

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 305 (Week ending Jun 22, 2012)

The Macalister Demonstration Farm is milking 235 cows grazing 73 hectares, a stocking rate of 3.2 cows per hectare. Last year at this time, there were 220 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 43 days.

To ease the transition to the new farm manager, the farm is drying off 100 cows a bit earlier than normal. The dry off process consists of drafting the selected cows, and over a period of a week, reducing their feed intake, with less grass, half the grain, but some hay. Then all cows get dry cow antibiotic, teat seal, oral fluke treatment, pour-on worm treatment, salmonella vaccine, and 7-in-1 vaccine. Any missing or damaged ear tags are replaced.

Compared to last week, milk production per cow is down from 1.38 to 1.32 kg milk solids (MS) per cow per day. Litres per cow per day are down from 17.2 to 16.9. Milk fat test has fallen from 3.95% to 3.67% (fat yield is down from 0.68 to 0.62 kg per cow per day). Milk protein test has risen from 4.06% to 4.09% (protein yield has fallen from 0.70 to 0.69 kg per cow per day). This time last year, milk production was 17.2 litres, 1.47 kg MS, 0.78 kg fat, and 0.69 kg protein per cow per day. It is estimated that the cows gained 0.35 kg liveweight during the week.

The daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is up from 17 to 20 kg dry matter (DM) per hectare per day. The pasture consumption per cow is up from 5.4 to 6.1 kg DM per cow per day. This time last year, pasture consumption was 28 kg DM per hectare per day, and 7.7 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 \$107 per tonne of dry matter, down from \$120 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 \$340 per DM tonne, and 1.8 kg DM of PKE at \$268 per DM tonne.

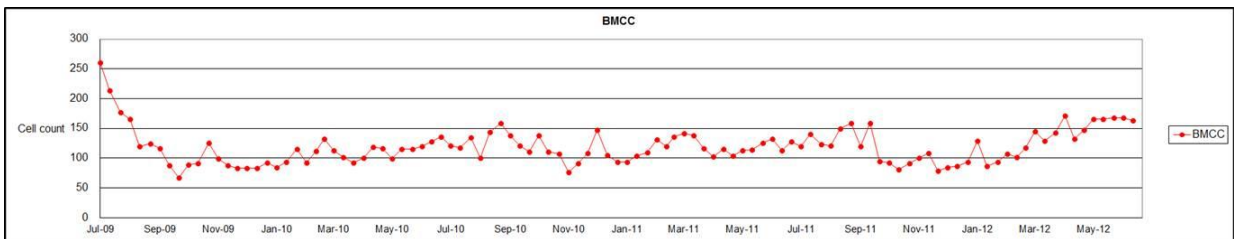
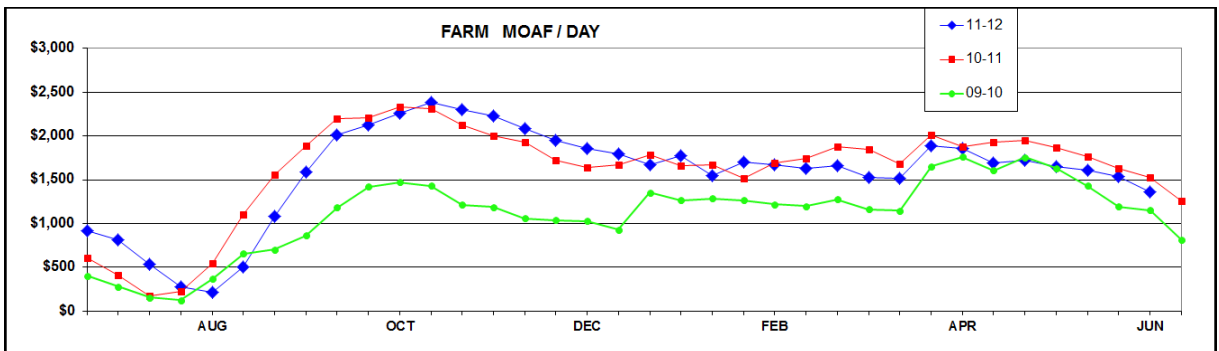
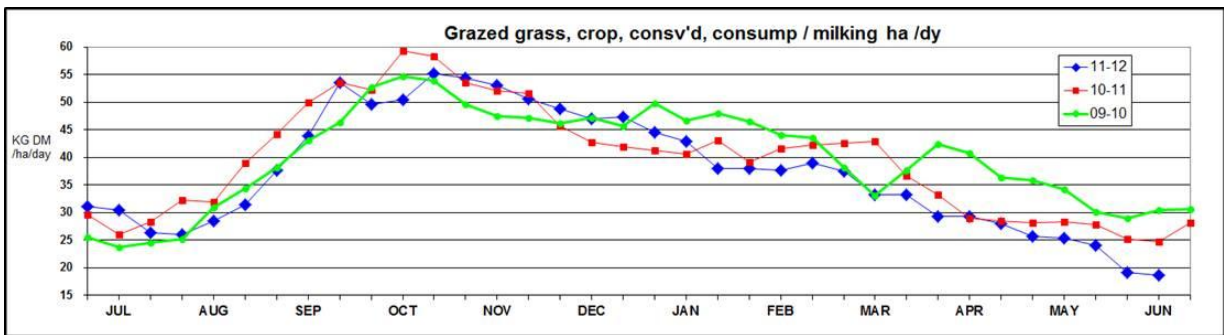
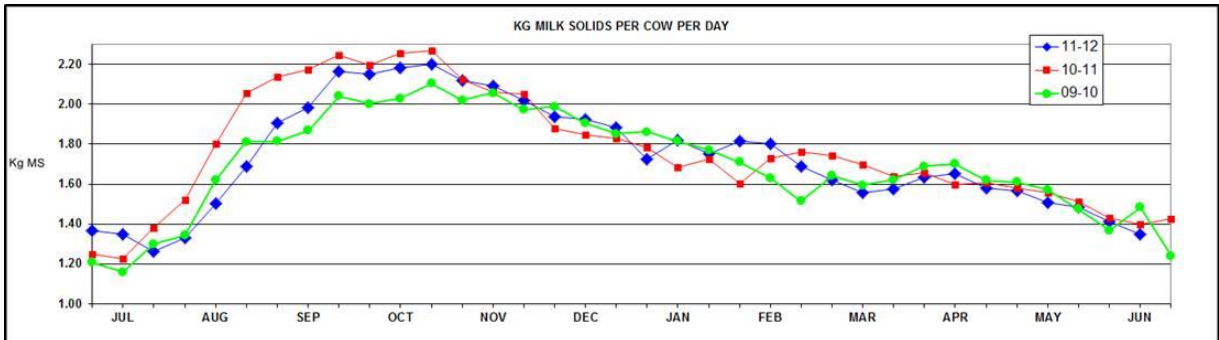
The Bulk Milk Cell Count for the week is down from 193,000 to 138,000. This time last year the BMCC was 110,000.

