

Macalister Demonstration Farm

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 442 (Week ending February 10, 2017)

What's been going on at the MDF?

Production remained steady this fortnight, with cows holding well around 1.6kg MS/cow/day. Feed rate remained the same at 6kg/cow as fed.

February production is tracking above February 2016 by about 40-80kg MS per day. Looking back through the archive of fortnightly reports it is interesting to see that two years ago in February 2015, the herd was producing almost exactly the same at 1.66kg MS/cow/day at a fat test of 4.3% and protein of 3.55% and litres at 21.1L/cow/day. However, that is where the similarities end. Today, we have a net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture of \$4.49/cow/day, down \$1.61/cow/day from \$6.10/cow/day in 2015. This was despite higher grain prices back then of around \$0.35/kg DM at a time when the herd was transitioning from pellets to crushed wheat. The feed rate was also slightly higher at 6.4kg/cow as fed.

Plans are on track for autumn re-sows. Paddocks have been sprayed out and will be sown by the end of this month.

The effluent pond has been emptied and applied to three paddocks.

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	10/02/2017	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	309 herd and 300 vat	294 herd and 294 vat	
Cow production/day	21.3	20.8	litres
Fat %	4.3	4.32	%
Protein %	3.5	3.5	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.66	1.63	kgMS
BMCC	196,000	275,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	5.4	5.4	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	11.3	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day)	50	50	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	70.4	66	ha
Rotation length milkers (days)	23	24	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)	\$4.69	\$4.69	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	36.0	36.0	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$7.67	\$7.64	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$1.57	\$1.57	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$6.10	\$6.07	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$25.99	\$27.04	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	16.6	16.4	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	1.68	1.58	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost	14	14	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$4.42	\$4.49	\$/cow/day