

Macalister Demonstration Farm, Dairy Australia, Extension Project

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Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 301 (Week ending May 25, 2012)

The Macalister Demonstration Farm is milking 255 cows (6 less than last week) grazing 73 hectares, a stocking rate of 3.5 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 38 days.

Compared to last week, milk production per cow is down from 1.51 to 1.50 kg milk solids (MS) per cow per day. Litres per cow per day are up from 18.2 to 18.4. Milk fat test has fallen from 4.32% to 4.18% (fat yield is down from 0.79 to 0.77 kg per cow per day). Milk protein test has risen from 3.97% to 3.99% (protein yield is up from 0.72 to 0.73 kg per cow per day). This time last year, milk production was 18.0 litres, 1.51 kg MS, 0.81 kg fat, and 0.71 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 down from 7.1 to 7.0 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. Based on those cash inputs only, the consumed pasture price is estimated to be \$88 per tonne of dry matter, up from \$85 last week.

48 mm of rain fell during the week. Rainfall for the 12 months to date is 829 mm (33 inches) and for the same period last year was 749 mm (29.5 inches). Some paddocks had not been irrigated in early May, because of the risk of having them too wet as winter approaches. These paddocks had got to the stage of needing a drink. If the root zone needs more than 30 mm of water, it has got too dry for fast grass growth. The root zone holds only about 30 mm of readily available water (RAW) or "fast grass growing water". It does hold more water than the RAW, but that water is held tightly, and the plant cannot get it fast enough to grow fast. So when the first 30 mm arrived on Thursday night, that seemed ideal. The additional 18 mm was bit too much. Never happy are we.

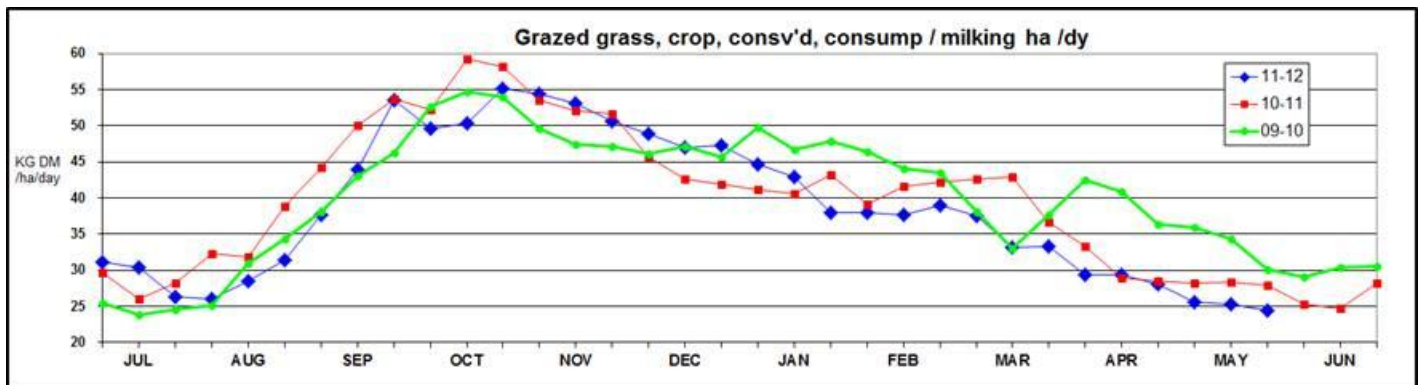
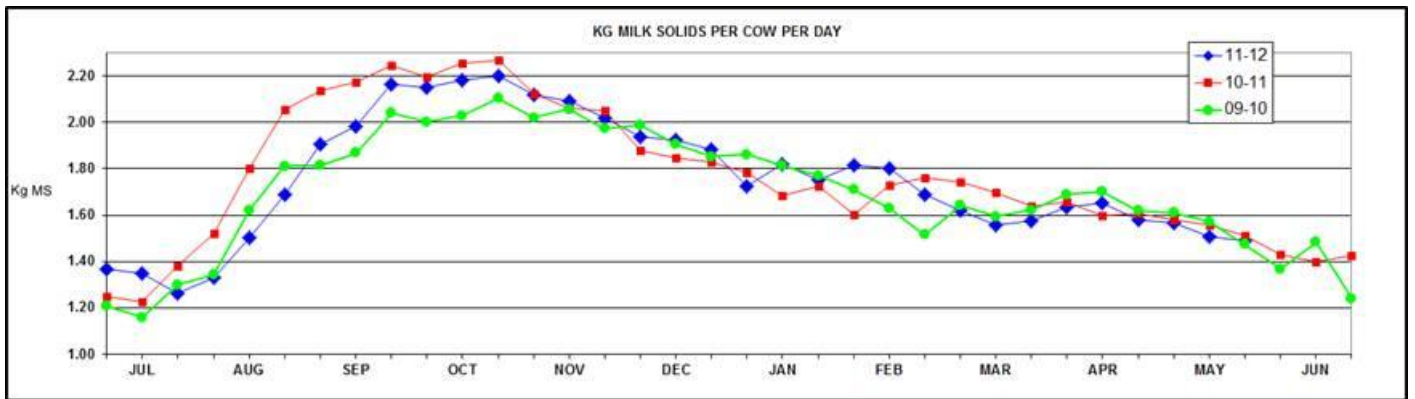
Supplementary feed includes crushed wheat, and a pellet containing 25% protein, minerals, Rumensin, and Tylan, totalling 7.1 kg DM per cow per day, at an average price of \$338 per DM tonne, and 1.8 kg DM of PKE at \$263 per DM tonne.