The milk price (less compulsory levies) the MDF anticipates receiving for the week's milk is \$6.98 per kg milk solids, or 54.2 cents per litre. Milk income per cow per day is down from \$9.45 to \$9.18, made up of \$2.54 for the fat, \$7.08 for the protein, and minus 0.44 for the litres. This time last year milk income per cow per day was \$10.08.

Feed cost per cow per day (including pasture and supplements) is the same at \$3.55 per cow per day, leaving a Margin over All Feed (MOAF) per cow of \$5.63, down from \$5.90. The margin over all feed per hectare is \$18.12. The whole farm feed margin is \$1,323, down from \$1,387 per day. This time last year the whole farm feed margin was \$1,482 per day.

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A clarification on the graphs below: they do not show exactly what is in the table of figures because the table is averaging for a seven day period, and each dot in the graphs represents the average for a ten day period.



WEEKLY FEEDING PERFORMANCE	Last Year	Last week	This week	Units
Week to date:	24-Jun	15-Jun	22-Jun	
Milker graze area	61	73	73	ha
Milker nos	220	235	235	head
Stocking rate	3.6	3.2	3.2	cows/ha
Grazing allocation 1/	50	50	53	th of graze area
Average graze rest time	45	41	43	days
mm irrigation/hectare/day	0.0	0.0	0.0	mm water/ha/day
Element Nitrogen	1.0	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)	28	17	20	kg DM/ha/dy
Pasture consum'd per cow	7.7	5.4	6.1	kg DM/cow/dy
Daily spend / milking ha	\$1.52	\$2.09	\$2.09	\$/ha/day
Estm'd pasture price	\$55	\$120	\$107	\$/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	\$340	\$340	\$/T DM
Hay/silage supp avg price	\$186	\$0	\$0	\$/T DM
PKE supp price	\$0	\$268	\$268	\$/T DM
Total feed intake/cow	16.9	14.0	14.7	kg DM/cow/dy
Estm'd body cond't'n change	0.37	0.04	0.35	kg LWT/cow/dy
Litres/cow	17.2	17.2	16.9	l/cow/day
Fat test	4.53%	3.95%	3.67%	%
Protein test	4.02%	4.06%	4.09%	%
Fat per cow	0.782	0.679	0.622	kg/cow/dy
Protein per cow	0.693	0.698	0.694	kg/cow/dy
MS per cow	1.47	1.38	1.32	kg/cow/dy
Anticipated final milk price (less levies)	\$6.83	\$6.87	\$6.98	\$/kg MS
Anticipated final milk price (/litre)	\$0.584	\$0.551	\$0.542	\$ per litre
Fat return per cow	\$3.27	\$2.77	\$2.54	\$/cow/dy
Protein return per cow	\$7.25	\$7.13	\$7.08	\$/cow/dy
Volume charge per cow	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.44	\$/cow/dy
Milk income/cow	\$10.08	\$9.45	\$9.18	\$/cow/dy
All feed cost/cow	\$3.31	\$3.55	\$3.55	\$/cow/dy
Margin over all Feed/cow	\$6.77	\$5.90	\$5.63	\$/cow/dy
MOAF /ha /day	\$24.27	\$19.00	\$18.12	\$/ha/day
Farm MOAF per DAY	\$1,482	\$1,387	\$1,323	\$/day
MOAF per month	\$45,204	\$42,300	\$40,341	\$/month
Energy density of diet	11.8	12.4	12.4	MJ ME/kg DM
Crude protein % of diet	18.2%	17.8%	18.0%	% CP
NDF Fibre level of diet	30.9%	29.6%	29.9%	% NDF
FCE kg MS per tonne DM food	85	96	88	
Tonne feed /day	3.8	3.4	3.5	tonne DM /day
Milk Return /tonne feed	\$580	\$661	\$612	\$/tonne DM
Average Price of feed	\$191	\$248	\$237	\$/tonne DM
Margin /tonne feed	\$389	\$412	\$375	\$/tonne DM
BMCC	110	193	138	