

Macalister Demonstration Farm

Projects on the farm are funded by Genetics Australia with support provided by GippsDairy

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update (Week ending 17th January 2014)

The MDF is now milking 275 cows with 272 in the vat. There were three cows culled for low production recently.

The daily allocation to milkers is at 3ha/24 hours and therefore the round length for milkers is at 24 days over the full farm. The extreme heat has impacted on production at the time of preparing this report, with production holding reasonably steady for the past month, albeit with the inclusion of some Vetch hay to make up for slight pasture deficit.

The cows are being fed 6kg/cow/day as fed Pasture Optimiser pellets (12.8MJ) and grass at a cost of \$365/t or 40.5/kgDM. Vetch is being fed at one square bale per day or 1.8kgDM/cow at a cost of \$265/t or 31.2c/kgDM.

Milk production per cow is now at 22.8 litres and solids at 1.67 kg MS/cow/day. Milk components are at a 3.95% fat and 3.38% protein. Fat has dropped slightly with the heat and protein is holding.

Daily pasture consumption from the grazing area is now at 2420 kg DM /day with the milkers consuming 8.8kg DM per cow per day. On 73ha in the rotation, this equates to a growth rate of 33kgDM/ha/24 hours to hold cover.

The milk price on the components is \$6.00/kg milk solids or 44 c/litre factoring in the 18c fat/38c protein stepup announced just prior to Christmas. This increased the price by around 2c/standard litre (4.15% fat and 3.3% protein), and the remaining price increase was the approximate 2.5c/standard litre increase from December to January from seasonal incentive. The back pay was worth \$12,773 plus GST to the farm.

Gross milk income per cow per day is \$10.03 /cow/day. Supplementary feed cost \$2.76/cow/day (concentrates and Vetch), leaving an Income Over Supplementary Feed Cost (IOSFC) of \$7.27/cow/day or 16.5 net litres/cow/day, or \$1977/day for the farm. With pasture consumed calculated at 14c/kgDM, the daily net margin after supplements and pasture is \$6.04/cow, slightly higher than a month ago due to higher milk price, slightly less pasture intake, slightly higher supplement amount but at a slightly lower price.

Nitrogen is following milkers at 1kgN/ha/24 hours, as 80kg/ha urea.

Flood irrigation is taking place about every 10 days, and the fixed sprays every second night to deliver 16mm.

Bulls will be taken out around 20th January.

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