

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 249 (Week ending May 20, 2011)

The Macalister Demonstration Farm is milking 267 cows, grazing 73 hectares, a stocking rate of 3.7 cows per hectare. Last year at this time, the stocking rate was 3.8 cows per hectare. The daily allocation for the week is one 45th of the grazing area, and the grazing rest time is 39 days.

Compared to last week, milk production is down from 1.58 to 1.55 kg milk solids (MS) per cow per day. Litres per cow per day are down from 19.3 to 18.7. Milk fat test has risen from 4.33% to 4.38% (fat yield is down from 0.84 to 0.82 kg per cow per day). The protein test is up from 3.87% to 3.93% (protein yield is down from 0.75 to 0.73 kg per cow per day). This time last year, milk production was 19.2 litres, 1.58 kg MS, 0.82 kg fat, and 0.76 kg protein per cow per day.

The daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is up from 28 to 29 kg dry matter (DM) per hectare per day. The pasture consumption per cow is up from 7.6 to 7.8 kg DM per cow per day. This time last year, pasture consumption was 34 kg DM per hectare per day, and 9.0 kg DM per cow per day.

The daily spend on pasture inputs is the same at \$1.89 per hectare per day. Based on those inputs only, pasture price is estimated to be \$66 per tonne of dry matter, down from \$68.

Supplementary concentrates include crushed wheat, and a wheat, canola, lupins, Rumensin, Tylan and mineral mix, totalling 7.4 kg DM per cow per day, at an average price of \$348 per DM tonne. 1.7 kg DM per cow per day of silage, cut from the farm in spring, and 0.2 kg DM of PKE is being fed also.

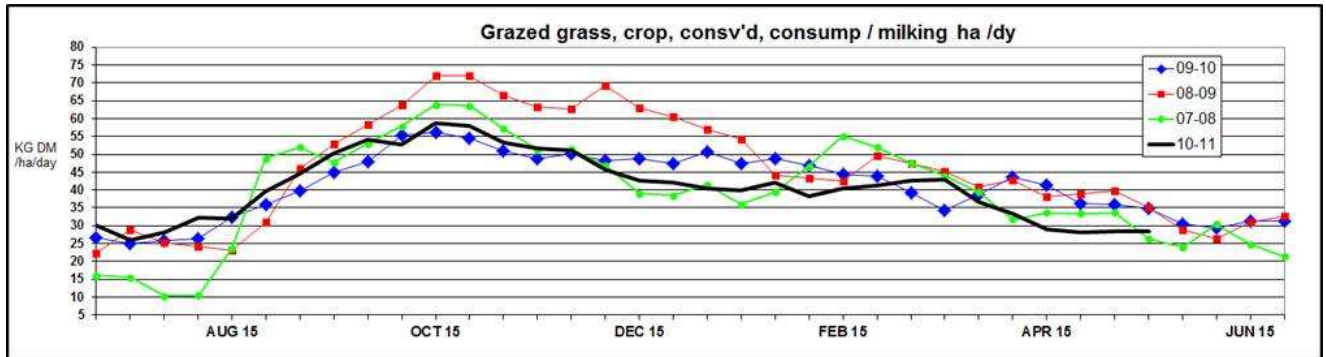
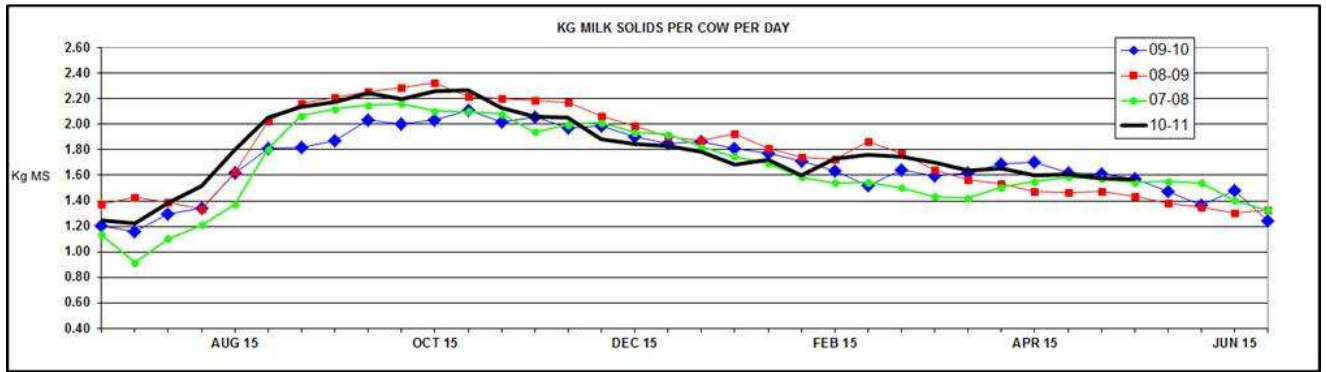
Due mostly to the high amount of grain compared to grass in the cows' diets, the calculated fibre level is a bit low, sometimes below 30% NDF. The milk fat test has fallen, from 4.5% in mid-April down to 4.0% at times. The cows are on average for the period producing almost as well as any time in the last 4 years, and there is an argument to not worry too much about fat production, considering the price paid for it is low compared to protein. However, occasionally for a day or two only, the cows fall in milk solid production and their manure become sloppy. This seems to be associated with rough weather. It stands to reason that if on the edge of rumen acidosis, any sudden reduction of grass intake on a rough day would tip them over. Even if the fat test is ok, an unstable rumen is not desirable. So the amount of grain fed has been reduced by 0.5 kg and little PKE added. Milk solids production has fallen slightly for the week but the hope is that it may become more stable.

