

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, with support provided by GippsDairy.

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 291 (Week ending Mar 16, 2012)

The Macalister Demonstration Farm is milking 275 cows grazing 71 hectares, a stocking rate of 3.9 cows per hectare. Last year at this time, there were 279 milkers, and the stocking rate was 3.9 cows per hectare. The daily allocation for last week was one 28th of the grazing area, and the actual grazing rest time was 28 days.

Compared to last week, milk production per cow is down from 1.63 to 1.54 kg milk solids (MS) per cow per day. Litres per cow per day are down from 20.2 to 19.0. Milk fat test has risen from 4.43% to 4.53% (fat yield is down from 0.89 to 0.86 kg per cow per day). Milk protein test has fallen from 3.66% to 3.60% (protein yield is down from 0.74 to 0.68 kg per cow per day). This time last year, milk production was 20.6 litres, 1.70 kg MS, 0.94 kg fat, and 0.76 kg protein per cow per day. It is estimated that the cows are not gaining any weight.

The daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is down from 38 to 33 kg dry matter (DM) per hectare per day. The pasture consumption per cow is down from 9.7 to 8.5 kg DM per cow per day. This time last year, pasture consumption was 44 kg DM per hectare per day, and 11.3 kg DM per cow per day.

0 mm of irrigation water, 0.9 kg of nitrogen element, no phosphorus, 0.14 kg of potassium, \$0.19 of pasture renovation, and \$0.45 of topping, all per hectare per day, have contributed to the current pasture consumption. The daily spend on these pasture inputs totals \$2.17 per hectare per day, up from \$2.06. Based on those cash inputs only, the consumed pasture price is estimated to be \$66 per tonne of dry matter, up from \$54.

There seems to be enough grass on offer, but more rain, some pretty damp paddocks, and many cows with sore feet, all mean the cows are struggling to eat enough grass. It is only half way through March, 105 mm of rain has fallen for the month, and more is predicted on Wednesday.

During the dry-ish patch in January, before the irrigation allocation was increased, the farm did a water budget and decided it would sell 100 ML of irrigation water, at \$60 per ML. This could have been a handy \$6,000 in the budget, and at the time, with a few farmers thinking they might need to buy water, give them some reliability. Trading water involves guesswork and some risk, but putting any surplus water on the market must help the district. If only we had acted more quickly! Presumably any potential buyer is thinking: "Thank goodness I acted slowly".

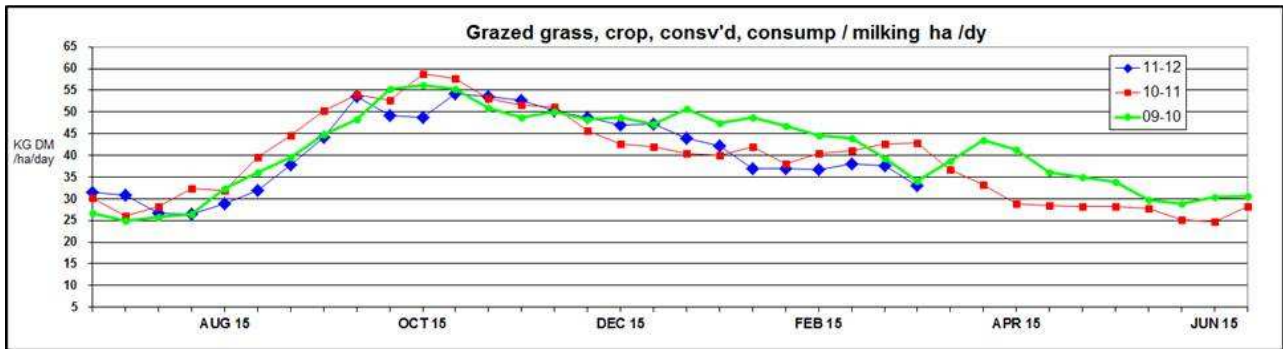
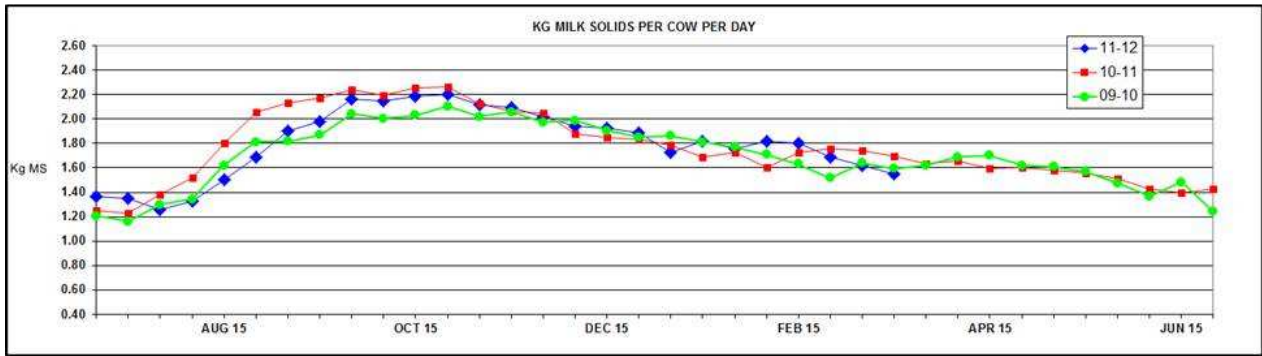
Supplementary feed includes crushed wheat, and a pellet containing 25% protein, minerals, Rumensin, Tylan, and Zinc Oxide, totalling 6.5 kg DM per cow per day, at an average price of \$339 per DM tonne.

