TIA Dairy Research Facility Weekly Report 16 July 2012

Week 3

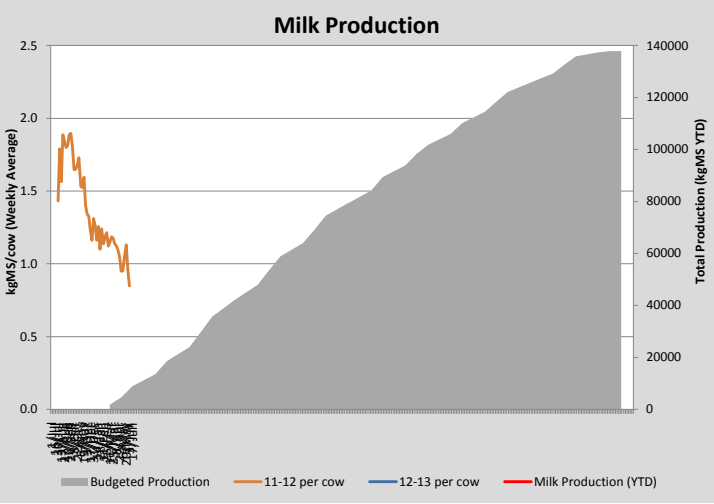
Key Summary Points

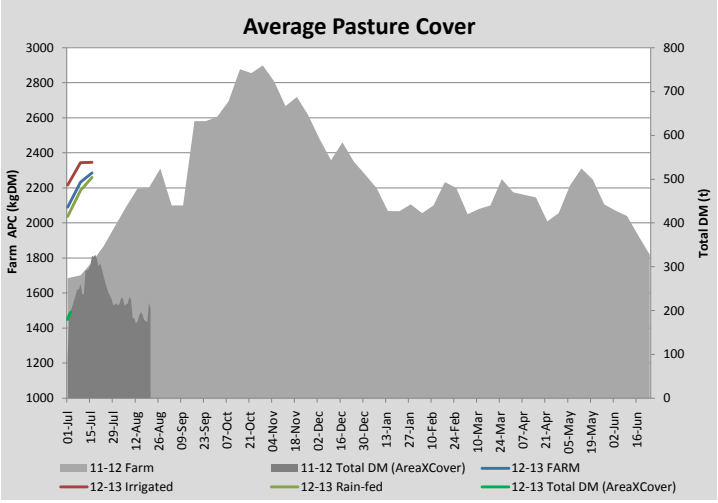
1	We have experienced very good growth rates over the last two weeks helped by warmer and drier conditions than this time last year (see soil temperature and rainfall graphs)
2	Average covers have picked up to almost 2300 kgDM/ha across 76% of the milking area (overall average including new grass trial paddocks is around 2050 kgDM/ha). We expect to reach 2100-2150 kgDM/ha overall average cover by the start of calving on 1 August.
3	Average cow condition is sitting at 5.2 with a good spread between 4.5 and 5.5

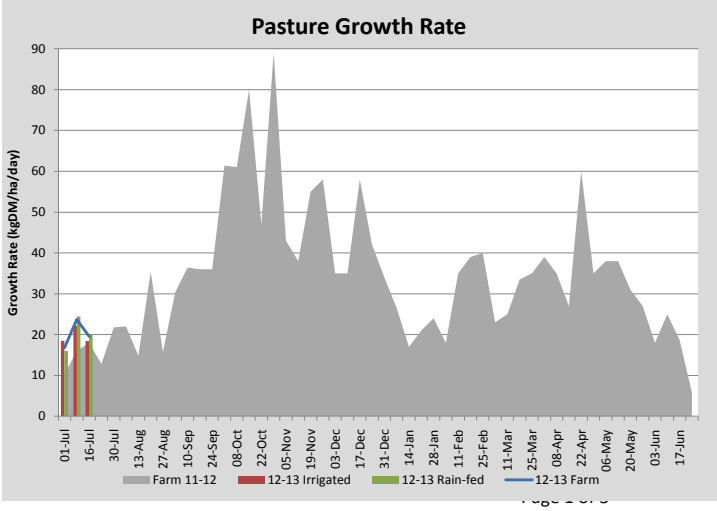
PASTURE INFORMATION	Farm			Irrigated			Rain-fed		
	Last Week	This Week	Variation	Last Week	This Week	Variation	Last Week	This Week	Variation
Grazed milking area (ha)	85.8	85.8	0.0	60.5	60.5	0.00	25.3	25.3	0.00
Rotation Length (days)	780	245		#N/A	133		550	378	
Grazing allocation per day (ha)	0.1	0.4	0.24	0.0	0.2	0.19	0.1	0.2	0.05
Average time since last grazed (days)	71	69	-2	71	68	3	71	70	-1
Leaf appearance rate (days per leaf)	23	20	-3	24	20	-4	23	20	-3
Average Pasture Cover (kgDM/ha)	2233	2286	53	2344	2346	2	2186	2260	74
Pasture Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	24	20	-4	22	18	-4	24	20	-4
Post Grazing Biomass (kgDM/ha)	1350	1450	100						
Nitrogen applied YTD (kgN/ha)	29	0	-29	22	0	-22	7	0	-7

