

## Macalister Demonstration Farm

### Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 451 (Week ending June 16, 2017)

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

The MDF is winding down for the 2016/17 season, with 110 cows being dried off on the 16<sup>th</sup> June, and another 30 to be dried off on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June. These 140 cows will leave the farm and go to agistment on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June. This will leave 110 cows remaining in the milking herd which will be dried off in mid July. Net margin after supplements is significantly higher than last fortnight, due to a lot of the lower producers being dried off resulting in an increase in average cow production per day of 0.44kgMS, combined with the removal of silage from the diet, hence a reduction in the cost of 'supplementary feeding'.

As this report has been done in the middle of drying off a significant number of cows, some of the calculations are somewhat 'moving targets'. The diet of the milkers has changed over the past week with the last of the silage being fed out. They are now on pasture and grain only.

In preparation for the upcoming season, the 68 in-calf heifers will be returning to the farm from agistment on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June. Following their return, they will be introduced to the dairy where they will be fed 1kg of grain per day to make their entrance into the milking herd and the dairy environment less stressful following calving, and to prepare them for the a diet of pasture and grain. The heifers are due to start calving from August 1<sup>st</sup>, and will also be fed hay between now and 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	16/06/2017	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	266 herd and 266 vat	140 herd and 140 vat	
Cow production/day	16.	21.5	litres
Fat %	4.17	4.14	%
Protein %	4.09	4.27	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.36	1.8	kgMS
BMCC	185,000	212,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	6.3	5.85	kgDM/day
Cost of concentrate (wheat)	\$0.27	\$0.27	c/kg DM
Additive (Performer ME-125 with virginiamycin momensin plus Calciprill)	0.25c	0.25c	c/cow
Cost of hay	0		c/kgDM
Silage	3.6		kgDM/day
Cost of silage	0.17c		c/kgDM
Pasture demand	4.0	10.3	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day)	14.6	19.75	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	73	73	ha
Rotation length milkers (days)	38	73	days

Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	1.8-2	1.0	ha
<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			
Milk Price (on current tests)	\$5.37	\$5.43	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	44.3	45.6	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$7.30	\$9.77	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$2.56	\$1.83	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$4.74	\$7.94	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$17.27	\$15.23	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	10.6	17.5	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	0	0	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost	14	14	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$4.74	\$7.94	\$/cow/day