

## **Macalister Demonstration Farm, Dairy Australia, Extension Project**

**Projects on the farm are funded by Dairy Australia, the Gardiner Foundation, Sustainability Victoria, DPI VIC, Department of Agriculture Food and Fisheries, with support provided by GippsDairy.**

### **Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 300 (Week ending May 18, 2012)**

The Macalister Demonstration Farm is milking 261 cows (1 less than last week) grazing 73 hectares, a stocking rate of 3.6 cows per hectare. Last year at this time, there were 267 milkers, and the stocking rate was 3.7 cows per hectare. The daily allocation for the week was one 47th of the grazing area, and the actual grazing rest time was 37 days.

Compared to last week, milk production per cow is down from 1.54 to 1.51 kg milk solids (MS) per cow per day. Litres per cow per day are down from 18.8 to 18.2. Milk fat test has risen from 4.25% to 4.32% (fat yield is down from 0.80 to 0.79 kg per cow per day). Milk protein test has risen from 3.94% to 3.97% (protein yield is down from 0.74 to 0.72 kg per cow per day). This time last year, milk production was 18.5 litres, 1.54 kg MS, 0.82 kg fat, and 0.73 kg protein per cow per day. It is estimated that the cows are gaining 0.35 kg live weight per cow per day.

The daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is the same at 25 kg dry matter (DM) per hectare per day. The pasture consumption per cow is the same at 7.1 kg DM per cow per day. This time last year, pasture consumption was 28 kg DM per hectare per day, and 7.8 kg DM per cow per day.

No irrigation water, 1.0 kg of nitrogen element, 0.04 kg phosphorus element, 0.15 kg of potassium element, \$0.19 of pasture renovation, and \$0.10 of topping, all per hectare per day, have contributed to the current pasture consumption. The daily spend on these pasture inputs totals \$2.15 per hectare per day, down from \$2.65. Based on those cash inputs only, the consumed pasture price is estimated to be \$85 per tonne of dry matter, down from \$105 last week.

Supplementary feed includes crushed wheat, and a pellet containing 25% protein, minerals, Rumensin, and Tylan, totalling 7.1 kg DM per cow per day, at an average price of \$338 per DM tonne, and 1.8 kg DM of PKE at \$263 per DM tonne.

The Bulk Milk Cell Count is up from 141,000 to 170,000. This time last year the BMCC was 115,000. The BMCC average for the period ending 10/05/2012 was 168,000 which gave the farm a factory ranking of 37 out of 370 farms.

