

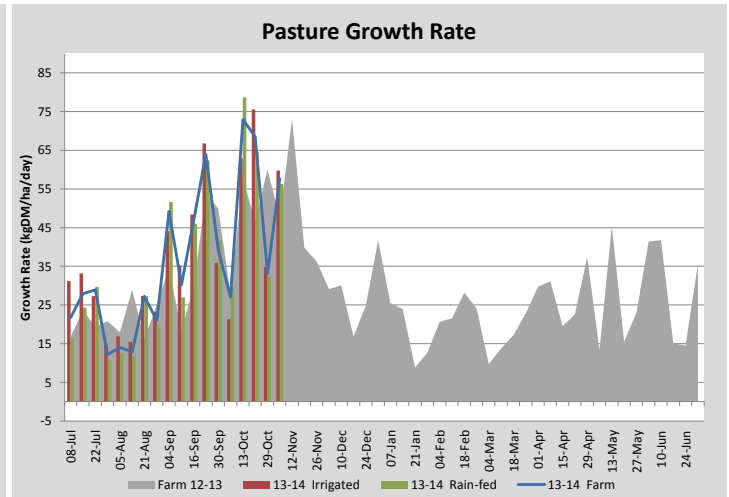
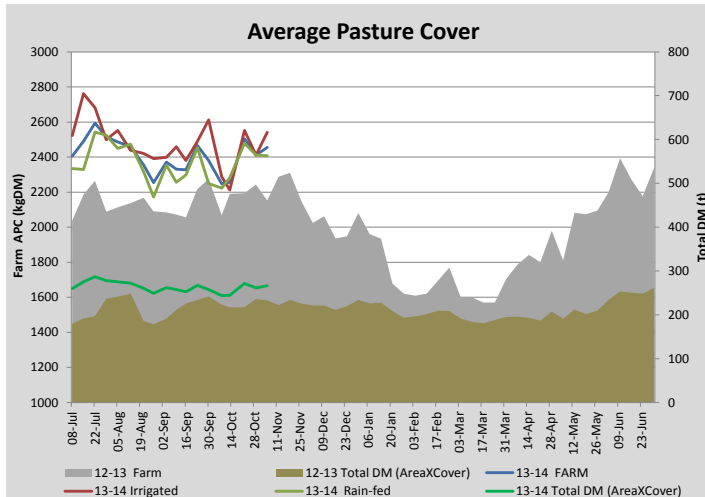
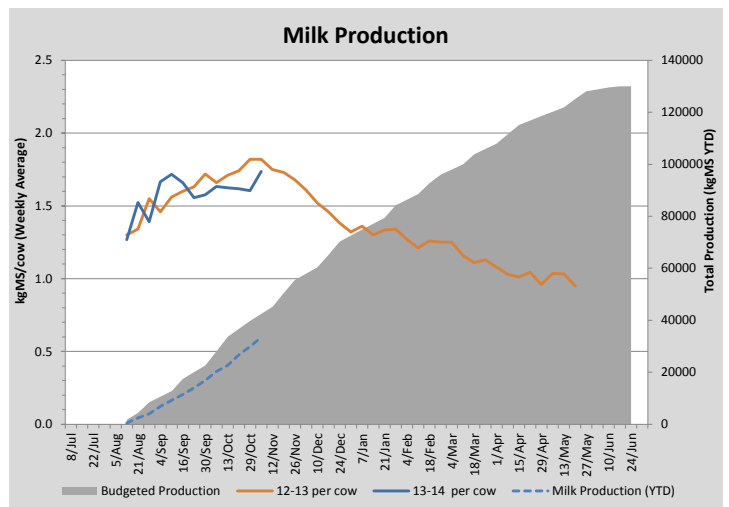
Key Summary Points

- 1** The average pasture cover has been maintained over the past week with growth rates increasing over the previous week's measurements.
- 2** Post grazing residuals are higher than target (1600 kg DM/ha) and a proportion of the herd is being returned to paddocks to manage this.
- 3** Silage has been cut on the run-off area and urea will be applied to get as much regrowth as possible while there is still adequate soil moisture.

PASTURE INFORMATION	Farm			Irrigated			Rain-fed		
	Last Week	This Week	Variation	Last Week	This Week	Variation	Last Week	This Week	Variation
Grazed milking area (ha)	108.4	108.4	0.0	38.9	38.9	0.0	69.5	69.5	0.0
Rotation Length (days)	31	29	-2	18	32	14	51	27	-24
Grazing allocation per day (ha)	3.5	3.8	0.3	2.2	1.2	-1.0	1.4	2.6	1.2
Average time since last grazed (days)	31	27	-4	38	26	-12	27	27	0
Leaf appearance rate (days per leaf)	12	13	1	12	13	1	12	13	1
Average Pasture Cover (kgDM/ha)	2411	2455	44	2411	2541	130	2411	2408	-4
Pasture Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	33	58	24	35	60	25	32	56	24
Post Grazing Biomass (kgDM/ha)	1552	1735	183						
Nitrogen applied YTD (kgN/ha)	21	34	13	0	12	12	0	14	14

*Please note all pasture calculations detailed above are based on the current Grazed Milking Area