The BMCC has fallen from 105 to 95. This time last year it was 113.

The milk price (less compulsory levies) that the MDF anticipates receiving for the week is \$6.72 per kg milk solids, or 55.9 cents per litre. Milk income per cow per day is \$10.44, down from \$10.62, made up of \$3.37 for the fat, \$7.56 for the protein, and minus \$0.49 for the litres. This time last year milk income per cow per day was \$9.30.

Feed cost per cow per day (including pasture and supplements) is down from \$3.40 to \$3.37 per cow per day, leaving a Margin Over All Feed (MOAF) per cow of \$7.06, down from \$7.21 per day. The margin over all feed per hectare is \$25.84. The whole farm feed margin is \$1,886, down from \$1,940 per day. This time last year the whole farm feed margin was \$1,602 per day.

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WEEKLY FEEDING PERFORMANCE	Last Year	Last week	This week	Units
Week to date:	21-May	13-May	20-May	
Milker graze area	69	73	73	ha
Milker nos	263	269	267	head
Stocking rate	3.8	3.7	3.7	cows/ha
Grazing allocation 1/	45	45	45	th of graze area
Average graze rest time	40	38	39	days
Element N/hectare/day	1.5	1.3	1.3	kg element/ha/day
mm irrigation/hectare/day	1.6	0.0	0.0	mm water/ha/day
Estm'd pasture consmp'n (incl cons'vd forage)	34	28	29	kg DM/ha/dy
Pasture consum'd per cow	9.0	7.6	7.8	kg DM/cow/dy
Daily spend / milking ha	\$3.41	\$1.89	\$1.89	\$/ha/day
Estm'd pasture price	\$99	\$68	\$66	\$/T DM
Conc (incl additives)supp fed/cow	6.4	7.7	7.4	kg DM/cow/dy
Hay/silage supp fed/cow	0.0	1.7	1.7	kg DM/cow/dy
PKE supp fed/cow	2.3	0.0	0.2	kg DM/cow/dy
Estim'd supp waste	5%	5%	5%	%
Conc (incl additives)supp avg price	\$280	\$347	\$348	\$/T DM
Hay/silage supp avg price	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$/T DM
PKE supp price	\$228	\$0	\$228	\$/T DM
Total feed intake/cow	17.2	16.4	16.6	kg DM/cow/dy
Estm'd body cond't'n change	0.50	0.20	0.30	kg LWT/cow/dy
Litres/cow	19.2	19.3	18.7	l/cow/day
Fat test	4.27%	4.33%	4.38%	%
Protein test	3.97%	3.87%	3.93%	%
Fat per cow	0.818	0.835	0.819	kg/cow/dy
Protein per cow	0.762	0.747	0.734	kg/cow/dy
MS per cow	1.58	1.58	1.55	kg/cow/dy
Anticipated final milk price (less levies)	\$5.88	\$6.71	\$6.72	\$/kg MS
Anticipated final milk price (/litre)	\$0.485	\$0.550	\$0.559	\$ per litre
Fat return per cow	\$2.94	\$3.43	\$3.37	\$/cow/dy
Protein return per cow	\$6.86	\$7.69	\$7.56	\$/cow/dy
Volume charge per cow	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.49	\$/cow/dy
Milk income/cow	\$9.30	\$10.62	\$10.44	\$/cow/dy
All feed cost/cow	\$3.21	\$3.40	\$3.37	\$/cow/dy
Margin over all Feed/cow	\$6.09	\$7.21	\$7.06	\$/cow/dy
MOAF /ha /day	\$23.22	\$26.58	\$25.84	\$/ha/day
Farm MOAF per DAY	\$1,602	\$1,940	\$1,886	\$/day
MOAF per month	\$48,858	\$59,169	\$57,522	\$/month
Energy density of diet	12.1	11.9	11.9	MJ ME/kg DM
Crude protein % of diet	19.5%	18.8%	19.0%	% CP
NDF Fibre level of diet	34.1%	29.2%	29.9%	% NDF
FCE kg MS per tonne DM food	89	94	91	
Tonne feed /day	4.6	4.1	4.1	tonne DM /day
Milk Return /tonne feed	\$526	\$697	\$677	\$/tonne DM
Average Price of feed	\$182	\$224	\$219	\$/tonne DM
Margin /tonne feed	\$345	\$473	\$458	\$/tonne DM
BMCC	113	105	95	