

18/03/2024	Week 38	Farmlet 1	Farmlet 2	Farmlet 3	Farmlet 4				
# Cows		29	29	29	22				
SR (Cows/ha)		3.94	3.94	3.94	2.99				
Pasture species		Perennial ryegrass & White clover	Perennial ryegrass & White clover	Perennial ryegrass & White clover & Plantain	Mixed Species				
Nitrogen (kg N/ha.year)		300	150	150	0				
Daily Production									
		Per ha	Per cow	Per ha	Per cow	Per ha	Per cow	Per ha	Per cow
Litres		104.6	27.5	93.8	24.7	101.6	26.3	70.7	24.8
Protein (kg)		3.8	1.00	3.6	0.94	3.7	0.96	2.8	0.96
Fat (kg)		4.7	1.24	4.2	1.12	4.6	1.19	3.4	1.20
Milk Solids (kg)		8.5	2.24	7.8	2.05	8.3	2.15	6.2	2.16
Production to Date									
		Per ha	Per cow	Per ha	Per cow	Per ha	Per cow	Per ha	Per cow
Protein (kg)		888	225	877	222	884	224	679	227
Fat (kg)		1091	277	1067	271	1060	269	819	274
Milk Solids (kg)		1978	502	1944	493	1943	493	1498	501
Pasture Performance									
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha.day)		90		75		80		72	
Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)		2281		2202		2158		2141	
Milking Cows Intake (kg DM/cow.day)									
Pasture		13.9		13.4		13.5		17.1	
Concentrates		4.0		4.0		4.0		4.0	
Silage		3.5		3.5		3.3		0.0	
Other Supplements		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0	
Total Intake		21.3		20.9		20.9		21.0	
Nitrogen use									
		This Period	Season	This Period	Season	This Period	Season	This Period	Season
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)		8	218	0	125	0	125	0	0

Comments

Milk production is decreasing in-line with expectations for this point in the lactation. Average cow body condition score is slowly increasing across all the farmlets. Farmlet 1 is just under BCS 4.5 with all the other farmlets slightly above BCS 4.5.

Pasture growth is slowing with shorter day-length and cooler temperatures. The rotation is 24 days and continues to be slowed (target over next two weeks is 30 days). This is being done with the use of silage but grain will also be increased up to 6 kg as required to meet target intakes for the cows. Pregnancy testing has been conducted and the discussion of when to cull empty cows from each of the farmlets will be ongoing based on the pasture growth rate and availability of other feed. There has been only a small amount of rainfall over the past month so irrigation water is quite limited. The amount of water being applied continues to be reduced based on evapotranspiration rates to maximise water use efficiency and conserve water.

There is still evidence of some army worm in the pasture but the numbers are now low and not having a significant impact on pasture growth.

The amount of milk urea nitrogen (MUN; amount of nitrogen measured in the milk) has spiked over the past month. This is believed to be due to the high amount of clover in the pasture contributing to the cows consuming higher amounts of nitrogen. Because of the high amount of nitrogen in the soil/pasture at the moment, and because farmlets 2 and 3 are getting close to reaching their maximum amount of nitrogen, nitrogen applications on these two farmlets have been stopped. This will allow the pasture to make maximum use of the nitrogen being produced by the clover and allow for a round of nitrogen later in the season.

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