

## **Macalister Demonstration Farm**

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### **Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 355 (Week ending July 12th , 2013)**

The Macalister Demonstration Farm (MDF) is currently milking 185 cows with a total grazing area of 73 hectares, but with at least 13ha set aside for dry cow grazing, the pressure is on to keep remaining milkers tight. There are 120 dries and R2 heifers being run on the milking area and being fed 3kg/day pellets in the dairy, almond hulls and ½ ha pasture.

The daily allocation is now one 60th of the grazing area or around 1.0ha/24 hours. The cows are still on a night sacrifice system with a daily grazing on grass. The tighter allocation has given better residuals.

The PKE blend remains at 4kg/cow/day and has proved to be successful in lifting body condition in the milkers.

Milk production per cow is declining in line with the end of lactation. Cows are being dried off primarily in line with calving date. Production is now at 1.0 kg MS/cow/day or 13.8 litres/cow/day. Milk components are still a bit intriguing at a 3.35% fat and 4.0% protein. The fat % continues to decline and could be a result of the diminishing grass in the diet and the increase in body condition. There is no sign of acidosis in the herd.

BMCC has settled out at around 150,000.

Daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is around 370 kg DM/ ha/day with the pasture consumption per cow at 2 kg DM per cow per day. The allocation was reduced as there was too much residual, and this will help to lift available pasture slightly, although growth rates are slow.

Supplementary feed includes: 6kg/cow 12MJ pellets with Rumensin, at \$355/ tonne, 4 kg of PKE blend at \$286 per tonne, 1bale lucerne hay or 3.2kgDM/cow/day. The lucerne has reduced to one bale per 24 hours with the lower cow numbers.

The milk price is \$6.10/kg milk solids. The full year 2012/13 price for the farm has increased with the final 4c fat and 10c/kg protein step-up to \$4.72/kg MS.

Gross milk income per cow per day is now down to \$6.10/cow/day. Supplementary feed cost /cow/day (fodder and concentrates) is at \$4.44 per cow per day, leaving an Income Over Supplementary Feed Cost (IOSFC)/cow of \$1.66 or 4 net litres per cow or \$307/day for the farm.

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