

Macalister Demonstration Farm

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 470 (Week ending 13th April, 2018)

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.	Last fortnight	13/4/18	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	305	300	
Cow production/day	18	16.7	litres
Fat %	4.2	4.15	%
Protein %	3.8	3.93	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.44	1.35	kgMS
BMCC	280,000	230,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	6.8	6.8	kgDM/day
Cost of concentrate (wheat)	\$0.308	\$0.31	c/kg DM
Additive (Performer ME-125 with virginiamycin momensin plus Calciprill and high Zinc)	32	15	c/cow
Cost of hay	0		c/kgDM
Silage	0	0.7	kgDM/day
Cost of silage per kg DM	\$0.22	\$0.22	c/kgDM
Pasture demand (milkers)	8.8	6	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day) (all stock on farm)	38	25.3	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	68	71	ha
Rotation length (days)	35	36	days
Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	1.9	2	ha
<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			
Milk Price (on current tests)	\$5.53	\$5.79	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	44.3	46.8	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$7.96	\$7.82	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$2.41	\$2.41	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$5.55	\$5.41	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$23.19	\$22.23	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	12.5	11.6	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	\$1.06	\$0.72	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost per kg	\$0.12	\$0.12	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$4.49	\$4.69	\$/cow/day

Key issues on the farm:

Rotation length has started to slow and will push out to 40 days or more in around 10 day's time. Silage feeding will ramp up accordingly. Body condition is considerably lower than where we are wanting it, and the aim will be to lift it by at least $\frac{1}{2}$ condition score by dry off, in two months. This requires additional feed inputs, and this will be the role of the silage. Allocation will tighten to put us on a 40 day round (1.8ha/day maximum) and 4-5 rolls per day of silage will be fed. We feel that grain is at the safe maximum upper limit and therefore we will not use additional grain as the tool to provide additional feed intake. Numbers may reduce slightly after the second pregnancy test this week, although we will only be looking to drop around 10 cull cows. We are aiming to have numbers at around 340 at the start of the next season, so with only around 65 heifers to calve, we don't want to reduce numbers too early and be caught short.

Some pastures have been developing rust with the warmth and humidity and a round length above 30 days. This should reduce with cooler temperatures. Urea continues to be applied and will increase slightly to 90kg/ha with a slowing round length.

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