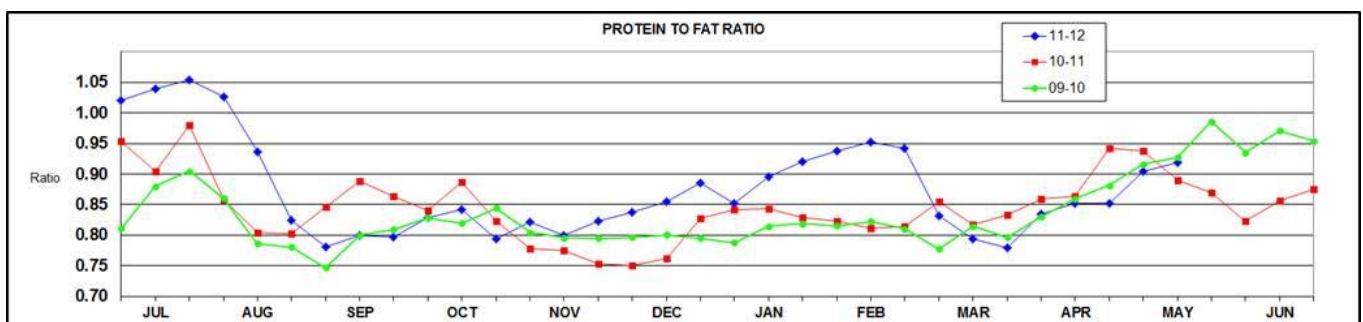
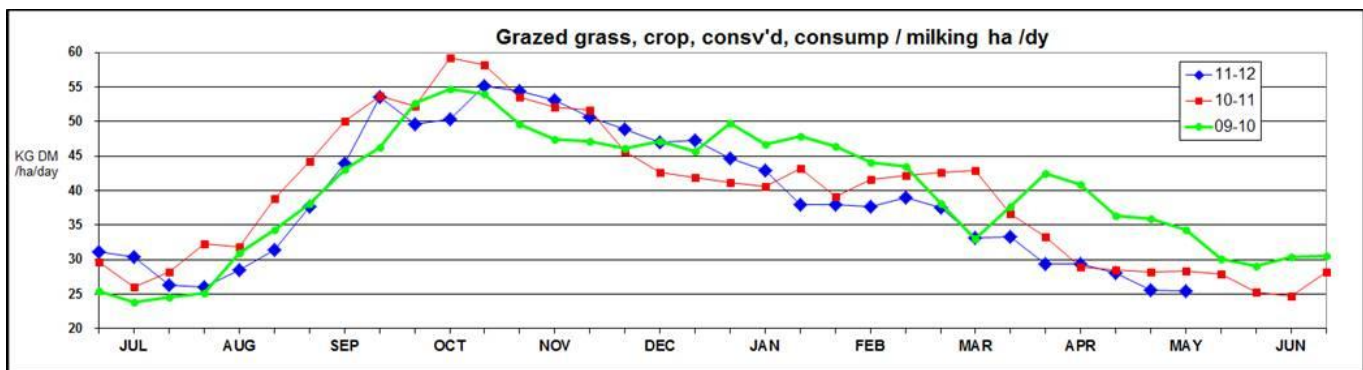
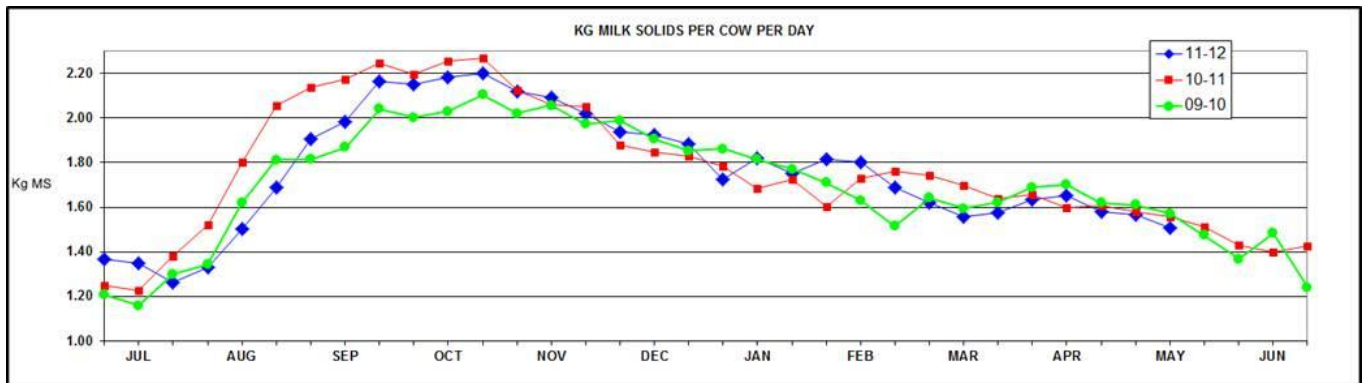
The milk price (less compulsory levies) the MDF anticipates receiving for the week's milk is \$6.53 per kg milk solids, or 54.1 cents per litre. Milk income per cow per day is down from \$10.08 to \$9.84, made up of \$3.13 for the fat, \$7.19 for the protein, and minus 0.48 for the litres. This time last year milk income per cow per day was \$10.29.

Feed cost per cow per day (including pasture and supplements) is down from \$3.56 to \$3.49 per cow per day, leaving a Margin over All Feed (MOAF) per cow of \$6.36, down from \$6.52. The margin over all feed per hectare is \$22.73. The whole farm feed margin is \$1,659, down from \$1,708 per day. This time last year the whole farm feed margin was \$1,847 per day.

The MDF is considering all the talk about a lower milk price next season, and thinking what to do, how to increase income, how to make better use of inputs, or what costs to cut. All sorts of inputs could be reduced: dry cow antibiotic, teat seal, semen, insurance, electricity, grain and fertiliser. We could rear less calves and not use the consultant. Maybe milking a few less cows would be best. Should we continue with plans to laser grade the bike shift area?

