

Macalister Demonstration Farm

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 448 (Week ending May 5, 2017)

What's been going on at the MDF?

The final pregnancy test was done on May 1, which saw a final result of 89% of cows in calf – a fantastic result for the farm. Achieving such a high number of cows in calf is a key driver of profit, setting the farm up well to achieve targets for next season.

There are a number of other measures which provide further insight into the success of the mating period. These are detailed below:

- ✓ 21 day submission rate: 90% (target 90% and above)
- ✓ 1st service conception rate: 50% (target 55% and above, however this result is well above district average)
- ✓ 6-week in-calf rate: 61% (above district average)
- ✓ 50% of cows in calf by day 23 of mating

The total number of empty cows was 32, and of these 16 have already been sold, reducing herd numbers to 276. The remaining 16 empty cows will either be sold or carried over. If they are sold, they will be replaced by purchasing 12 cows to bring total number of cows to be calved to 340.

Dry off will begin about June 10th and 140 cows will leave the farm for agistment on 21st June. Remaining cows will be dried off according to expected calving dates. Cows will be dried off with Juraclox Dry Cow and Teat Seal.

All paddocks are now in rotation and rotation length has been extended out to about 38 days. This has been achieved through a reduction in cow numbers and increased silage feeding from 2 to 4 rolls per day. This has significantly reduced the pasture demand in recent weeks and is allowing a feed wedge to be built up and maintained in preparation for calving.

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	05/05/2017	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	292 herd and 286 vat	276 herd and 275 vat	
Cow production/day	16.7	17.7	litres
Fat %	4.21	3.90	%
Protein %	4.15	4.11	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.39	1.42	kgMS
BMCC	268,000	164,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	6.3	5.85	kgDM/day
Cost of concentrate (wheat)	\$0.27	\$0.27	c/kg DM
Additive (mineral)	0.20c	0.20c	c/cow
Cost of hay	0	0	c/kgDM

Silage	2.0	4.3	kgDM/day
Cost of silage	0.17c	0.17c	c/kgDM
Pasture demand	6.3	5.0	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day)	28	19	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	65	73	ha
Rotation length milkers (days)	32	38	days
Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	2	1.8-2	ha
<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			
Milk Price (on current tests)	\$5.21	\$5.30	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	43.6	42.5	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$7.24	\$7.53	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$2.24	\$2.51	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$5.00	\$5.02	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$22.00	\$18.91	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	11.6	11.8	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	\$0.88	\$0.70	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost	14	14	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$4.12	\$4.32	\$/cow/day