The Bulk Milk Cell Count has fallen from 146,000 to 140,000. This time last year the BMCC was 139,000. The BMCC average for the ten day period to 10/03/2012 was 145,000, which gave the farm a factory ranking of 20th out of 374 farms.

The milk price (less compulsory levies) that the MDF anticipates receiving for the week's milk is \$5.35 per kg milk solids, or 43.5 cents per litre (mistake last week due to a fancy spreadsheet not realising that there is an extra day this year). Milk income per cow per day is down from \$8.80 to \$8.25, made up of \$2.93 for the fat, \$5.82 for the protein, and minus 0.50 for the litres. This time last year milk income per cow per day was \$9.44.

Feed cost per cow per day (including pasture and supplements) is up from \$2.73 to \$2.76 per cow per day, leaving a Margin over All Feed (MOAF) per cow of \$5.49, down from \$6.07. The margin over all feed per hectare is \$21.26. The whole farm feed margin is \$1,509, down from \$1,688 per day. This time last year the whole farm feed margin was \$1,878 per day.

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WEEKLY FEEDING PERFORMANCE	Last Year	Last week	This week	Units
Week to date:	18-Mar	09-Mar	16-Mar	
Milker graze area	72	71	71	ha
Milker nos	279	278	275	head
Stocking rate	3.9	3.9	3.9	cows/ha
Grazing allocation 1/	30	28	28	th of graze area
Average graze rest time	30	29	28	days
mm irrigation/hectare/day	1.1	0.0	0.0	mm water/ha/day
Element Nitrogen	1.4	0.9	0.9	kg element/ha/day
Element Phosphorus	0.00	0.00	0.00	kg element/ha/day
Element Potassium	0.07	0.05	0.14	kg element/ha/day
Renovation	\$0.19	\$0.19	\$0.19	\$/ha/day
Topping	\$0.12	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$/ha/day
Estm'd pasture consmp'n (incl cons'vd forage)	44	38	33	kg DM/ha/dy
Pasture consum'd per cow	11.3	9.7	8.5	kg DM/cow/dy
Daily spend / milking ha	\$2.81	\$2.06	\$2.17	\$/ha/day
Estm'd pasture price	\$65	\$54	\$66	\$/T DM
Conc (incl additives)supp fed/cow	5.7	6.5	6.5	kg DM/cow/dy
Hay/silage supp fed/cow	0.0	0.0	0.0	kg DM/cow/dy
PKE supp fed/cow	0.0	0.0	0.0	kg DM/cow/dy
Estim'd supp waste	3%	3%	3%	%
Conc (incl additives)supp avg price	\$351	\$339	\$339	\$/T DM
Hay/silage supp avg price	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$/T DM
PKE supp price	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$/T DM
Total feed intake/cow	16.9	16.0	14.8	kg DM/cow/dy
Estm'd body cond't'n change	0.20	0.20	0.00	kg LWT/cow/dy
Litres/cow	20.6	20.2	19.0	l/cow/day
Fat test	4.54%	4.43%	4.53%	%
Protein test	3.72%	3.66%	3.60%	%
Fat per cow	0.935	0.893	0.860	kg/cow/dy
Protein per cow	0.764	0.738	0.684	kg/cow/dy
MS per cow	1.70	1.63	1.54	kg/cow/dy
Anticipated final milk price (less levies)	\$5.55	\$5.39	\$5.35	\$/kg MS
Anticipated final milk price (/litre)	\$0.459	\$0.436	\$0.435	\$ per litre
Fat return per cow	\$3.28	\$3.04	\$2.93	\$/cow/dy
Protein return per cow	\$6.70	\$6.29	\$5.82	\$/cow/dy
Volume charge per cow	\$0.54	\$0.53	\$0.50	\$/cow/dy
Milk income/cow	\$9.44	\$8.80	\$8.25	\$/cow/dy
All feed cost/cow	\$2.70	\$2.73	\$2.76	\$/cow/dy
Margin over all Feed/cow	\$6.74	\$6.07	\$5.49	\$/cow/dy
MOAF /ha /day	\$26.09	\$23.77	\$21.26	\$/ha/day
Farm MOAF per DAY	\$1,878	\$1,688	\$1,509	\$/day
MOAF per month	\$57,292	\$51,476	\$46,037	\$/month
Energy density of diet	11.9	12.2	12.3	MJ ME/kg DM
Crude protein % of diet	19.9%	19.0%	18.8%	% CP
NDF Fibre level of diet	32.0%	30.4%	28.9%	% NDF
FCE kg MS per tonne DM food	100	100	103	
Tonne feed /day	4.7	4.5	4.1	tonne DM /day
Milk Return /tonne feed	\$555	\$542	\$551	\$/tonne DM
Average Price of feed	\$159	\$168	\$185	\$/tonne DM
Margin /tonne feed	\$396	\$374	\$366	\$/tonne DM
BMCC	139	149	144	