

Macalister Demonstration Farm

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 461 (Week ending 3rd November, 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	03/11/2017	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	335 herd 324 vat	324 cows herd 322 vat	
Cow production/day	26.2	25.4	litres
Fat %	3.73	3.75	%
Protein %	3.29	3.26	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.84	1.78	kgMS
BMCC	191,000	167,000	
<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)	12.3	12.0	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day) (all stock on farm)	88	83	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	47	47	ha
Rotation length (days)	22-25	24	days
Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	Approx. 2	2	ha
<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			
Milk Price (on current tests)	\$4.56	\$4.55	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	32.04	31.91	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$8.39	\$8.10	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$1.22	\$1.22	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$7.17	\$6.88	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$49.42	\$47.14	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	22.4	21.6	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	\$1.48	\$1.44	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost	\$0.12c	\$0.12c	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$5.69	\$5.44	\$/cow/day

It's that busy and all-important time of the year again - time to get the cows back in calf! The mating program at the MDF started with pre-mating heat detection from the 1st of October, a good three weeks prior to mating start date. This allowed plenty of time to consciously observe the herd and detect any non-cycling cows by the beginning of the mating period, therefore allowing treatment of these cows as early as possible and first submission well within the AI period. Heat detection was done by the dairy operators using the aid of tail paint.

Mating started on 26th October and about 5-6 days after this, any cows that had not yet cycled were put onto a CIDR program to be submitted for fixed time AI. This process is now underway and there are 58 non-cycling cows currently on this program, who will be AI'd on Saturday 11th November.

As with the pre-mating heat detection, tail paint is used throughout the mating period to detect heat, and an AI technician performs inseminations once per day. The length of the AI period will most likely be 6 weeks, following which a mix of Jersey and Friesian lease bulls will be used to 'mop up' for 6 weeks or more.

In addition to the main herd, 72 heifers which are away on agistment have been mated for next season. They were joined on a fixed time AI program on 18th October using conventional semen from high fertility bulls, and then followed up with natural bulls.

In other news, finally there has been some rainfall at the MDF with 40mls falling since the previous report. This has boosted pasture growth, and in addition 7ha has just been done for silage.

Allison Potter & Matt Harms

ONFARM Consulting

0408 311 118