

Macalister Demonstration Farm

Projects on the farm are funded by GippsDairy, HICO and Genetics Australia

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 406 (Week ending July 17th , 2015)

What's been going on at the MDF?

The MDF staff have been busy preparing for the new season, with cleaning up taking place as well as some repairs and maintenance and cleaning of drains, culverts and other areas. The aim will be to have the farm all prepared for the start of calving on 10th August, although one heifer and one cow have already calved last week.

There are 65 cows in the vat, with 10 about to be dried off. The late calvers and carryovers are being milked through, with excellent pasture cover and good margins being made at the moment (see below).

	Litres	Solids
Production	14.6	1.41
Components %	5.4%,4.24%	5.4%,4.24%
Milk price on current test (July)	54.4c	\$5.63
Gross milk income less levies	\$7.94	\$7.94
Minus 4kg wheat no additive (\$335/t)	\$1.34	\$1.34
IOSFC (\$/cow/day)	\$6.60	\$6.60
Net production	12 litres	1.17kg

There are 130 cows on agistment until next week, and the remaining 75 dries remain on the farm with the rising two year olds that are close to the point of calving. These heifers have been fed through the dairy at 2kg wheat to accustom them to the process of milking and feeding and they have settled in nicely. They are in excellent condition.

Allocation remains around 1.2ha/24 hours in total for milkers, heifers and dry cows, or a 60-70 day round. Grain intake will remain at 4 kg straight crushed wheat. The dries and rising two year olds are being fed hay at around 5kgDM/cow/day but this varies slightly with pasture intake.

Residuals on the milker paddocks are being closely monitored and any longer residuals are being cleaned up with the dry cows.

Pasture cover has increased slightly to around 1930kgDM/ha, and so growth rate has slightly exceeded eat rate, or 15kg/ha/day, with an estimated pasture growth rate over the past two weeks of 20kgDM/ha/day average across the farm, with some areas closer to 30kg/ha/day and others at 10kg/day, but much close to 20kg/ha/day.

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