

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 275 (Week ending Nov 18, 2011)

The Macalister Demonstration Farm is milking 302 cows grazing 70 hectares, a stocking rate of 4.3 cows per hectare. Last year at this time, there were 296 milkers, and the stocking rate was 4.1 cows per hectare. The daily allocation for last week was one 30th of the grazing area, and the actual grazing rest time was 30 days.

October was wetter than last year, 99 mm compared to 78 mm. This November has had 97 mm already; last November totalled 110 mm. Rain for the 12 months to date totals 858 mm (34 inches) and for the same 12 months last year totalled 613 mm (24 inches). Not much irrigation is happening.

Compared to last week, milk production per cow is down from 2.13 to 2.08 kg milk solids (MS) per cow per day. Litres per cow per day are down from 29.0 to 28.0. Milk fat test has risen from 4.03% to 4.11% (fat yield is down from 1.17 to 1.15 kg per cow per day). The protein test has risen from 3.31% to 3.32% (protein yield has fallen from 0.96 to 0.93 kg per cow per day). This time last year, milk production was 27.5 litres, 2.07 kg MS, 1.17 kg fat, and 0.90 kg protein per cow per day. It is estimated that the cow are losing 0.10 kg live weight per cow per day.

The daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is down from 53 to 52 kg dry matter (DM) per hectare per day. The pasture consumption per cow is down from 12.3 to 12.2 kg DM per cow per day. This time last year, pasture consumption was 52 kg DM per hectare per day, and 12.6 kg DM per cow per day.

To get the MDF's pasture consumption into perspective, and to help understand how the district's grass is performing, the Tracker analysis of twenty farms in the MID shows that the pasture consumption for the month to Nov 10 averaged 49.6 kg per hectare per day. A month ago the average was 43.8, and a year ago at this time was 48.5. The highest pasture consumption for the month to Nov 10 for the group was 61.4 kg, and the lowest was 38.2 DM per hectare per day. These numbers include any silage harvested. The monthly average stocking rate for the group averaged 4.1 cows per hectare, with a high rate of 6.4 and a low of 2.8. Pasture per cow averaged 12.1 kg DM per cow per day, with a high of 14.2 and a low of 6.1.

1.2 kg nitrogen element, 0.02 kg potassium, no phosphorus, no irrigation water per hectare per day, no topping, and \$0.19 of pasture renovation, all per hectare per day, have contributed to the current pasture consumption. The daily spend on these pasture inputs is \$2.12 per hectare per day. Based on those cash inputs only, the consumed pasture price is estimated to be \$40 per tonne of dry matter, the same as last week.

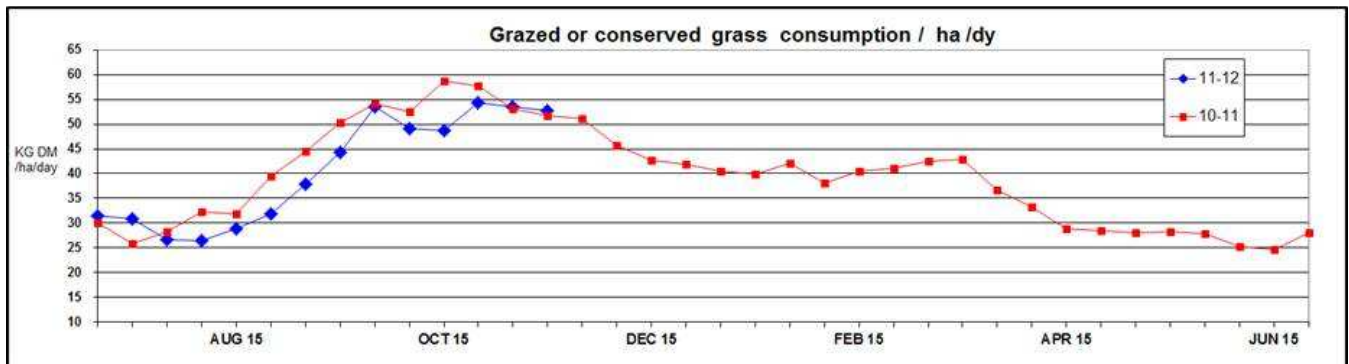
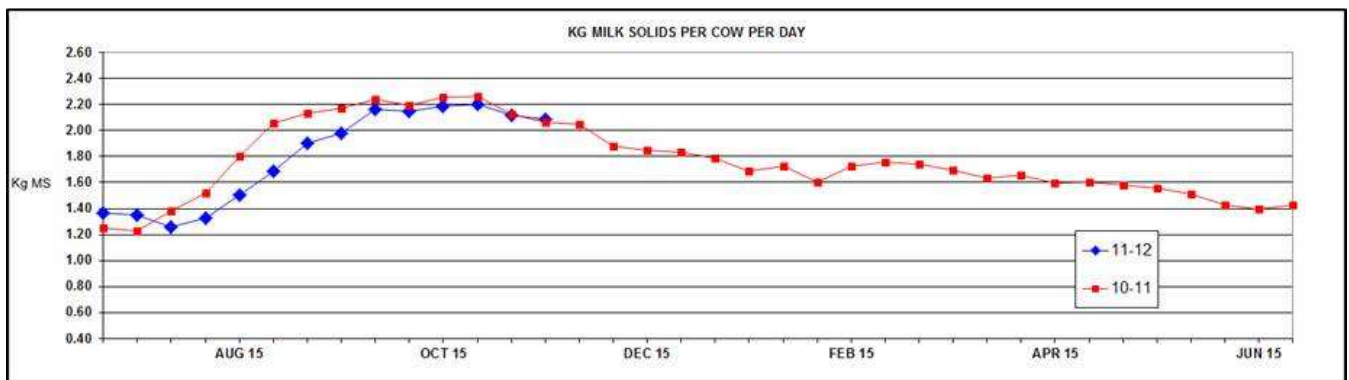
Supplementary concentrates include crushed wheat, and a wheat-canola-mineral mix totalling 5.9 kg DM per cow per day, at an average price of \$321 per DM tonne. The cows missed their access to PKE for a couple of days and averaged 0.1 kg DM per day.

