

## **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 269 (Week ending Oct 7, 2011)**

The Macalister Demonstration Farm is now milking 274 cows, grazing 69 hectares, a stocking rate of 4.0 cows per hectare. Last year at this time, there were 282 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.

The grass is not growing as fast as expected, one reason being the cool weather. The rain meant cows were grazing slightly wet paddocks, and their feet muddying the grass. They were less inclined to graze it well, so along with less grass available, grass per cow has fallen. This is causing the diet to be a bit low in fibre, the cows manure to be sloppy, and the fat test low. Even though we know that there is a high likelihood of causing even less grass available next time, in an effort to hold the grass per cow up for now, we have shortened the grazing rotation more than we would normally.

Compared to last week, milk production per cow is down from 2.18 to 2.13 kg milk solids (MS) per cow per day. Litres per cow per day are up from 28.3 to 28.5. However, milk fat test has fallen from 4.27% to 4.09% (fat yield is down from 1.21 to 1.17 kg per cow per day). The protein test has fallen from 3.43% to 3.37% (protein yield is down from 0.97 to 0.96 kg per cow per day). This time last year, milk production was 30.1 litres, 2.20 kg MS, 1.20 kg fat, and 1.00 kg protein per cow per day. It is estimated that the cow are losing 0.2 kg live weight per cow per day.

The daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is down from 55 to 49 kg dry matter (DM) per hectare per day. The pasture consumption per cow is down from 13.6 to 12.3 kg DM per cow per day. This time last year, pasture consumption was 52 kg DM per hectare per day, and 12.7 kg DM per cow per day.

0.9 kg nitrogen element, 0.07 kg potassium, no phosphorus, 1.5 mm of 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 \$2.47 per hectare per day. Based on those cash inputs only, the consumed pasture price is estimated to be \$50 per tonne of dry matter, up from \$46.

Supplementary concentrates include crushed wheat, and a wheat-canola-mineral mix totalling 5.1 kg DM per cow per day, up from 4.4 kg, at an average price of \$318 per DM tonne. The cows have access to some oaten hay (0.4 kg DM per day) and PKE (0.3 kg DM per day) at the dairy.

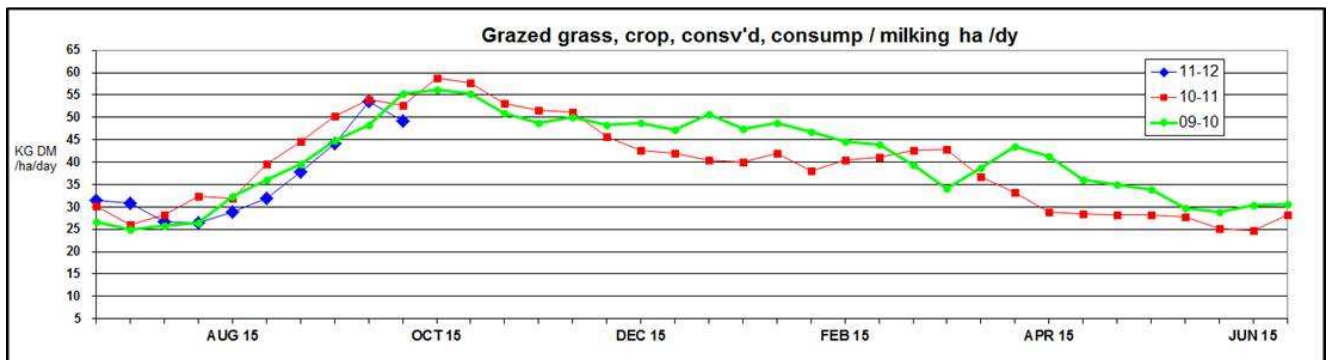
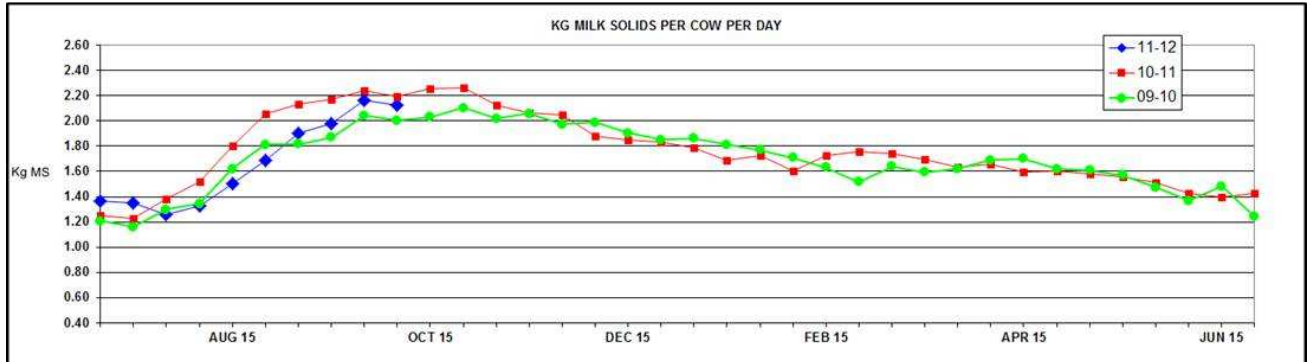
The BMCC has risen from 88,000 to 91,000. This time last year the BMCC was 147,000. In the ten days to the 30<sup>th</sup> Sep the BMCC was 94,000 and the farm was ranked 16<sup>th</sup> out of 386.