The MDF keeps its budget up to date all the time. Transactions go into Mistro, in a good set of categories that identify well where all the money has gone. Then, a future cashflow, running from an accurate past, is updated continually, as the future become clearer: as interest rates change, as water fills Glenmaggie dam or not, as step-ups are promised or not, as the milk production curve gets established, and as tractors breakdown. It is a lot of work, office work. Things could get rough but guessing more accurately how rough, is a good start. You will sleep much better, and so will your bank manager. It's called financial control, with you in control.

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<b>WEEKLY FEEDING PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>Last week</b>	<b>This week</b>	<b>Units</b>
Week to date:	20-May	11-May	18-May	
Milker graze area	73	73	73	ha
Milker nos	267	262	261	head
Stocking rate	3.7	3.6	3.6	cows/ha
Grazing allocation 1/	45	45	47	th of graze area
Average graze rest time	39	35	37	days
mm irrigation/hectare/day	0.0	0.5	0.0	mm water/ha/day
Element Nitrogen	1.3	1.0	1.0	kg element/ha/day
Element Phosphorus	0.00	0.04	0.04	kg element/ha/day
Element Potassium	0.07	0.15	0.15	kg element/ha/day
Renovation	\$0.19	\$0.19	\$0.19	\$/ha/day
Topping	\$0.00	\$0.30	\$0.10	\$/ha/day
Estm'd pasture consmp'n (incl cons'vd forage)	28	25	25	kg DM/ha/dy
Pasture consum'd per cow	7.8	7.1	7.1	kg DM/cow/dy
Daily spend / milking ha	\$1.89	\$2.65	\$2.15	\$/ha/day
Estm'd pasture price	\$66	\$105	\$85	\$/T DM
Conc (incl additives)supp fed/cow	7.4	7.1	7.1	kg DM/cow/dy
Hay/silage supp fed/cow	1.7	0.0	0.0	kg DM/cow/dy
PKE supp fed/cow	0.2	1.6	1.8	kg DM/cow/dy
Estim'd supp waste	5%	3%	3%	%
Conc (incl additives)supp avg price	\$348	\$338	\$338	\$/T DM
Hay/silage supp avg price	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$/T DM
PKE supp price	\$228	\$263	\$263	\$/T DM
Total feed intake/cow	16.5	15.5	15.7	kg DM/cow/dy
Estm'd body cond't'n change	0.30	0.22	0.35	kg LW/cow/dy
Litres/cow	18.5	18.8	18.2	l/cow/day
Fat test	4.40%	4.25%	4.32%	%
Protein test	3.93%	3.94%	3.97%	%
Fat per cow	0.815	0.800	0.786	kg/cow/dy
Protein per cow	0.729	0.741	0.721	kg/cow/dy
MS per cow	1.54	1.54	1.51	kg/cow/dy
Anticipated final milk price (less levies)	\$6.67	\$6.54	\$6.53	\$/kg MS
Anticipated final milk price (/litre)	\$0.555	\$0.536	\$0.541	\$ per litre
Fat return per cow	\$3.33	\$3.19	\$3.13	\$/cow/dy
Protein return per cow	\$7.45	\$7.39	\$7.19	\$/cow/dy
Volume charge per cow	\$0.48	\$0.49	\$0.48	\$/cow/dy
Milk income/cow	\$10.29	\$10.08	\$9.84	\$/cow/dy
All feed cost/cow	\$3.37	\$3.56	\$3.49	\$/cow/dy
Margin over all Feed/cow	\$6.92	\$6.52	\$6.36	\$/cow/dy
MOAF /ha /day	\$25.30	\$23.40	\$22.73	\$/ha/day
Farm MOAF per DAY	\$1,847	\$1,708	\$1,659	\$/day
MOAF per month	\$56,320	\$52,109	\$50,611	\$/month
Energy density of diet	11.9	12.4	12.4	MJ ME/kg DM
Crude protein % of diet	19.0%	18.4%	18.3%	% CP
NDF Fibre level of diet	29.9%	30.3%	30.8%	% NDF
FCE kg MS per tonne DM food	91	98	94	
Tonne feed /day	4.1	4.1	4.2	tonne DM /day
Milk Return /tonne feed	\$669	\$640	\$615	\$/tonne DM
Average Price of feed	\$220	\$226	\$218	\$/tonne DM
Margin /tonne feed	\$450	\$414	\$397	\$/tonne DM
BMCC	115	141	170	

