

Macalister Demonstration Farm

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 445 (Week ending March 24, 2017)

What's been going on at the MDF?

The past two weeks have seen a drop in production, which may be attributed to the hot and particularly humid days we have been getting, but also possibly a decrease in pasture quality in some paddocks. Pasture cover over the farm is excellent, averaging 2030kgDM/ha, however between paddocks the quality varies somewhat, with some paddocks dominated by poor quality summer species, while others remain ryegrass dominant. Urea continues to be applied at 80kg/ha.

Rotation length is currently 26 days, but is being pushed out to 35 days (2ha/24hr). This is being achieved initially by increasing silage feeding, but will also be aided by a reduction in herd numbers. The final pregnancy test will take place soon, following which decisions on culling will be made based on pregnancy status, age of cows, production level, or any other issues (temperament, mastitis etc.). Up to 30 more cows may be culled between now and the end of May, however total herd numbers will remain above 260.

Cow condition is sitting at around 4.5, with an aim of increasing this by .25 to .5 between now and the start of dry off which is 10 weeks away.

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	24/03/2017	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	294 herd and 288 vat	294 herd and 288 vat	
Cow production/day	19.5	18.0	litres
Fat %	4.13	4.10	%
Protein %	3.88	3.90	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.57	1.44	kgMS
BMCC	226,000	247,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	5.4	5.85	kgDM/day
Cost of concentrate (wheat)	\$0.27	\$0.27	c/kg DM
Additive (mineral)	0.18c	0.20c	c/cow
Cost of hay	0	0	c/kgDM
Silage	0	1.5	kgDM/day
Cost of silage	0	0.26c	c/kgDM
Pasture demand	10.8	7.5	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day)	49	34	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	65	65	ha
Rotation length milkers (days)	24	26	days
Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	2.75	2.5	ha
<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			

Milk Price (on current tests)	\$4.90	\$4.91	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	39.3	39.3	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$7.69	\$7.07	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$1.64	\$2.04	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$6.05	\$5.03	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$26.81	\$22.28	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	15.3	9.6	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	1.51	1.26	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost	14	14	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$4.54	\$3.77	\$/cow/day