

Macalister Demonstration Farm, Dairy Australia, Extension Project

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Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 268 (Week ending Sep 30, 2011)

The Macalister Demonstration Farm is now milking 255 cows, grazing 63 hectares, a stocking rate of 4.0 cows per hectare. Last year at this time, there were 262 milkers, and the stocking rate was 4.0 cows per hectare. The daily allocation for last week was one 37th of the grazing area, and the actual grazing rest time was 35 days.

Milk fever has been more common on the farm this year. The calving cows were a bit fatter, some cows approaching condition score 6, but at one stage the minerals in the pellet being fed to the springing cows separated out in the silo.

In a paddock about to be grazed, the average leaf appearance over the period since last grazing has been 12.3 days.

From the Sale-Heyfield Rd can be observed the straightest spinner cuts ever installed, put in with a GPS controlled tractor. Straight is not critical but it does look good.

Compared to last week, milk production per cow is up from 2.03 to 2.18 kg milk solids (MS) per cow per day. Litres per cow per day are up from 25.9 to 28.3. Milk fat test has fallen from 4.36% to 4.27% (fat yield is up from 1.13 to 1.21 kg per cow per day). The protein test has fallen from 3.48% to 3.43% (protein yield is up from 0.90 to 0.97 kg per cow per day). This time last year, milk production was 30.4 litres, 2.27 kg MS, 1.23 kg fat, and 1.04 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 up from 49 to 55 kg dry matter (DM) per hectare per day. The pasture consumption per cow is up from 12.8 to 13.6 kg DM per cow per day. This time last year, pasture consumption was 55 kg DM per hectare per day, and 13.7 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 \$2.52 per hectare per day, up from \$2.26. Based on those cash inputs only, the consumed pasture price is estimated to be \$46 per tonne of dry matter, same as last week.

Supplementary concentrates include crushed wheat, and a wheat-canola-mineral mix totalling 4.4 kg DM per cow per day, at an average price of \$326 per DM tonne. The cows have access to some oaten hay (0.1 kg DM per day) and PKE (0.3 kg DM per day) at the dairy.

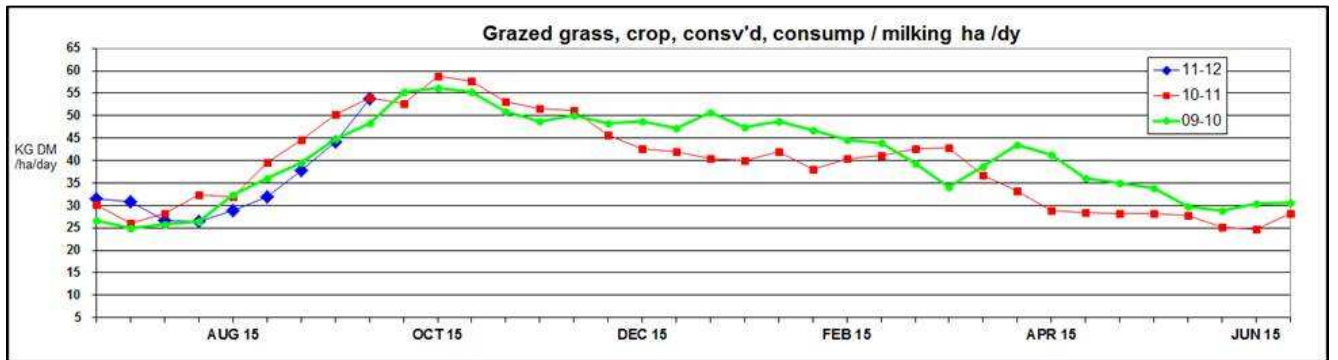
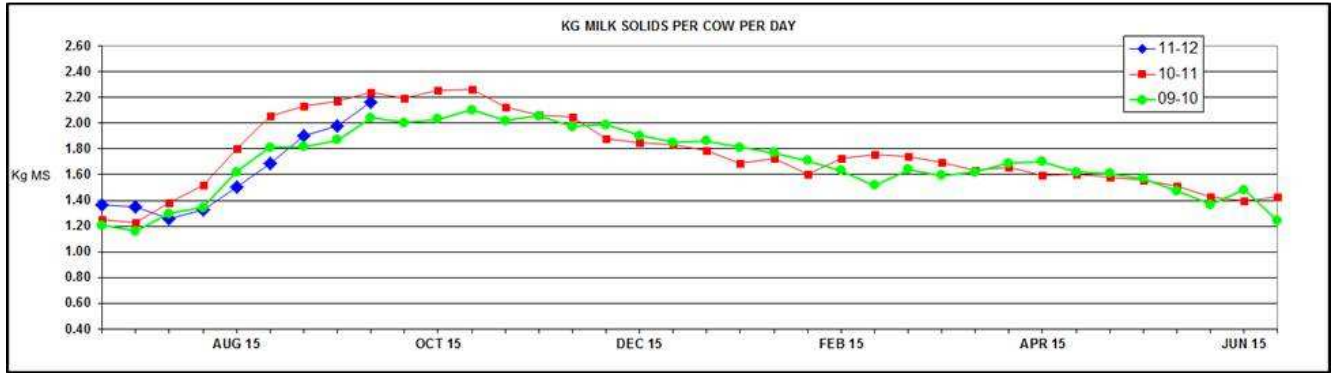
The BMCC has fallen from 130,000 to 88,000. This time last year the BMCC was 100,000.