The Bulk Milk Cell Count has risen from 97,000 to 116,000. This time last year the BMCC was 92,000. The average for the period ending 10/11/2011 was 100,000, giving the farm a factory ranking of 14th out of 382 farms.

The milk price (less compulsory levies) that the MDF anticipates receiving for the week's milk is \$4.70 per kg milk solids, or 35.0 cents per litre. Milk income per cow per day is down from \$10.03 to \$9.78, made up of \$3.48 for the fat, \$7.03 for the protein, and minus \$0.73 for the litres. This time last year milk income per cow per day was \$9.94.

Feed cost per cow per day (including pasture and supplements) is down from \$2.45 to \$2.44 per cow per day, leaving a Margin over All Feed (MOAF) per cow of \$7.34, down from \$7.58. The margin over all feed per hectare is \$31.66. The whole farm feed margin is \$2,216, down from \$2,297 per day. This time last year the whole farm feed margin was \$2,001 per day.

Frank Tyndall 0409 940 782 ftyndall@ozemail.com.au



WEEKLY FEEDING PERFORMANCE	Last Year	Last week	This week	Units
Week to date:	19-Nov	11-Nov	18-Nov	
Milker graze area	72	70	70	ha
Milker nos	296	303	302	head
Stocking rate	4.1	4.3	4.3	cows/ha
Grazing allocation 1/	30	31	30	th of graze area
Average graze rest time	27	30	30	days
Element N/hectare/day	1.2	1.2	1.2	kg element/ha/day
mm irrigation/hectare/day	2.0	0.0	0.0	mm water/ha/day
Estm'd pasture consmp'n (incl cons'vd forage)	52	53	52	kg DM/ha/dy
Pasture consum'd per cow	12.6	12.3	12.2	kg DM/cow/dy
Daily spend / milking ha	\$2.97	\$2.12	\$2.12	\$/ha/day
Estm'd pasture price	\$58	\$40	\$40	\$/T DM
Conc (incl additives)supp fed/cow	6.0	5.5	5.9	kg DM/cow/dy
Hay/silage supp fed/cow	0.0	0.3	0.0	kg DM/cow/dy
PKE supp fed/cow	0.0	0.5	0.1	kg DM/cow/dy
Estim'd supp waste	3%	4%	3%	%
Conc (incl additives)supp avg price	\$409	\$325	\$321	\$/T DM
Hay/silage supp avg price	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$/T DM
PKE supp price	\$0	\$289	\$289	\$/T DM
Total feed intake/cow	18.4	18.4	18.1	kg DM/cow/dy
Estm'd body cond'n change	0.00	-0.10	-0.10	kg LWT/cow/dy
Litres/cow	27.5	29.0	28.0	l/cow/day
Fat test	4.27%	4.03%	4.11%	%
Protein test	3.26%	3.31%	3.32%	%
Fat per cow	1.172	1.169	1.150	kg/cow/dy
Protein per cow	0.896	0.958	0.929	kg/cow/dy
MS per cow	2.07	2.13	2.08	kg/cow/dy
Anticipated final milk price (less levies)	\$4.81	\$4.71	\$4.70	\$/kg MS
Anticipated final milk price (/litre)	\$0.362	\$0.346	\$0.350	\$ per litre
Fat return per cow	\$3.66	\$3.53	\$3.48	\$/cow/dy
Protein return per cow	\$7.00	\$7.25	\$7.03	\$/cow/dy
Volume charge per cow	\$0.72	\$0.76	\$0.73	\$/cow/dy
Milk income/cow	\$9.94	\$10.03	\$9.78	\$/cow/dy
All feed cost/cow	\$3.18	\$2.45	\$2.44	\$/cow/dy
Margin over all Feed/cow	\$6.76	\$7.58	\$7.34	\$/cow/dy
MOAF /ha /day	\$27.79	\$32.81	\$31.66	\$/ha/day
Farm MOAF per DAY	\$2,001	\$2,297	\$2,216	\$/day
MOAF per month	\$61,033	\$70,044	\$67,601	\$/month
Energy density of diet	12.1	12.2	12.2	MJ ME/kg DM
Crude protein % of diet	21.2%	20.2%	20.7%	% CP
NDF Fibre level of diet	32.0%	33.3%	32.2%	% NDF
FCE kg MS per tonne DM food	111	114	114	
Tonne feed /day	5.5	5.5	5.5	tonne DM /day
Milk Return /tonne feed	\$535	\$548	\$536	\$/tonne DM
Average Price of feed	\$171	\$134	\$134	\$/tonne DM
Margin /tonne feed	\$363	\$414	\$402	\$/tonne DM
BMCC	92	97	116	

