

Macalister Demonstration Farm

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 443 (Week ending February 24, 2017)

What's been going on at the MDF?

Production is still holding well with cows producing around 1.6kg MS/cow/day. Silage has been used strategically where required, when pasture quantity or quality is insufficient. This has only been required once or twice over a week, and therefore the cost of silage has not been factored into this fortnight's report. Topping is still happening as required, but this is decreasing.

The first pregnancy test has been done on the herd, with a result of 71% in calf after the first 6 weeks of AI – a pleasing result. A second preg test will be done in mid April. Bulls will be taken out of the herd on 28th February.

The three re-sow paddocks are on schedule and are being sown to Matrix, direct drilled at 25kg/ha. These are the three paddocks that were spread with effluent 2 weeks ago. Urea will be applied once pastures are sufficiently established. The millet paddock will be sprayed out on Monday 27th Feb, effluent spread on it on Wednesday 1st March as part of effluent field day to be held at MDF, then paddock will be sown to annual Winter Star.

It was calculated that to keep irrigating up to the end of April, a further 40-50 ML would be required. As a result, 40 ML was purchased on Friday at \$110/ML.

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	24/02/2017	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	294 herd and 294 vat	294 herd and 290 vat	
Cow production/day	20.8	20.5	litres
Fat %	4.32	4.48	%
Protein %	3.5	3.73	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.63	1.68	kgMS
BMCC	275,000	185,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	5.4	5.4	kgDM/day
Cost of concentrate (wheat)	\$0.29	\$0.27	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	11.3	11.6	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day)	50	51	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	66	67	ha
Rotation length milkers (days)	24	24	days
Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	2.75	2.75	ha

<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			
Milk Price (on current tests)	\$4.69	\$4.73	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	36.0	38.8	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$7.64	\$7.95	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$1.75	\$1.64	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$5.89	\$6.31	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$26.24	\$27.31	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	15.9	16.3	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	1.58	1.62	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost	14	14	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$4.31	\$4.69	\$/cow/day