

## **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 303 (Week ending Jun 8, 2012)**

The Macalister Demonstration Farm is milking 253 cows grazing 73 hectares, a stocking rate of 3.5 cows per hectare. Last year at this time, there were 261 milkers, and the stocking rate was 3.6 cows per hectare. The daily allocation for the recent week was one 53rd of the grazing area, and the actual grazing rest time was 40 days.

The farm had 85 mm of rain and a couple of hectares flooded. Because the paddocks are very wet, and endeavouring to maintain the grass intake of the cows, and not to bog the paddocks too much, the grazing rotation allocation was increased temporarily from one 55th to one 50th of the farm.

Compared to last week, milk production per cow is down from 1.48 to 1.38 kg milk solids (MS) per cow per day. Litres per cow per day are down from 18.4 to 17.4. Milk fat test has fallen from 4.00% to 3.89% (fat yield is down from 0.74 to 0.68 kg per cow per day). Milk protein test has fallen from 4.05% to 4.03% (protein yield is down from 0.74 to 0.70 kg per cow per day). This time last year, milk production was 15.8 litres, 1.40 kg MS, 0.77 kg fat, and 0.63 kg protein per cow per day. It is estimated that the cows gained no weight during the week.

The daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is down from 24 to 19 kg dry matter (DM) per hectare per day. The pasture consumption per cow is down from 6.9 to 5.5 kg DM per cow per day. This time last year, pasture consumption was 25 kg DM per hectare per day, and 6.9 kg DM per cow per day.

No irrigation water, 1.0 kg of nitrogen element, 0.05 kg phosphorus element, 0.15 kg of potassium element, and \$0.19 of pasture renovation, all per hectare per day, have contributed to the current pasture consumption. The daily spend on these pasture inputs totals \$2.09 per hectare per day. Based on those cash inputs only, the consumed pasture price is estimated to be \$113 per tonne of dry matter, up from \$87 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 \$339 per DM tonne, and 1.8 kg DM of PKE at \$268 per DM tonne.

The Bulk Milk Cell Count for the week is up from 150,000 to 162,000. This time last year the BMCC was 139,000.

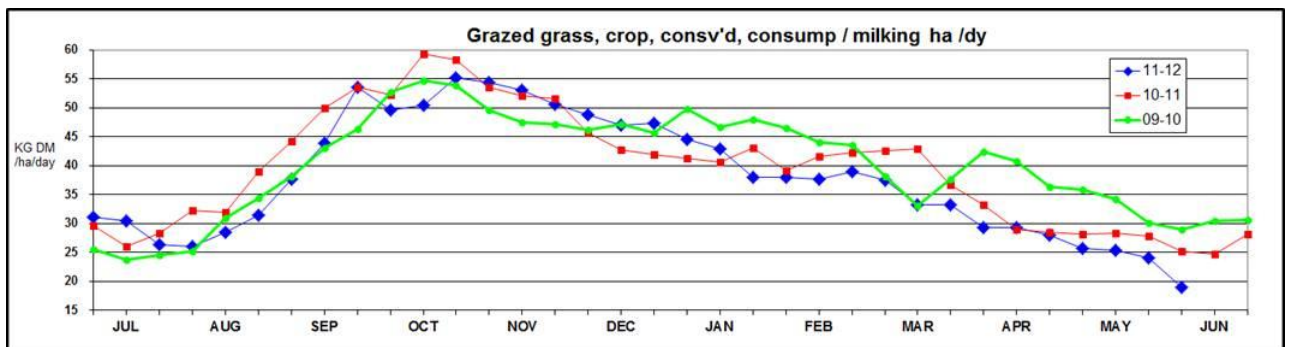
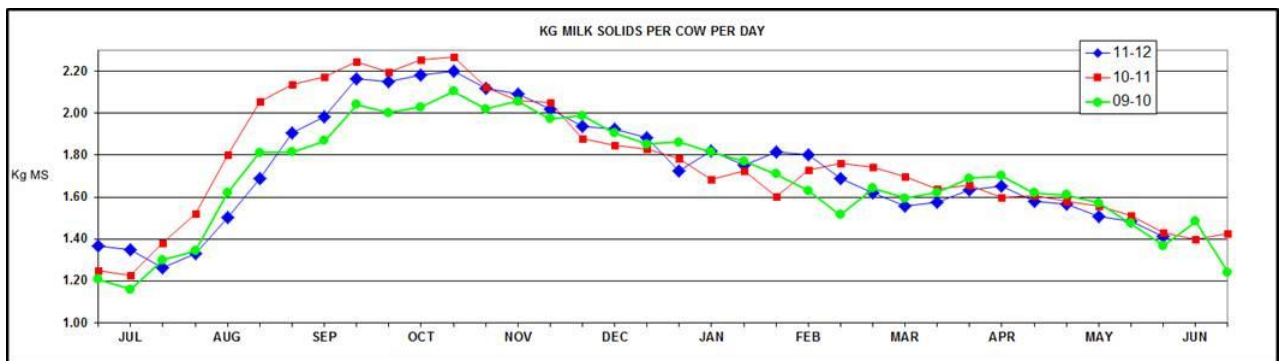
The milk price (less compulsory levies) the MDF anticipates receiving for the week's milk is \$6.87 per kg milk solids, or 54.5 cents per litre. Milk income per cow per day is down from \$9.93 to \$9.49, made up of \$2.77 for the fat, \$7.18 for the protein, and minus 0.46 for the litres. This time last year milk income per cow per day was \$9.36.

