farm, Boggy Creek Rd, Riverslea

Wednesday 8th June, 2011 at 10.30am

Lunch provided. Further information: Neil Baker on 0488 175 366 or neilbaker@aapt.net.au

Assessment of Refrigeration Heat Recovery to Improve Cooling Efficiency and Reduce Hot Water Costs

Come and hear about how the new heat recovery unit is working and what savings are being made.

Is it worth the investment? Are the savings real?

Macalister Demonstration Farm, boggy Creek Rd, Riverslea

Tuesday 21st June, 2011 at 11am

BBQ lunch provided. Further information: Neil Baker on 0488 175 366 or neilbaker@aapt.net.au

Yellow Rag Bit

Bree Walshe, Dairy Advisor DPI Maffra

Dry Off – what strategies are you going to take?

There are a few things to consider this time of year – your dry off strategy, drug selection, will you or won't you use teat seal and where will you winter your cows. Did you have less than 5 cows per 100 cows calved get mastitis? If not you may need to change how your dry cow management? Review these points and discuss with your vet

Late Lactation:

Have you determined the length of the dry period for your herd?
Are you going to cull any cows?
Select dry cow paddock?
Have you determined a ration to help dry off the cows?

Is your milk production going to affect your dry off (aim for less than 12L/day)?
Do you have reliable calving dates? (later pregnancy testing alone, is not as reliable as early pregnancy testing)

Drug Selection:

Do you have issues with clinical or sub-clinical mastitis? If you do this may influence the type of dry cow therapy you choose. To help you make an informed choice you can get an individual cow or your bulk milk sampled by DTS Food Laboratories. The RtMastitis PCR Test, offer two types of tests:

The **RtMastitis complete-12 PCR** test –precise identification of the most common mastitis causing bacteria and penicillin resistance gene - • Streptococcus uberis, • Staphylococcus aureus, • Staphylococcus sp., • Beta-lactamase penicillin resistance gene, • Streptococcus agalactiae, • Streptococcuss dysgalactiae, • Escherichia coli, • Enterococcus sp., • Klebsiella sp., • Corynebacterium bovis, • Serratia marcescens, • Arcanobacterium pyogenes and/or Peptoniphilus indolicus for $47.50 ex GST.	**RtMastitis major-3 PCR** test – precise identification of three key contagious mastitis-causing bacteria • Staphylococcus aureus, • Streptococcus agalactiae and • Mycoplasma bovis for $42.50 ex GST.

Sampling kits are available from your veterinarian or milk factory field officer!

There are three types of dry cow therapy options – Short, Medium and Long acting. When purchasing your dry cow treatment, not only should you compare the withholding periods, but the active ingredients too – as these are the drugs you are paying for! Speak to your veterinarian in regards to which 'active ingredient' is most suited to your herds mastitis issues.

Antibiotic Product	Company	MDP	Active Ingredients	Milk WHP	Cow meat WHP	Calf Meat WHP	Calf meat WHP
				(calved **after** MDP)		(calved **before** MDP)	(calved **after** MDP)
Ampiclox	Jurox Pty Ltd	30 days	Ampicillin 250mg Cloxacillin 500mg	96 hours (8 milkings)	30 days	30 days	4 days
Noroclox 500	Norbrook	30 days	Cloxacillin 500mg	96 hours (8 milkings)	30 days	30 days	4 days
Orbenin DC	Pfizer Animal Health	30 days	Cloxacillin 500mg	96 hours (8 milkings)	30 days	30 days	4 days
Elaclox DCX	Norbrook	35 days	Cloxacillin 600mg	96 hours (8 milkings)	30 days	30 days	4 days
Juraclox LA	Jurox Pty Ltd	35 days	Cloxacillin 600mg	96 hours (8 milkings)	30 days	30 days	4 days
Orbenin Endura	Pfizer Animal Health	35 days	Cloxacillin 600mg	96 hours (8 milkings)	30 days	30 days	4 days
Bovaclox DC LA	Norbrook	49 days	Ampicillin 300mg Cloxacillin 600mg	96 hours (8 milkings)	30 days	30 days	4 days
Cepravin DC	Schering plough	49 days	Cephalonium dehydrate 250mg	96 hours (8 milkings)	21 days	21 days	4 days
Non-antibiotic product Teatseal	Pfizer Animal Health	nil	Bismuth subnitrate 2.6g	96 hours (8 milkings)	nil	nil	nil

The **Minimum Dry Period (MDP**) is the amount of time that must elapse between treatment of a cow with a dry cow product and her calving date.