The milk price (less compulsory levies) that the MDF anticipates receiving for the week is \$4.92 per kg milk solids, or 37.9 cents per litre. Milk income per cow per day is up from \$10.01 to \$10.73, made up of \$3.82 for the fat, \$7.66 for the protein, and minus \$0.74 for the litres. This time last year milk income per cow per day was \$11.16.

Feed cost per cow per day (including pasture and supplements) is up from \$2.11 to \$2.13 per cow per day, leaving a Margin over All Feed (MOAF) per cow of \$8.60, up from \$7.89 per day. The margin over

all feed per hectare is \$34.76. The whole farm feed margin is \$2,190, up from \$1,876 per day. This time last year the whole farm feed margin was \$2,260 per day.

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| WEEKLY FEEDING PERFORMANCE | Last Year | Last week | This week | Units |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Week to date: | 01-Oct | 23-Sep | 30-Sep | |
| Milker graze area | 65 | 63 | 63 | ha |
| Milker nos | 262 | 238 | 255 | head |
| Stocking rate | 4.0 | 3.8 | 4.0 | cows/ha |
| Grazing allocation 1/ | 40 | 40 | 37 | th of graze area |
| Average graze rest time | 42 | 38 | 35 | days |
| Element N/hectare/day | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.9 | kg element/ha/day |
| mm irrigation/hectare/day | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.5 | mm water/ha/day |
| Estm'd pasture consmp'n (incl cons'vd forage) | 55 | 49 | 55 | kg DM/ha/dy |
| Pasture consum'd per cow | 13.7 | 12.8 | 13.6 | kg DM/cow/dy |
| Daily spend / milking ha | \$2.67 | \$2.26 | \$2.52 | \$/ha/day |
| Estm'd pasture price | \$48 | \$46 | \$46 | \$/T DM |
| Conc (incl additives)supp fed/cow | 5.1 | 4.2 | 4.4 | kg DM/cow/dy |
| Hay/silage supp fed/cow | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.1 | kg DM/cow/dy |
| PKE supp fed/cow | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | kg DM/cow/dy |
| Estim'd supp waste | 3% | 4% | 3% | % |
| Conc (incl additives)supp avg price | \$367 | \$337 | \$326 | \$/T DM |
| Hay/silage supp avg price | \$0 | \$216 | \$216 | \$/T DM |
| PKE supp price | \$0 | \$0 | \$289 | \$/T DM |
| Total feed intake/cow | 18.7 | 17.3 | 18.1 | kg DM/cow/dy |
| Estm'd body cond't'n change | -0.30 | -0.20 | -0.20 | kg LWT/cow/dy |
| Litres/cow | 30.4 | 25.9 | 28.3 | l/cow/day |
| Fat test | 4.04% | 4.36% | 4.27% | % |
| Protein test | 3.41% | 3.48% | 3.43% | % |
| Fat per cow | 1.231 | 1.131 | 1.210 | kg/cow/dy |
| Protein per cow | 1.038 | 0.902 | 0.970 | kg/cow/dy |
| MS per cow | 2.27 | 2.03 | 2.18 | kg/cow/dy |
| Anticipated final milk price (less levies) | \$4.92 | \$4.92 | \$4.92 | \$/kg MS |
| Anticipated final milk price (/litre) | \$0.367 | \$0.386 | \$0.379 | \$ per litre |
| Fat return per cow | \$3.85 | \$3.57 | \$3.82 | \$/cow/dy |
| Protein return per cow | \$8.11 | \$7.12 | \$7.66 | \$/cow/dy |
| Volume charge per cow | \$0.80 | \$0.68 | \$0.74 | \$/cow/dy |
| Milk income/cow | \$11.16 | \$10.01 | \$10.73 | \$/cow/dy |
| All feed cost/cow | \$2.54 | \$2.11 | \$2.13 | \$/cow/dy |
| Margin over all Feed/cow | \$8.62 | \$7.89 | \$8.60 | \$/cow/dy |
| MOAF /ha /day | \$34.77 | \$29.77 | \$34.76 | \$/ha/day |
| Farm MOAF per DAY | \$2,260 | \$1,876 | \$2,190 | \$/day |
| MOAF per month | \$68,929 | \$57,213 | \$66,792 | \$/month |
| Energy density of diet | 12.2 | 12.3 | 12.4 | MJ ME/kg DM |
| Crude protein % of diet | 22.3% | 21.1% | 22.2% | % CP |
| NDF Fibre level of diet | 32.6% | 33.0% | 33.1% | % NDF |
| FCE kg MS per tonne DM food | 120 | 116 | 119 | |
| Tonne feed /day | 4.9 | 4.1 | 4.7 | tonne DM /day |
| Milk Return /tonne feed | \$592 | \$573 | \$587 | \$/tonne DM |
| Average Price of feed | \$135 | \$121 | \$117 | \$/tonne DM |
| Margin /tonne feed | \$457 | \$452 | \$470 | \$/tonne DM |
| BMCC | 100 | 130 | 88 | |