

Macalister Demonstration Farm

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 439 (Week ending December 30, 2016)

What's been going on at the MDF?

Well here we are with the final MDF report for 2016, and what a year it was. Let's hope 2017 brings with it good seasonal conditions and a profitable milk price.

Milk production at the MDF, like many farms, has fallen away somewhat over the past two weeks with litres dropping by about 3L/cow on average (0.3kg MS/cow), largely due to the hot weather we have been experiencing, and also pasture quality challenges at this time of year. This drop in production has impacted heavily on the net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture, reducing it by more than \$1/kg MS.

Fat and protein tests have been quite variable over the past two weeks, with fat ranging from 3.8% to 4.25%, and protein 3.24% to 3.48%. At the time of preparing the table below, the tests were at the lower end of this range. Cell count has been hovering around the 200,000 mark.

The main activity on the farm at the moment is irrigation. The millet crop is due to be grazed by the 5th January.

Pregnancy testing will take place at the end of January, 6 weeks after the end of AI.

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	30/12/2016	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	312 herd and 309 vat	310 herd and 310 vat	
Cow production/day	24.3	20.2	litres
Fat %	3.88	3.81	%
Protein %	3.47	3.26	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.78	1.43	kgMS
BMCC	148,000	226,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	4.05	4.05	kgDM/day
Cost of concentrate (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	12	10.2	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day)	57	44.2	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	70.4	70.4	ha
Rotation length milkers (days)	24	26	days
Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	3	2.75	ha

<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			
Milk Price (on current tests)	\$4.38	\$4.33	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	32.2	30.62	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$7.80	\$6.19	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$1.35	\$1.35	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$6.45	\$4.84	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$28.31	\$21.31	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	20.1	15.8	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	1.68	1.43	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost	14	14	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$4.77	\$3.41	\$/cow/day