

## Macalister Demonstration Farm

### Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 449 (Week ending May 19, 2017)

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

The MDF is currently in excellent shape, exemplified by strong performance across the board in all areas which are key drivers of profitability – milk production, feed inputs, pasture management, irrigation and joining. The management team have continued to achieve high levels of profitable milk production, to a point where milk production year to date (YTD) will exceed last season's total within the next 10 days.

Cow condition is excellent at around 4.75-5, right on target for dry off.

Pasture cover is the same at May last year, estimated at 1920kgDM/ha. Declining growth rates are being managed by current rotation length of 38 days preceding the departure of 140 dry cows from the farm in about a month, following which rotation length will be further extended.

The fodder provisions for coming months have been secured, with 40t of dry cow hay on hand for cows that remain on the farm, plus oaten hay for calving cows, while 98 rolls of silage remain, which will last through until 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Urea will continue to be applied following grazing, and the rate will increase from 80 to 90kg/ha. It appears that there may be some potassium deficiencies becoming apparent in some paddocks, however soil tests have been taken so no decisions will be made or action taken until test results are available.

Planning is taking place with regards to next season's budget, with consideration given to factoring in pastures that will require renovation, and any required repairs and maintenance on the farm.

Irrigation has ceased in the past week hence 'cost of irrigated pasture' is no longer included in the fortnightly calculations.

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	19/05/2017	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	276 herd and 275 vat	276 herd and 276 vat	
Cow production/day	17.7	18.0	litres
Fat %	3.90	4.05	%
Protein %	4.11	4.10	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.42	1.48	kgMS
BMCC	164,000	177,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	5.85	6.3	kgDM/day
Cost of concentrate (wheat)	\$0.27	\$0.27	c/kg DM
Additive (Performer ME-125 with virginiamycin momensin plus Calciprill)	0.20c	0.25c	c/cow

Cost of hay	0	0	c/kgDM
Silage	4.3	3.6	kgDM/day
Cost of silage	0.17c	0.17c	c/kgDM
Pasture demand	5.0	5.0	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day)	19	19	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	73	73	ha
Rotation length milkers (days)	38	38	days
Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	1.8-2	1.8-2	ha
<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			
Milk Price (on current tests)	\$5.30	\$5.30	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	42.5	42.5	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$7.53	\$7.84	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$2.51	\$2.56	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$5.02	\$5.28	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$18.91	\$19.96	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	11.8	12	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	\$0.70	0	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost	14	14	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$4.32	\$5.28	\$/cow/day