The **Withholding Period (WHP)** for milk is the time that must elapse after calving before a cow's milk can go for human or bobby calf consumption, provided the specified minimum dry period has occurred. For cows **WHO CALVE BEFORE THE MDP**, contact your prescribing veterinarian for advice on milk WHPs.

Teat Seal:
A recent study conducted by the Maffra Vet Centre, found that teat seal can significantly reduce mastitis in both heifers and cows. However, if you do not have a clinical mastitis issue in the first 21 days post calving teat seal may not provide you with any extra benefits.

Care and hygiene is imperative for teat seal to be effective!!! If you plan on treating your heifers with teat seal – 4 weeks before calving is recommended as best practice.

The Dry Off:
Hygiene is the key, cottonwool balls are better than wipes!!
Have you allowed adequate time to administer drugs? How is your technique?
Do you have adequate labour to get the job done?
Are you transporting the dry stock off farm? If so, do it ASAP, or wait two weeks as it takes the cows 4 days to 2 weeks to develop a natural seal.

Dry Period:
In the early dry off period it is critical to check the cows to see if they have any signs of infection. If you see any cows with swollen, hot quarters – milk them out and treat them for clinical mastitis before re-treating them with dry cow therapy.

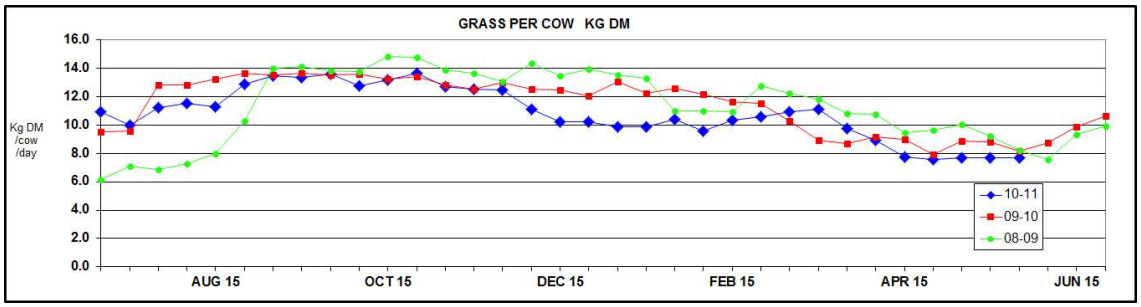
Colostrum:
If you plan on selling colostrum this year, it may be worthwhile getting the first few cows checked for antibiotic residue, for peace of mind. You can use teatseal and sell colostrum.

For further information on the RtMastitis tests please contact your milk factory field officer or veterinarian and for further information and assistance in determining the most suitable dry cow therapy for your herd please contact your trusted veterinarian. For general questions please contact DPI Maffra dairy extension officer on 5147 0800.

Information for this article was gathered from the Maffra Vet Centre and the Dairy Australia website (Countdown Downunder) www.dairyaustralia.com.au

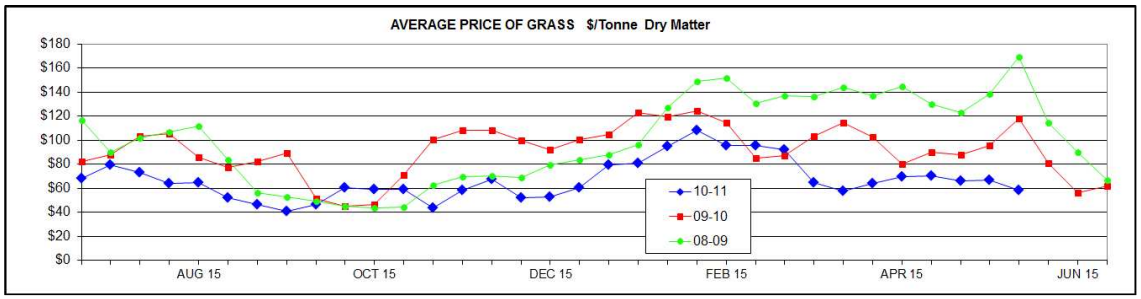
Macalister Demonstration Farm Profitability Project & Ten day Tracker Project

GRASS PER COW – THE BIG PROFIT DRIVER



This graph shows the amount of grass consumed per cow for the last three years at the MDF.

