

## Macalister Demonstration Farm

### Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 460 (Week ending October 20, 2017)

What's been going on at the MDF?

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	20/10/2017	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	335 herd 323 vat	335 herd 324 vat	
Cow production/day	25.8	26.2	litres
Fat %	4.15	3.73	%
Protein %	3.32	3.29	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.93	1.84	kgMS
BMCC	190,000	191,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	4.05	4.05	kgDM/day
Cost of concentrate (wheat)	\$0.30	\$0.30	c/kg DM
Additive (Performer ME-125 with virginiamycin momensin plus Calciprill)	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 (milkers)	12.6	12.3	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day) (all stock on farm)	80	88	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	53	47	ha
Rotation length (days)	27	22-25	days
Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	2 milkers	Approx.. 2	ha
<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			
Milk Price (on current tests)	\$4.53	\$4.56	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	33.9	32.04	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$8.74	\$8.39	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$1.22	\$1.22	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$7.52	\$7.17	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$45.80	\$49.42	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	22.2	22.4	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	\$1.51	\$1.48	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost	\$0.12c	\$0.12c	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$6.01	\$5.69	\$/cow/day

This fortnight we report on the results of the Spring sowing that has been done at the MDF. In total, 6.8ha were 'topped up' and another 7ha were fully renovated.

The 6.8ha consisted of four paddocks which needed to be bulked up a bit. Three of these were sown on 18<sup>th</sup> August, and the fourth was sown on 6<sup>th</sup> September. These paddocks were all direct drilled with Aston, an Italian ryegrass which is characterised by fast establishment and high yields. The result of this has been very pleasing with excellent establishment and growth, and these paddocks have already had their first grazing.

The remaining 7ha was a full renovation, which saw the subsurface irrigation area sprayed out before being direct drilled with Matrix at a rate of 25kg/ha on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. This area is proving slower to germinate and establish due to the reliance on natural rainfall to trigger germination, as moisture from above is required for germination rather than coming from below the soil surface. At present, this area is germinating, but it is somewhat patchy.

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