

## **Macalister Demonstration Farm**

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### **Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 359 (Week ending August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013)**

The MDF is currently milking 80 cows with a total grazing area of 73 hectares and with now 27ha having been grazed by the dry cows. Around a further 6ha will be grazed by the dries at around 0.5ha/24 hours and this area will tighten as the numbers reduce. Dries are being fed 3kg/day pellets in the dairy, 8kg almond hulls/PKE mix, two bales of ryegrass and cereal hay (or around 5kg/cow/day as fed) and about 1.5-2kgDM pasture.

Calculated growth rates on the farm over the past two weeks have ranged from 15kg/ha/day to 50kg/ha/day, and the average cover is now at 1833kgDM/ha.

The daily allocation to milkers is around 0.5ha/24 hours. They are grazing exceptional cover, with pre-grazing pasture cover at around 2800kgDM on the higher areas of the farm to the west of the dairy. There are a further 10 days or so grazing in this part of the farm.

The feed inputs have reduced significantly to 6kg/cow/day as fed Classic Dairy pellets and grass. The pellets will change at the next load to a higher energy pellet for early lactation. Magnesium and Rumensin will be included.

Milk production per cow is up to 19.5 litres and rising and solids are now at 1.5 kg MS/cow/day. Milk components are at a 3.6% fat and 4.0% protein. BMCC is around 100,000 or less, a great result for late lactation and fresh cows.

Daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is at 1200 kg DM/ ha/day with the milkers consuming 10kg DM per cow per day and the dries 1.6-2kgDM/cow/day. The cows are rated as body condition score 4.75-5, with the dries in a BCS 4.75-5. The herd is looking very good with the exception of some light dry cows and heifers.

The milk price on the components is \$5.65/kg milk solids or 42.93/litre.

Gross milk income per cow per day is now up further to \$8.33/cow/day. Supplementary feed cost /cow/day (fodder and concentrates) is down dramatically to \$2.13/cow/day, leaving an Income Over Supplementary Feed Cost (IOSFC)/cow of \$6.20/cow/day or \$496/day for the farm. This is an increase in the past two weeks of 133% on a per cow and per farm basis. The aim of building cover for calving and maintaining inputs for when milk price lowers into spring is on track.

No further broadleaf spraying has taken place, and this is now likely to wait until autumn/winter.

200kg/ha pasture booster will be applied to areas requiring additional fertility. This will take place starting next week to boost spring growth.

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