

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, Genetics Australia, with support provided by GippsDairy

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 350 (Week ending June 7th, 2013)

The Macalister Demonstration Farm (MDF) is milking 234 cows with a grazing area of 60 hectares, and an effective stocking rate of 3.9 cows per hectare (last week's cow numbers were incorrect). Some milking area is now forming part of the sacrifice grazing system and others are designated dry cow paddocks, and are therefore out of the round. The daily allocation is one 40th of the grazing area or around 1.5ha/24 hours. The cows are on a night sacrifice system with a daily grazing on grass. The night feed involves feeding lucerne hay and now with a blend of PKE/DDG/Almond meal/Chocmalt.

Milk production per cow is sliding, now at 1.23 kg MS/cow/day or 14litres/cow/day. Milk fat test continues to rise from 5.14% to 5.2% and protein test is steady at 4.0%.

Daily pasture consumption from the grazing area remains at around 600-700 kg DM/ ha/day with the pasture consumption per cow at 3 kg DM per cow per day reflecting a tight pasture allocation and limited pasture in front of cows. The aim is to build a wedge in front of cows, despite the herd being dried off shortly, in order to have some feed over winter and a bank of pasture for dry cows, due to limited fodder availability.

In the past week around 35ha was sprayed for broadleaf weeds, mainly docks, flatweed and capeweed.

Supplementary feed includes 5.4 kg DM per cow of a 13MJ pellet containing minerals and Rumensin, at a price of \$407 per DM tonne, 1.8 kg DM of PKE blend at a price of \$344 per DM tonne, and a bale and a half of lucerne hay or 3.3kgDM/cow/day. It is aimed that the dairy pellets will become a 12MJ, 12% protein pellet shortly to reduce cost in late lactation.

The Bulk Milk Cell Count for the week is holding at around 140,000.

The milk price (less compulsory levies) the MDF anticipates receiving for the week's milk is \$5.85 per kg milk solids, or 53.2 cents per litre.

Milk income per cow per day is \$7.45/cow/day.

Supplementary feed cost /cow/day (fodder and concentrates) is still at \$4.01 per cow per day, leaving an Income Over Supplementary Feed Cost (IOSFC)/cow of \$3.44, lower than last week due to the lower production. The IOSFC/effective hectare is \$13.42. The whole farm feed margin is \$805, down from \$1010 per day due to lower production and high inputs.

Dry cows will be grazed on the milking area, and will be fed Almond Hulls (2.7kg DM), cereal hay (2.7kgDM), minimal grain (1.8kg DM) and a small allocation of pasture (0.5ha/24 hours), at an anticipated cost per day of \$1.89/cow/day plus grass cost. This cost is equivalent to around 3.5 litres or 0.3kgMS, so cows will be milked until production is lower than 5 litres or their minimum dry period is reached, whichever comes first.

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