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Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 358 (Week ending August 2nd , 2013)

The Macalister Demonstration Farm (MDF) is currently milking 80 cows with a total grazing area of 73 hectares and with now at least 23ha having been grazed with dry cows. The heifers have just started calving, although the official start of calving date is 12th August. There are 152 dries and 65 R2 heifers being run on the milking area and being fed 3kg/day pellets in the dairy, 4kg almond hulls, two bales of ryegrass and cereal hay (or around 5.5kg/cow/day as fed) and no pasture. The dries have grazed out around 20ha over the past month and are going to be on a sacrifice system to try and build pasture cover for the milkers.

The daily allocation to milkers is around 0.5ha/24 hours.

The feed inputs have reduced slightly to 4kg/cow/day as fed PKE blend, half a bale Lucerne hay and 6kg as fed pellets. The amount of pasture has slightly increased but remains tight.

Milk production per cow is up to 15 litres but this is before the reduction in Lucerne and solids is now at 1.21 kg MS/cow/day. Milk components are at a 4.2% fat and 3.85% protein. BMCC is holding at around 150,000 or less, a great result for late lactation stale cows.

Daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is around 600 kg DM/ ha/day with the pasture consumption per cow at 3-4 kg DM per cow per day. The cows are rated as body condition score 4.75, with the dries in a BCS 4.75-5.

The milk price on the components is \$6.01/kg milk solids or 47.48c/litre.

Gross milk income per cow per day is now up further to \$7.00/cow/day. Supplementary feed cost /cow/day (fodder and concentrates) is down slightly to \$4.34 per cow per day, leaving an Income Over Supplementary Feed Cost (IOSFC)/cow of only \$2.66/cow/day or \$213/day for the farm.

A number of paddocks have been selected for broadleaf spraying depending on the grazing round, and a number of others are being monitored for resowing over the spring or autumn.

200kg/ha pasture booster will be applied to areas requiring additional fertility. This will take place over August and early September to boost spring growth.

This report will now go to fortnightly.

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