The Bulk Milk Cell Count for the week is up from 170,000 to 176,000. This time last year the BMCC was 129,000. The BMCC average for the period ending 20/05/2012 was 166,000 which gave the farm a factory ranking of 43 out of 370 farms.

The milk price (less compulsory levies) the MDF anticipates receiving for the week's milk is \$6.58 per kg milk solids, or 53.8 cents per litre. Milk income per cow per day is up from \$9.84 to \$9.87, made up of \$3.06 for the fat, \$7.29 for the protein, and minus 0.48 for the litres. This time last year milk income per cow per day was \$10.02.

Feed cost per cow per day (including pasture and supplements) is up from \$3.49 to \$3.50 per cow per day, leaving a Margin over All Feed (MOAF) per cow of \$6.37, up from \$6.36. The margin over all feed per hectare is \$22.26. The whole farm feed margin is \$1,625, down from \$1,659 per day. This time last year the whole farm feed margin was \$1,789 per day.

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WEEKLY FEEDING PERFORMANCE	Last Year	Last week	This week	Units
Week to date:	27-May	18-May	25-May	
Milker graze area	73	73	73	ha
Milker nos	267	261	255	head
Stocking rate	3.7	3.6	3.5	cows/ha
Grazing allocation 1/	49	47	47	th of graze area
Average graze rest time	40	37	38	days
mm irrigation/hectare/day	0.0	0.0	0.0	mm water/ha/day
Element Nitrogen	1.1	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	\$0.10	\$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	7.0	kg DM/cow/dy
Daily spend / milking ha	\$1.64	\$2.15	\$2.15	\$/ha/day
Estm'd pasture price	\$58	\$85	\$88	\$/T DM
Conc (incl additives)supp fed/cow	7.2	7.1	7.1	kg DM/cow/dy
Hay/silage supp fed/cow	2.2	0.0	0.0	kg DM/cow/dy
PKE supp fed/cow	0.2	1.8	1.8	kg DM/cow/dy
Estim'd supp waste	8%	3%	3%	%
Conc (incl additives)supp avg price	\$349	\$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	16.6	15.7	15.6	kg DM/cow/dy
Estm'd body cond't'n change	0.30	0.35	0.35	kg LWT/cow/dy
Litres/cow	18.0	18.2	18.4	l/cow/day
Fat test	4.48%	4.32%	4.18%	%
Protein test	3.93%	3.97%	3.99%	%
Fat per cow	0.805	0.786	0.768	kg/cow/dy
Protein per cow	0.705	0.721	0.732	kg/cow/dy
MS per cow	1.51	1.51	1.50	kg/cow/dy
Anticipated final milk price (less levies)	\$6.64	\$6.53	\$6.58	\$/kg MS
Anticipated final milk price (/litre)	\$0.558	\$0.541	\$0.538	\$ per litre
Fat return per cow	\$3.29	\$3.13	\$3.06	\$/cow/dy
Protein return per cow	\$7.20	\$7.19	\$7.29	\$/cow/dy
Volume charge per cow	\$0.47	\$0.48	\$0.48	\$/cow/dy
Milk income/cow	\$10.02	\$9.84	\$9.87	\$/cow/dy
All feed cost/cow	\$3.33	\$3.49	\$3.50	\$/cow/dy
Margin over all Feed/cow	\$6.70	\$6.36	\$6.37	\$/cow/dy
MOAF /ha /day	\$24.50	\$22.73	\$22.26	\$/ha/day
Farm MOAF per DAY	\$1,789	\$1,659	\$1,625	\$/day
MOAF per month	\$54,552	\$50,611	\$49,573	\$/month
Energy density of diet	11.8	12.4	12.4	MJ ME/kg DM
Crude protein % of diet	19.0%	18.3%	18.3%	% CP
NDF Fibre level of diet	30.4%	30.8%	30.8%	% NDF
FCE kg MS per tonne DM food	87	94	94	
Tonne feed /day	4.1	4.2	4.1	tonne DM /day
Milk Return /tonne feed	\$661	\$615	\$619	\$/tonne DM
Average Price of feed	\$219	\$218	\$219	\$/tonne DM
Margin /tonne feed	\$441	\$397	\$400	\$/tonne DM
BMCC	129	170	176	