The milk price (less compulsory levies) that the MDF anticipates receiving for the week is \$4.94 per kg milk solids, or 36.9 cents per litre. Milk income per cow per day is down from \$10.73 to \$10.53, made up of \$3.68 for the fat, \$7.60 for the protein, and minus \$0.75 for the litres. This time last year milk income per cow per day was \$10.78.

Feed cost per cow per day (including pasture and supplements) is up from \$2.14 to \$2.42 per cow per day, leaving a Margin over All Feed (MOAF) per cow of \$8.11, down from \$8.59 per day. The margin

over all feed per hectare is \$32.44. The whole farm feed margin is \$2,224, up from \$2,189 per day. This time last year the whole farm feed margin was \$2,200 per day.

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WEEKLY FEEDING PERFORMANCE	Last Year	Last week	This week	Units
Week to date:	08-Oct	30-Sep	07-Oct	
Milker graze area	68	63	69	ha
Milker nos	282	255	274	head
Stocking rate	4.1	4.0	4.0	cows/ha
Grazing allocation 1/	36	37	30	th of graze area
Average graze rest time	37	35	30	days
Element N/hectare/day	1.2	0.9	0.9	kg element/ha/day
mm irrigation/hectare/day	2.0	1.5	1.5	mm water/ha/day
Estm'd pasture consmp'n (incl cons'vd forage)	52	55	49	kg DM/ha/dy
Pasture consum'd per cow	12.7	13.6	12.3	kg DM/cow/dy
Daily spend / milking ha	\$3.23	\$2.52	\$2.47	\$/ha/day
Estm'd pasture price	\$62	\$46	\$50	\$/T DM
Conc (incl additives)supp fed/cow	5.9	4.4	5.1	kg DM/cow/dy
Hay/silage supp fed/cow	0.0	0.1	0.4	kg DM/cow/dy
PKE supp fed/cow	0.0	0.3	0.3	kg DM/cow/dy
Estim'd supp waste	3%	3%	4%	%
Conc (incl additives)supp avg price	\$371	\$326	\$318	\$/T DM
Hay/silage supp avg price	\$0	\$216	\$216	\$/T DM
PKE supp price	\$0	\$289	\$289	\$/T DM
Total feed intake/cow	18.4	18.1	17.9	kg DM/cow/dy
Estm'd body cond't'n change	-0.30	-0.20	-0.20	kg LWT/cow/dy
Litres/cow	30.1	28.3	28.5	l/cow/day
Fat test	3.97%	4.27%	4.09%	%
Protein test	3.33%	3.43%	3.37%	%
Fat per cow	1.196	1.210	1.167	kg/cow/dy
Protein per cow	1.002	0.970	0.963	kg/cow/dy
MS per cow	2.20	2.18	2.13	kg/cow/dy
Anticipated final milk price (less levies)	\$4.90	\$4.92	\$4.94	\$/kg MS
Anticipated final milk price (/litre)	\$0.358	\$0.379	\$0.369	\$ per litre
Fat return per cow	\$3.74	\$3.82	\$3.68	\$/cow/dy
Protein return per cow	\$7.83	\$7.66	\$7.60	\$/cow/dy
Volume charge per cow	\$0.79	\$0.74	\$0.75	\$/cow/dy
Milk income/cow	\$10.78	\$10.73	\$10.53	\$/cow/dy
All feed cost/cow	\$2.96	\$2.14	\$2.42	\$/cow/dy
Margin over all Feed/cow	\$7.82	\$8.59	\$8.11	\$/cow/dy
MOAF /ha /day	\$32.16	\$34.51	\$32.44	\$/ha/day
Farm MOAF per DAY	\$2,200	\$2,189	\$2,224	\$/day
MOAF per month	\$67,095	\$66,759	\$67,836	\$/month
Energy density of diet	12.2	12.4	12.4	MJ ME/kg DM
Crude protein % of diet	22.0%	22.2%	21.3%	% CP
NDF Fibre level of diet	31.5%	33.1%	32.4%	% NDF
FCE kg MS per tonne DM food	118	119	118	
Tonne feed /day	5.2	4.7	5.0	tonne DM /day
Milk Return /tonne feed	\$580	\$587	\$581	\$/tonne DM
Average Price of feed	\$159	\$117	\$134	\$/tonne DM
Margin /tonne feed	\$420	\$470	\$448	\$/tonne DM
BMCC	147	88	91	