

Macalister Demonstration Farm

Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 456 (Week ending August 25th, 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	25/8/17	
<u>Production</u>			
Cow numbers (herd and vat)	107 milkers		
Cow production/day	15.0	20.6	litres
Fat %	4.1%	3.98%	%
Protein %	3.85%	3.62%	%
Kg milk solids/cow /day	1.2	1.56	kgMS
BMCC	205,000	222,000	
<u>Grazing and Feeding</u>			
Concentrates	3.6	3.6	kgDM/day
Cost of concentrate (wheat)	\$0.32	\$0.32	c/kg DM
Additive (mineral)	\$0.18c	\$0.18	c/cow
Cost of hay	0	0	c/kgDM
Silage	0	0	kgDM/day
Cost of silage	0	0	c/kgDM
Pasture demand (milkers)	11.4	11.4	kg DM/cow/day
Pasture demand (kgDM/ha/day) (total of all stock on the farm)	27	41	kg DM/ha/day
Area in rotation (ha)	58	58	ha
Rotation length milkers (days)	73	48	days
Grazing Area (ha per 24 hours)	0.7 milkers	1.2 milkers	ha
<u>Daily Income over Supplementary Feed Costs (IOSFC)</u>			
Milk Price (on current tests)	\$4.75	\$4.65	\$/kg milk solids
Milk Price	37.7	35.4	c/litre
**Income/cow	\$5.70	\$7.25	\$/cow/day
Supplementary Feed Cost/cow	\$1.11	\$1.33	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/cow	\$4.59	\$5.92	\$/cow/day
IOSFC/milking ha	\$6.73	\$18.98	\$/ha/day
Net litres/cow	12.2	16.7	Litres/day
Irrigated pasture cost	0	0	\$/cow/day
Irrigated pasture cost	\$0.14	\$0.14	c/kg DM
Net margin after supplements and irrigated pasture	\$4.59	\$5.92	\$/cow/day

- 64 Dry cows are getting around 3kgDM pasture and 6kgDM dry cow hay;
- 46 Springers are getting ad lib oaten hay, strip of pasture and 3kg lead feed pellets;
- Grass cover immediately in front of milkers is very good, with around 10 days of very good pasture available. The farm had 30mm rain 10 days ago, and this will assist growth over the next couple of weeks. Urea is being applied behind the cows at 80kg/ha. There will be PKS fertiliser applied to areas of the milking area that were showing signs of being at, or at the

lower end of Fert\$mart satisfactory from the soil tests taken in autumn. This will be done over the next four weeks.

- There have been around 10 milk fever cases and most of these were with the burst of wet weather when drinking from the water trough slowed up/stopped, so no MagC was being delivered.
- There have been three paddocks resown under the fixed lateral area. They were hard grazed, and then drilled at 25kg/ha Aston Ryegrass (mid-late heading Tetraploid) biannual, with 100kg/ha DAP. This was done on 24th August. There will be a further 7ha on sub-surface drip paddocks sprayed this week and drilled to permanent ryegrass (probably Matrix as it has performed well on the farm). This area is unable to be cultivated or heavily disturbed and will be the first time it has been resown since it was originally sown after installation of the system many years ago.

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