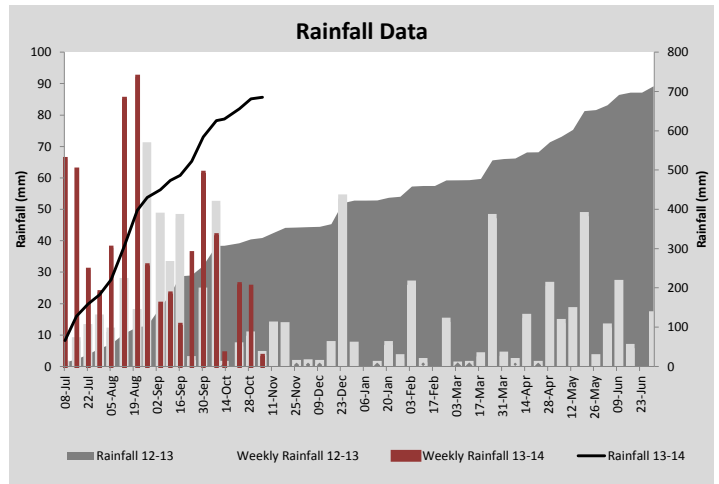
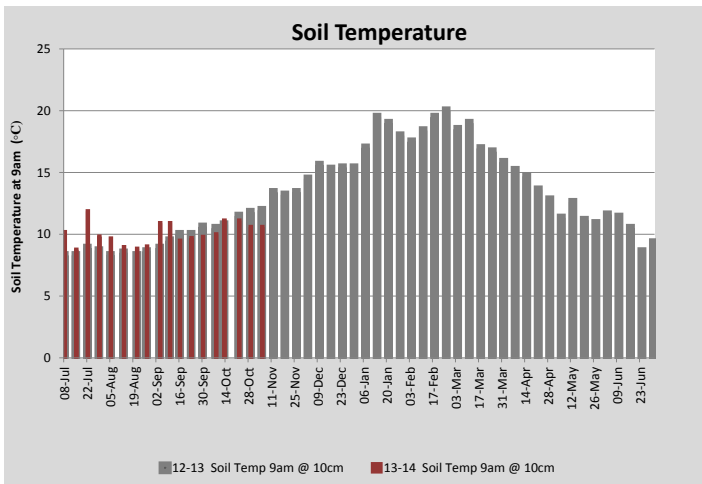
MILK PRODUCTION	Last Week	This Week	Variation
Average No cows in milk (vat)	316	318	2
Litres per cow	23.0	24.7	1.7
% Fat	3.95	3.89	-0.05
% Protein	3.14	3.13	-0.01
MS/cow/day	1.61	1.74	0.13
MS/ha/day	4.49	4.89	0.40
BMCC	221	179	41
Average Liveweight (kg)	466	476	10
	Budget	To Date	Variation
Total Milk Production (kgMS)	42,454	33,432	79%
MS/ha YTD	379	326	-53



Last 7 days					
Milkers Diet	kg DM	MJ ME	CP (%)	NDF (%)	\$/cow
Pasture Intake	15.6	11.4	19.9	48.1	0.0
Concentrates	4.0	12.3	12.3	16.5	0.0
Silage	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grazed forage	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other feeds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	19.6	226.8	18.3	41.7	0
Target	191	16-18	>33	0	0



Variable rate irrigation (VRI) on the centre pivot allows sprinklers to be automatically switched off over wet areas of the farm.



Analysis			
Expected growth rate next 7 days (kgDM/ha/day)	60	Target Leaf Grazing Stage	2.0
Total Demand from Pasture (kgDM/ha/day)	47	Predicted APC 7 days time	2544
APC balance (kgDM/ha/day)	13	Predicted APC Change	88.8

Discussion

The average pasture covers stayed at about the same level over this week. This is providing enough feed for the cows but surplus has been slow to develop and as yet, no silage has been cut on the milking area. Residuals have increased above the target of 1600 kg DM/ha over this week. A proportion of the herd is being sent back to re-graze paddocks in order to reduce this to the target level again. Seventeen hectares of the run-off area was cut for silage producing 174 bales which is approximately 2.3 tonnes DM/ha. Urea will be applied to this area in order to grow as much pasture as possible while there is still adequate soil moisture.

Milk solid production to date is lower than at the same time last year despite having a higher average pasture cover this season. While we don't know for certain the reasons for this, there are a few factors that we feel have probably contributed to this. Firstly, the seasonal conditions. While the temperature has been fairly mild through winter and into spring which has maintained pasture growth rates and resulted in the higher pasture cover – there have been a lot of overcast/rainy days this season which can impact on the energy levels of pasture – so while there may be more pasture available, the energy that the cows are obtaining from this is lower. In the pasture analysis that we have undertaken in September and October, the energy levels were 11.5 MJ metabolisable energy (ME) when during spring, you could expect them to be 12 MJ ME or above. Secondly, there has been a higher incidence of mastitis and high somatic cell count cows than normal and this has led to a larger amount of unsaleable milk which is not included in the milk production data in this report. The third reason is the trial work that is undertaken at TDRF, in particular this season, setting-up for the milk response trial of More Milk From Forages. This requires a specific third of the milking platform to be available over a set two week period and to achieve this, it sometimes means that best practice can't be adhered to and cows may not be fed to their production potential in order to ensure that paddocks are available for trial work. TDRF is first and foremost a research facility and this sometimes impacts negatively (and sometimes positively) on farm production.

5 November 2013

