

Macalister Demonstration Farm

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 446 (Week ending April 7, 2017)

What's been going on at the MDF?

Last fortnight we reported a drop in per cow production which we attributed largely to the weather conditions being hot and humid. Production has recovered this fortnight and is now back to where it was a month ago (1.57kg MS/cow). This would suggest that the weather certainly was the most likely cause of the drop in production, with the past two weeks being somewhat more 'autumn like'.

Re-sow paddocks are coming along nicely and will be sprayed for weeds around the time of first grazing.

Year to date production remains well up on last year as at 7th April:

	Litres	Fat kg	Protein kg
2015/16	1,478,370	61,258	52,909
2016/17	1,575,468	66,251	55,444

On a daily basis, production is also significantly up on this time last year, particularly for litres and protein kg, whereas total fat kg are tracking much closer to last year as a result of lower fat % compared with this time last year. The lower fat % is a short term trend and is not reflected across the whole season.

Net margin today is almost \$1.00/kg MS greater than a fortnight ago, which is a direct result of both the increased production from similar inputs, and of even greater influence, the higher milk price reflecting increasing autumn incentives as we moved into April.

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	07/04/2017	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	294 herd and 288 vat	292 herd and 286 vat	
Cow production/day	18.0	19	litres
Fat %	4.10	4.18	%
Protein %	3.90	4.08	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.44	1.57	kgMS
BMCC	247,000	206,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	5.85	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	1.5	1.5	kgDM/day

Cost of silage	0.17c	0.17c	c/kgDM
Pasture demand	9	9.8	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day)	40	44	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	65	65	ha
Rotation length milkers (days)	26	29	days
Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	2.5	2.25	ha
<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			
Milk Price (on current tests)	\$4.91	\$5.20	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	39.3	42.9	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$7.07	\$8.16	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$2.04	\$2.04	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$5.03	\$6.12	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$22.28	\$26.93	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	12.8	14	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	1.26	1.37	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost	14	14	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$3.77	\$4.75	\$/cow/day