

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 293 (Week ending Mar 30, 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 271 milkers, and the stocking rate was 3.8 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 1.58 to 1.56 kg milk solids (MS) per cow per day. Litres per cow per day are down from 19.4 to 18.6. Milk fat test has risen from 4.55% to 4.76% (fat yield is the same at 0.88 kg per cow per day). Milk protein test has risen from 3.63% to 3.66% (protein yield is down from 0.70 to 0.68 kg per cow per day). This time last year, milk production was 19.6 litres, 1.62 kg MS, 0.88 kg fat, and 0.74 kg protein per cow per day. It is estimated that the cows are gaining 0.1 kg live weight per cow per day.

The daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is down from 34 to 33 kg dry matter (DM) per hectare per day. The pasture consumption per cow is down from 8.7 to 8.6 kg DM per cow per day. This time last year, pasture consumption was 35 kg DM per hectare per day, and 9.3 kg DM per cow per day.

0 mm of irrigation water, 0.9 kg of nitrogen element, 0.03 kg phosphorus element, 0.15 kg of potassium element, \$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 \$2.31 per hectare per day, up from \$2.19. Based on those cash inputs only, the consumed pasture price is estimated to be \$70 per tonne of dry matter, up from \$65.

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, and 0.3 kg DM of PKE at \$271 per DM tonne.

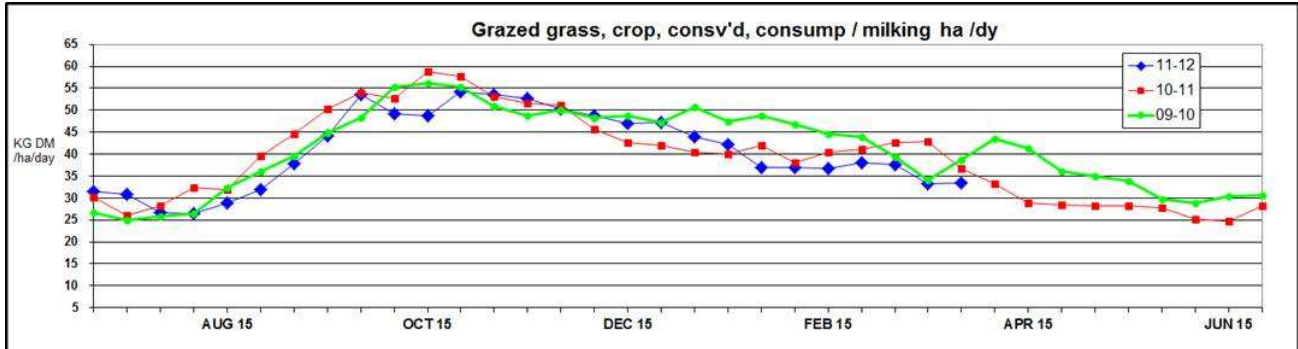
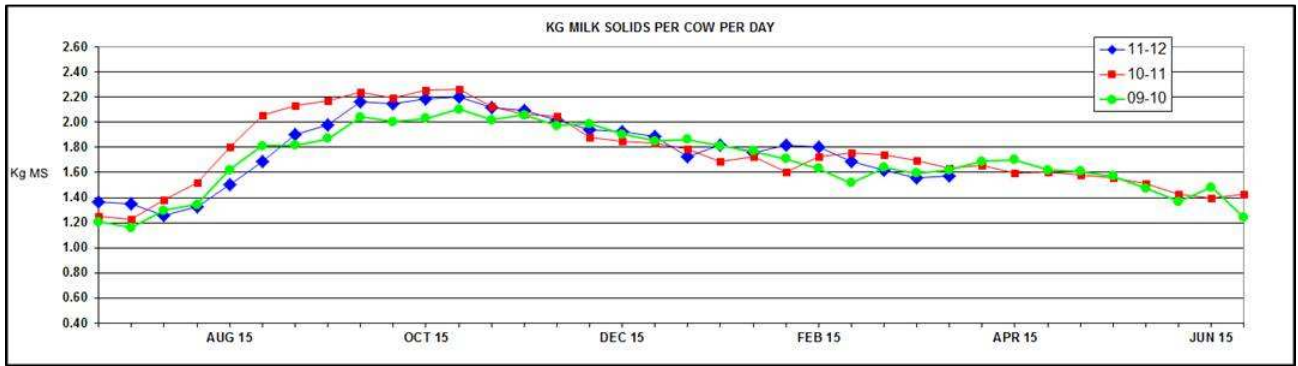
The Bulk Milk Cell Count has risen from 117,000 to 127,000. This time last year the BMCC was 110,000.