Grass per cow is a very big driver of feeding profitability, because it is usually a relatively cheap source of feed.

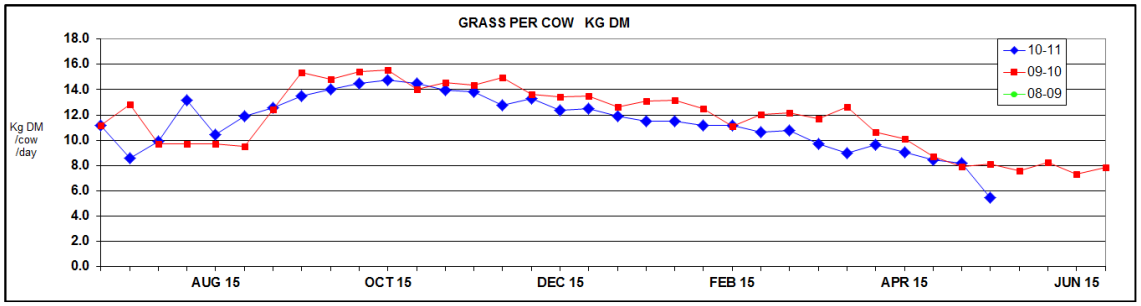


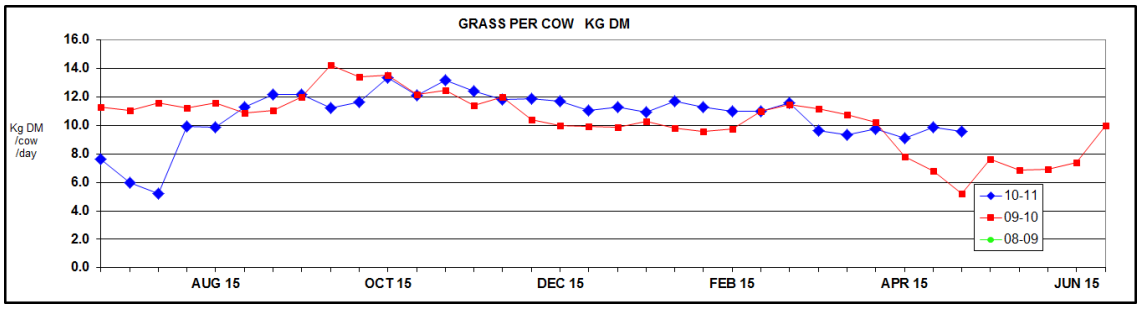
This graph shows the price of pasture at the MDF, allowing only for the easily adjustable inputs of fertiliser, irrigation water, renovation, and topping.

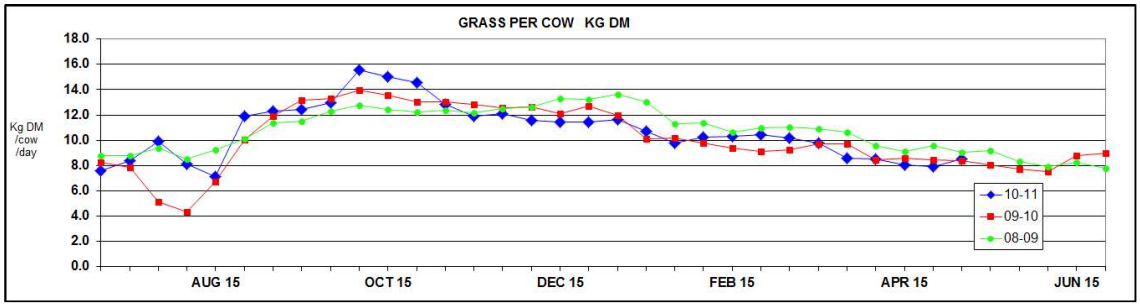
The following graphs show varying amounts of grass per cow on some of the farms participating in the MID Tracker project. Between 10 and 12 kg DM of grass seems to be a common amount; some get close to 16 kg DM at times. A good question could be “below what amount of grass is unlikely to be profitable”?.