Feed cost per cow per day (including pasture and supplements) is up from \$3.50 to \$3.51 per cow per day, leaving a Margin over All Feed (MOAF) per cow of \$5.98, down from \$6.43. The margin over all feed per hectare is \$20.74. The whole farm feed margin is \$1,514, down from \$1,626 per day. This time last year the whole farm feed margin was \$1,571 per day.

The MDF has a new website <http://www.macalisterdemonstrationfarm.com> It contains background information about the farm, projects being conducted, and publications. It also contains videos showing some practical aspects of the farm, such as body condition of the cows, spinner cuts, grass grown, manure, and how the Tracker analysis works.

On the home page, the What's New button takes you to the most recent, and archived, Weekly Updates, Newsletters, and videos. The videos are not the most sophisticated, some taken with my phone, as I walk the farm. The videos come via You Tube; on the bottom right of the video window you can ask for higher video quality and full screen.

Frank Tyndall Sale Farm consultant 0409 940 782 [ftyndall@ozemail.com.au](mailto:ftyndall@ozemail.com.au)



<b>WEEKLY FEEDING PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>Last week</b>	<b>This week</b>	<b>Units</b>
Week to date:	10-Jun	01-Jun	08-Jun	
Milker graze area	73	73	73	ha
Milker nos	261	253	253	head
Stocking rate	3.6	3.5	3.5	cows/ha
Grazing allocation 1/	50	52	53	th of graze area
Average graze rest time	42	40	40	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	0.05	0.05	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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$/ha/day
Estm'd pasture consmp'n (incl cons'vd forage)	25	24	19	kg DM/ha/dy
Pasture consum'd per cow	6.9	6.9	5.5	kg DM/cow/dy
Daily spend / milking ha	\$1.64	\$2.09	\$2.09	\$/ha/day
Estm'd pasture price	\$67	\$87	\$113	\$/T DM
Conc (incl additives)supp fed/cow	7.2	7.1	7.1	kg DM/cow/dy
Hay/silage supp fed/cow	2.5	0.0	0.0	kg DM/cow/dy
PKE supp fed/cow	0.0	1.8	1.8	kg DM/cow/dy
Estim'd supp waste	5%	3%	3%	%
Conc (incl additives)supp avg price	\$337	\$339	\$340	\$/T DM
Hay/silage supp avg price	\$186	\$0	\$0	\$/T DM
PKE supp price	\$0	\$266	\$268	\$/T DM
Total feed intake/cow	16.1	15.6	14.1	kg DM/cow/dy
Estm'd body cond't'n change	0.30	0.35	0.03	kg LWT/cow/dy
Litres/cow	15.8	18.4	17.4	l/cow/day
Fat test	4.89%	4.00%	3.89%	%
Protein test	3.95%	4.05%	4.03%	%
Fat per cow	0.773	0.735	0.679	kg/cow/dy
Protein per cow	0.625	0.743	0.702	kg/cow/dy
MS per cow	1.40	1.48	1.38	kg/cow/dy
Anticipated final milk price (less levies)	\$6.70	\$6.72	\$6.87	\$/kg MS
Anticipated final milk price (/litre)	\$0.593	\$0.541	\$0.545	\$ per litre
Fat return per cow	\$3.23	\$2.95	\$2.77	\$/cow/dy
Protein return per cow	\$6.54	\$7.46	\$7.18	\$/cow/dy
Volume charge per cow	\$0.41	\$0.48	\$0.46	\$/cow/dy
Milk income/cow	\$9.36	\$9.93	\$9.49	\$/cow/dy
All feed cost/cow	\$3.34	\$3.50	\$3.51	\$/cow/dy
Margin over all Feed/cow	\$6.02	\$6.43	\$5.98	\$/cow/dy
MOAF /ha /day	\$21.52	\$22.27	\$20.74	\$/ha/day
Farm MOAF per DAY	\$1,571	\$1,626	\$1,514	\$/day
MOAF per month	\$47,903	\$49,594	\$46,176	\$/month
Energy density of diet	11.7	12.4	12.4	MJ ME/kg DM
Crude protein % of diet	18.0%	18.3%	17.8%	% CP
NDF Fibre level of diet	30.9%	30.8%	29.9%	% NDF
FCE kg MS per tonne DM food	84	93	96	
Tonne feed /day	4.3	4.0	3.6	tonne DM /day
Milk Return /tonne feed	\$565	\$626	\$660	\$/tonne DM
Average Price of feed	\$202	\$221	\$244	\$/tonne DM
Margin /tonne feed	\$363	\$405	\$416	\$/tonne DM
BMCC	139	150	162	

