

Macalister Demonstration Farm

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 473 (Week ending 11th May, 2018)

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 month	11/5/18	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	300	298 (295 in vat)	
Cow production/day	16.7	16.4	litres
Fat %	4.15	4.15	%
Protein %	3.93	4.0	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.35	1.34	kgMS
BMCC	230,000	240,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	6.8	6.8	kgDM/day
Cost of concentrate (wheat)	\$0.31	\$0.33	c/kg DM
Additive (Performer ME-125 plus Calciprill)	15	15	c/cow
Cost of hay			c/kgDM
Silage	0.7	4.0	kgDM/day
Cost of silage per kg DM	\$0.22	\$0.22	c/kgDM
Pasture demand (milkers)	6	2.5	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day) (all stock on farm)	25.3	10.3	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	71	73	ha
Rotation length (days)	36	40	days
Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	2	1.8	ha
<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			
Milk Price (on current tests)	\$5.79	\$6.83	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	46.8	55.7	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$7.82	\$9.15	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$2.41	\$3.27	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$5.41	\$5.88	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$22.23	\$23.76	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	11.6	10.6	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	\$0.72	\$0.30	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost per kg	\$0.12	\$0.12	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$4.69	\$5.58	\$/cow/day

The sharp increase in milk price is since the 1st May with the takeover by Saputo and the payment of the back pay for milk supplied July 2017-October 2017 and the 'feed-in' of the loyalty payment of \$0.40/kgMS paid in August on all milk supplied in the 2017/18 season. This has meant the margin per cow has increased dramatically and is now in line with suppliers to other processors this season.

The pasture consumed figure is based on the back calculation and does not allow for weight gain. We have been chasing significant increases in body condition over the last month and next month prior to dry off. This is being done by feeding the silage and a reasonable allocation of pasture. Typically we would like to see round length increasing further from 40 days to 50 days over the next month, but we feel this would be at the expense of production and body condition as cow intake would be lower. We are attempting to strike the balance between money (and body condition) in the bank now, and a feed wedge for winter. The agistment for dries is not likely to go ahead as it has for the past four years, and so cows will be wintered at home. This will increase pressure to grow feed but also to avoid pasture damage. The cash impact will be minimal (hay will be bought rather than agistment and freight) but there will be significantly higher management impact and possibly a large impact on the pasture wedge at calving. If things are tight, we have the ability to sell empty cows a bit earlier than the last three years to lighten the load.

Resows have all been grazed once. Urea is being spread at 65kg/ha and has now had a form of Gibberellic acid included to boost pasture heading in to winter. We end the irrigation season with about 100ML water on hand as of 10th May, with good falls predicted this weekend. Fingers crossed particularly for dryland farmers in the East and South East of Gippsland and those with dry blocks.

Matt Harms

ONFARM Consulting

0408 311 118