The milk price (less compulsory levies) that the MDF anticipates receiving for the week's milk is \$5.32 per kg milk solids, or 44.7 cents per litre. Milk income per cow per day is down from \$8.47 to \$8.32, made up of \$3.01 for the fat, \$5.79 for the protein, and minus 0.49 for the litres. This time last year milk income per cow per day was \$9.28.

Feed cost per cow per day (including pasture and supplements) is up from \$2.77 to \$2.89 per cow per day, leaving a Margin over All Feed (MOAF) per cow of \$5.43, down from \$5.71. The margin over all feed per hectare is \$21.03. The whole farm feed margin is \$1,493, down from \$1,569 per day. This time last year the whole farm feed margin was \$1,688 per day.

The MDF is on the MG Traditional payment system, but is thinking how to get the Domestic milk price, by holding to one calving period, not in autumn, but later in spring. A workshop on "The ins and outs of the MG Domestic Payment System" will be conducted by Andrew Nevill and Frank Tyndall at the MDF, 11am to 12.30 pm Tuesday April 10th, followed by a BBQ. Is it worth feeding at a higher level to get a higher percentage? What are all the implications?

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WEEKLY FEEDING PERFORMANCE	Last Year	Last week	This week	Units
Week to date:	01-Apr	23-Mar	30-Mar	
Milker graze area	72	71	71	ha
Milker nos	271	275	275	head
Stocking rate	3.8	3.9	3.9	cows/ha
Grazing allocation 1/	34	28	28	th of graze area
Average graze rest time	30	28	28	days
mm irrigation/hectare/day	0.0	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	0.03	kg element/ha/day
Element Potassium	0.07	0.15	0.15	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)	35	34	33	kg DM/ha/dy
Pasture consum'd per cow	9.3	8.7	8.6	kg DM/cow/dy
Daily spend / milking ha	\$2.13	\$2.19	\$2.31	\$/ha/day
Estm'd pasture price	\$61	\$65	\$70	\$/T DM
Conc (incl additives)supp fed/cow	6.8	6.5	6.5	kg DM/cow/dy
Hay/silage supp fed/cow	0.7	0.0	0.0	kg DM/cow/dy
PKE supp fed/cow	0.0	0.0	0.3	kg DM/cow/dy
Estim'd supp waste	4%	3%	3%	%
Conc (incl additives)supp avg price	\$352	\$339	\$339	\$/T DM
Hay/silage supp avg price	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$/T DM
PKE supp price	\$0	\$0	\$271	\$/T DM
Total feed intake/cow	16.4	15.0	15.2	kg DM/cow/dy
Estm'd body cond't'n change	0.20	0.01	0.10	kg LWT/cow/dy
Litres/cow	19.6	19.4	18.6	l/cow/day
Fat test	4.49%	4.55%	4.76%	%
Protein test	3.80%	3.63%	3.66%	%
Fat per cow	0.879	0.880	0.885	kg/cow/dy
Protein per cow	0.743	0.703	0.680	kg/cow/dy
MS per cow	1.62	1.58	1.56	kg/cow/dy
Anticipated final milk price (less levies)	\$5.72	\$5.35	\$5.32	\$/kg MS
Anticipated final milk price (/litre)	\$0.474	\$0.438	\$0.447	\$ per litre
Fat return per cow	\$3.14	\$2.99	\$3.01	\$/cow/dy
Protein return per cow	\$6.65	\$5.98	\$5.79	\$/cow/dy
Volume charge per cow	\$0.51	\$0.51	\$0.49	\$/cow/dy
Milk income/cow	\$9.28	\$8.47	\$8.32	\$/cow/dy
All feed cost/cow	\$3.04	\$2.77	\$2.89	\$/cow/dy
Margin over all Feed/cow	\$6.23	\$5.71	\$5.43	\$/cow/dy
MOAF /ha /day	\$23.44	\$22.10	\$21.03	\$/ha/day
Farm MOAF per DAY	\$1,688	\$1,569	\$1,493	\$/day
MOAF per month	\$51,474	\$47,851	\$45,549	\$/month
Energy density of diet	11.9	12.3	12.3	MJ ME/kg DM
Crude protein % of diet	19.8%	19.2%	19.3%	% CP
NDF Fibre level of diet	30.0%	28.7%	29.1%	% NDF
FCE kg MS per tonne DM food	97	104	102	
Tonne feed /day	4.3	4.2	4.2	tonne DM /day
Milk Return /tonne feed	\$579	\$557	\$540	\$/tonne DM
Average Price of feed	\$190	\$182	\$188	\$/tonne DM
Margin /tonne feed	\$389	\$375	\$353	\$/tonne DM
BMCC	110	117	127	