

## Macalister Demonstration Farm

### Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 437 (Week ending December 2, 2016)

*What's been going on at the MDF?*

The herd now totals 320 cows, with 8 sold last week. Pasture quality is now beginning to impact, and topping is planned to start from now. There will be a need for a round of quite aggressive topping to ensure quality holds into late December with the onset of summer pasture varieties. The cool weather through October and most of November held ryegrass heading at bay, but this has now all happened at once and quality is starting to fall as a result. Urea continues to be spread at 80kg/ha. Pasture cover is at 1903kgDM/ha measured. At a similar time last year (17/12/16) it was 1920kg. Millet sown into paddock 31 and paddock 33 with resown Crusader should be available for grazing in next week or two. Significant establishment of poor summer species has taken place in 33. This will need spraying again prior to sowing permanent in 2017 spring, and due to this being the dormant time, may strengthen a case to keep it in biannual ryegrass for a few more chances at spraying.

Will look to increase grain by 1kg over the next month to deal with quality issues into summer. Facial eczema additive pellet to be added from mid-Jan.

50 calves left for agistment on 30/11 and a further 25 before Christmas. Cow condition score: very good, at 4.5 or just under. Appearance very good.

Production up year to date compared with last year: YTD milk solids 58,939kg to 29/11, LYTD 53,910kgMS to 29/11.

MACALISTER DEMONSTRATION FARM	Farm Location: Maffra		
Description: The MDF is located at Maffra in Gippsland Victoria in the Macalister Irrigation District. The farm has a milking area of 73 ha and is fully irrigated.	Two weeks ago	2/12/2016	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	328 herd and 318 vat	320 herd and 320 vat	
Cow production/day	26.5	24.3	litres
Fat %	3.96	4.3	%
Protein %	3.36	3.4	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.94	1.75	kgMS
BMCC	233,000	185,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	3.96	3.96	kgDM/day
Cost of concentrate (barley last fortnight, now wheat)	\$0.29	\$0.29	c/kg DM
Additive (mineral)	0.18c	0.18c	c/cow
Cost of hay	0	0	c/kgDM
Silage	0	0	kgDM/day
Cost of silage			c/kgDM
Pasture demand	13.38	13	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day)	64.4	58	kg DM/ha/day

Area in rotation (ha)	68.1	69	ha
Rotation length milkers (days)	27	23	days
Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	2.5	3	ha
<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			
Milk Price (on current tests)	\$4.34	\$4.31	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	31.75	33.1	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$8.42	\$7.54	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$1.33	\$1.33	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$7.09	\$6.21	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$33.11	\$28.80	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	22.3	18.7	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost		1.82	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost		14	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$7.09	\$4.39	\$/cow/day