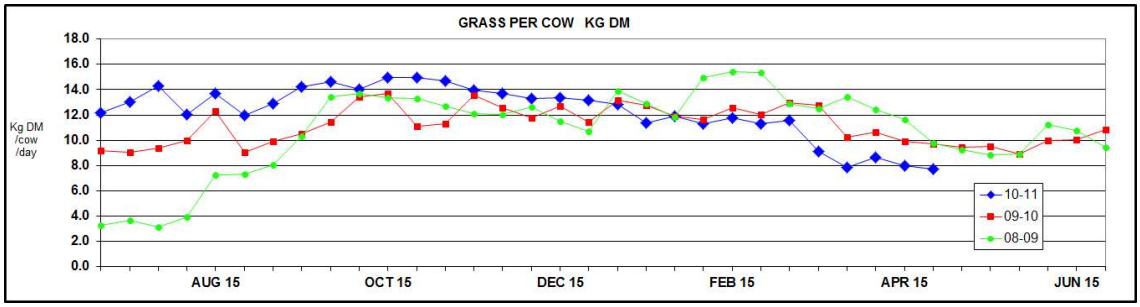
The following are some of the factors affecting grass per cow:

- time of year.
- stocking rate.
- the amount of grass grown per hectare, mostly depending on grazing rest time and residue, fertiliser and soil moisture.
- how well have the cows been “set up” to eat, which is mostly “how much were they eating last week”?









BITS FROM WEEKLY REPORTS

Apr 29, 2011

Of all the measures of milk production per cow, “kilograms of protein” is the more important because protein is the component that attracts the highest price. The average cow is currently returning each day only $3.32 for the fat, $7.88 for the protein, and being charged $0.52 for her litres. Currently protein per cow is the highest for five years. In April 2007 it was 0.66 kg, in 2008 it was 0.70 kg, in 2009 it was 0.65kg, in 2010 it was 0.76 kg, and now in 2011 it is 0.79 kg. However, during the recent summer, protein per cow was the lowest for three years.

May 6, 2011

The paddocks that had new seed sown into the existing sward in March are still being grazed ten days earlier than average so that the established plants are less likely to shade the new seedlings. Because of the shorter rest time these paddocks provide significantly less feed to the cows.

Paddock 16 is about to be grazed and its “nil potash/nil molybdenum” square is showing less grass than the rest of the paddock. Paddock 13 is more recently grazed, has much less feed on it compared to 16, and no difference in grass amount is obvious in its “nil potash/nil molybdenum” square

May 13, 2011

In the middle of May, a paddock with three leaves regrown since its last grazing in April has an average leaf appearance rate for the three leaves of about 14 days. This is much the same each year for the whole of Gippsland because leaf appearance is mostly driven by temperature which is very similar each year across the region. The recent early cold snap will lengthen the leaf appearance rate more quickly than usual so the grazing rotation may need lengthening a bit earlier, to get the higher growth rate of the third leaf.

May 20, 2011

Due mostly to the high amount of grain compared to grass in the cows' diets, the calculated fibre level is currently a bit low, sometimes below 30% NDF. The milk fat test has fallen, from 4.5% in mid-April down to 4.0% at times. The cows are on average for the period producing almost as well as any time in the last 4 years, and there is an argument to not worry too much about fat production, considering the price paid for it is low compared to protein. However, occasionally for a day or two only, the cows fall in milk solid production and their manure become sloppy. This seems to be associated with rough weather. It stands to reason that if on the edge of rumen acidosis, any sudden reduction of grass intake on a rough day would tip them over. Even if the fat test is ok, an unstable rumen is not desirable. So the amount of grain fed has been reduced by 0.5 kg and little PKE added. Milk solids have fallen slightly for the week but the hope is that it may become more stable.

May 20, 2011

Paddock 16's "nil potash/nil molybdenum" square is still showing less grass than the rest of the paddock. Paddock 13's square is still showing no difference in grass amount. Paddock 16 has a long established layout and pasture, whereas paddock 13 was laser graded 3 years ago.

Frank Tyndall 0409 940 782

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

SENDER:

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