

## **Macalister Demonstration Farm**

**Projects on the farm are funded by Sustainability Victoria, DEPI VIC, Department of Agriculture Food and Fisheries and Genetics Australia with support provided by GippsDairy.**

### **Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 360 (Week ending August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013)**

What a difference a fortnight can make on a dairy farm! With growth ramping up and dare I say it things drying out (when this report was written), grass cover is building, albeit at highly variable rates across the MDF. Due to unpredicted circumstances, there has been a management change (again) on the farm, and we welcome Becky Horsham to the role. Many of you in the district will know Becky from the previous roles she has held. We welcome Becky to the role under challenging circumstances- thanks Becky!

The MDF is currently milking 84 cows with a total grazing area of 73 hectares and with now 145 dry cows and 52 springers, total milker numbers will be lower than desired and predicted. This slightly lower stocking rate may allow for a slightly lower level of bought in supplement this season. I have summarised the key farm “physicals” and “financials” in the table below.

Dries are moving to 0.5ha/day grass (4kgDM/cow) and one square oaten hay (3kgDM/cow), and will be reviewed to ensure body condition is maintained. Dries are at a condition score ideal for calving and maintenance only is required. This diet is just at maintenance levels, but pasture covers are high for dry cows and slightly higher grass intakes will be achieved for the next two weeks.

The daily allocation to milkers is 0.5ha/24 hours. They are grazing exceptional cover, with pre-grazing pasture cover at around 2800kgDM. Long residuals are being selectively grazed with dry cows. Average cover is around 1850kgDM/ha and growth in the past 2 weeks at 30-40kg/ha on average.

The cows are being fed 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 is at 20.7 litres and rising and solids are at 1.58 kg MS/cow/day. Milk components are at a 4.0% fat and 3.6% protein. BMCC is around 120,000. Well over 50% of the milkers are heifers.

Daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is at 2000 kg DM/ ha/day with the milkers consuming 10kg DM per cow per day and the dries 6kgDM/cow/day. The cows are rated as body condition score 4.75-5, with the dries in a BCS 5.

The milk price on the components is \$5.23/kg milk solids or 39.73/litre. This drops slightly in September (1.5c/standard litre) as the spring base price is reached.

Gross milk income per cow per day is now \$8.22/cow/day. Supplementary feed cost \$2.13/cow/day (concentrates), leaving an Income Over Supplementary Feed Cost (IOSFC) of \$6.09/cow/day or \$432/day for the farm.

200kg/ha pasture booster has been applied to areas requiring additional fertility and effluent ponds lowered with effluent applied to around 10ha.

### Key MDF 2013/14 Physicals:

Milk price predicted (\$/kgMS)	\$5.70
Cow numbers	293
Milk solids per cow	522
Stocking rate	4 cows/ha
Milk solids per ha	2094
Grain per cow (t as fed)	1.8
Fodder per cow imported (as fed)	350kg
Pasture consumed (t DM per cow)	3.4
Pasture consumed (tDM/ha)	13.7

### Key MDF 2013/14 Financials:

Farm Working Expenses FWE (herd, shed, feed, overheads) ex paid labour	\$4.83/kg MS
FWE including paid labour	\$3.89/kg MS
Operating surplus farm	\$189,632
Operating surplus per cow	\$647
Predicted EBIT farm	\$237,232
Per cow	\$809
Predicted ROA	11.8%
Paid labour per cow	\$587
Paid labour per kgMS	\$1.12

Matt Harms, ONFARM Consulting, 0408 311 118 or [mattharms7@bigpond.com](mailto:mattharms7@bigpond.com)