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

MILK PRODUCTION	Last Week	This Week	Variation
No cows in milk	0	0	0.00
Litres per cow	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
% Fat	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
% Protein	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
MS/cow/day	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
MS/ha/day	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
BMCC	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
Average Liveweight (kg)			
	Budget	To Date	Variation
Total Milk Producton (kgMS)	0	#N/A	#N/A
MS/ha YTD	0	#N/A	#N/A







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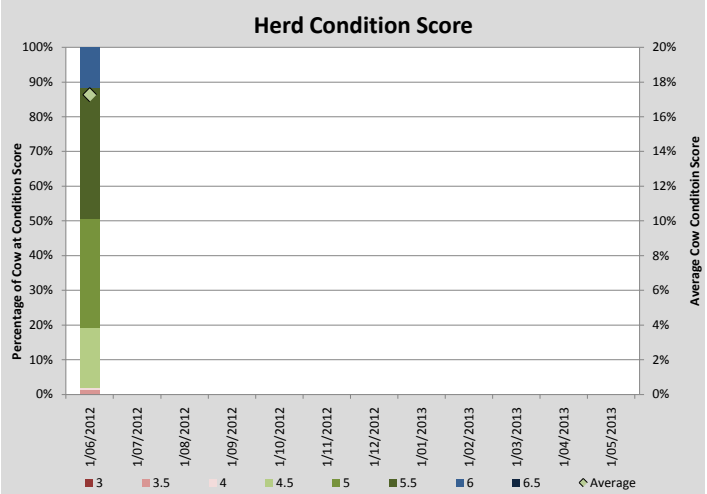
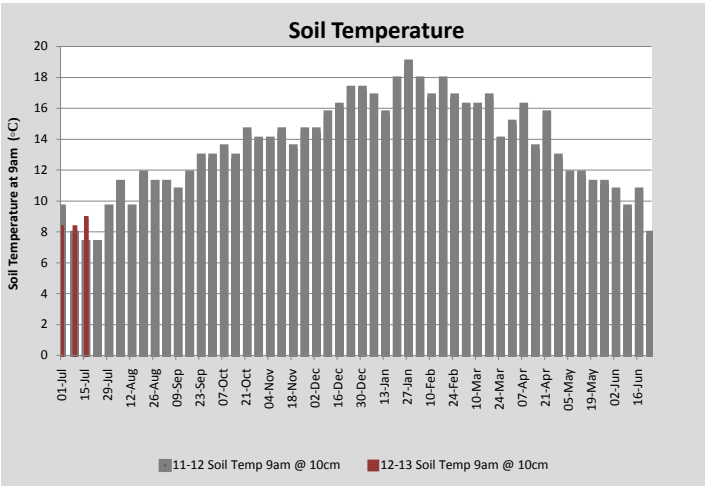
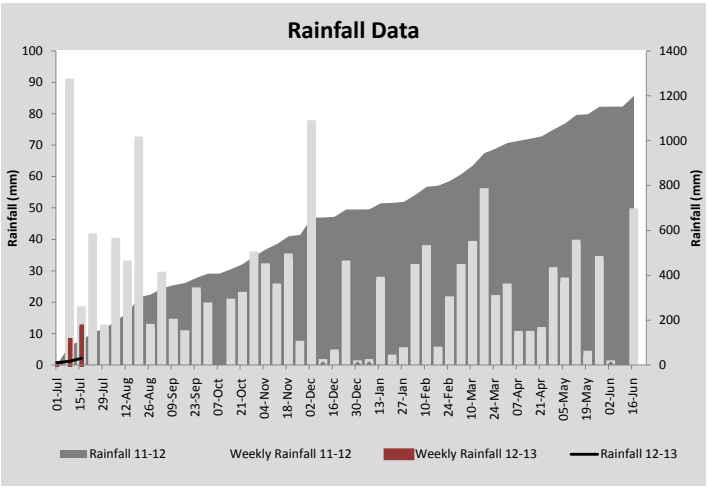
Milkers Diet	kg DM	ME	CP	NDF	$/cow
Pasture Intake	0	0	0	0	0
Concentrates	0	0	0	0	0
Silage	0	0	0	0	0
Grazed forage	0	0	0	0	0
Other feeds	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Target	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**







Analysis			
Expected growth rate next 7 days (kgDM/ha/day)	15	Target Leaf Grazing Stage	2.5
Total Demand from Pasture (kgDM/ha/day)	7.0	Predicted APC 7 days time	2316
APC balance (kgDM/ha/day)	8	Predicted APC Change	56.0

Discussion

Our winter crop of gruner kale has worked well and allowed us to effectively feed a large number of cows on a small area, thereby compensating for having 25% of the milking platform out of the rotation as new grass. Our 8ha of crop planted in early March on the runoff part of the farm yielded just over 8tDM/ha on average. We have estimated the cost of growing this crop at between 11-14c/kgDM utilised (depending on how much value you put on time spent irrigating it up and what figures you put on lost grass growth etc). One of the key benefits has been being able to manage cows in the wet without damaging pastures. This crop is now finished, however most of our cows will remain on the runoff platform for the next two weeks to try and build covers as much as possible on the milking platform. The main exception is our heifers (130) which are now on the milking platform and are due to calve from 1 August. Most of these were synchronised and mated to AI meaning we expect a tight calving pattern for this group. Good pasture growth rates have been achieved the last two weeks. From the feedwedge you can see a number of paddocks without any growth. These are explained by either having been grazed by cows (46&36) or for the remainder either wallaby grazing pressure or cocksfoot dominant paddocks where winter growth is extra slow, or a combination of both.

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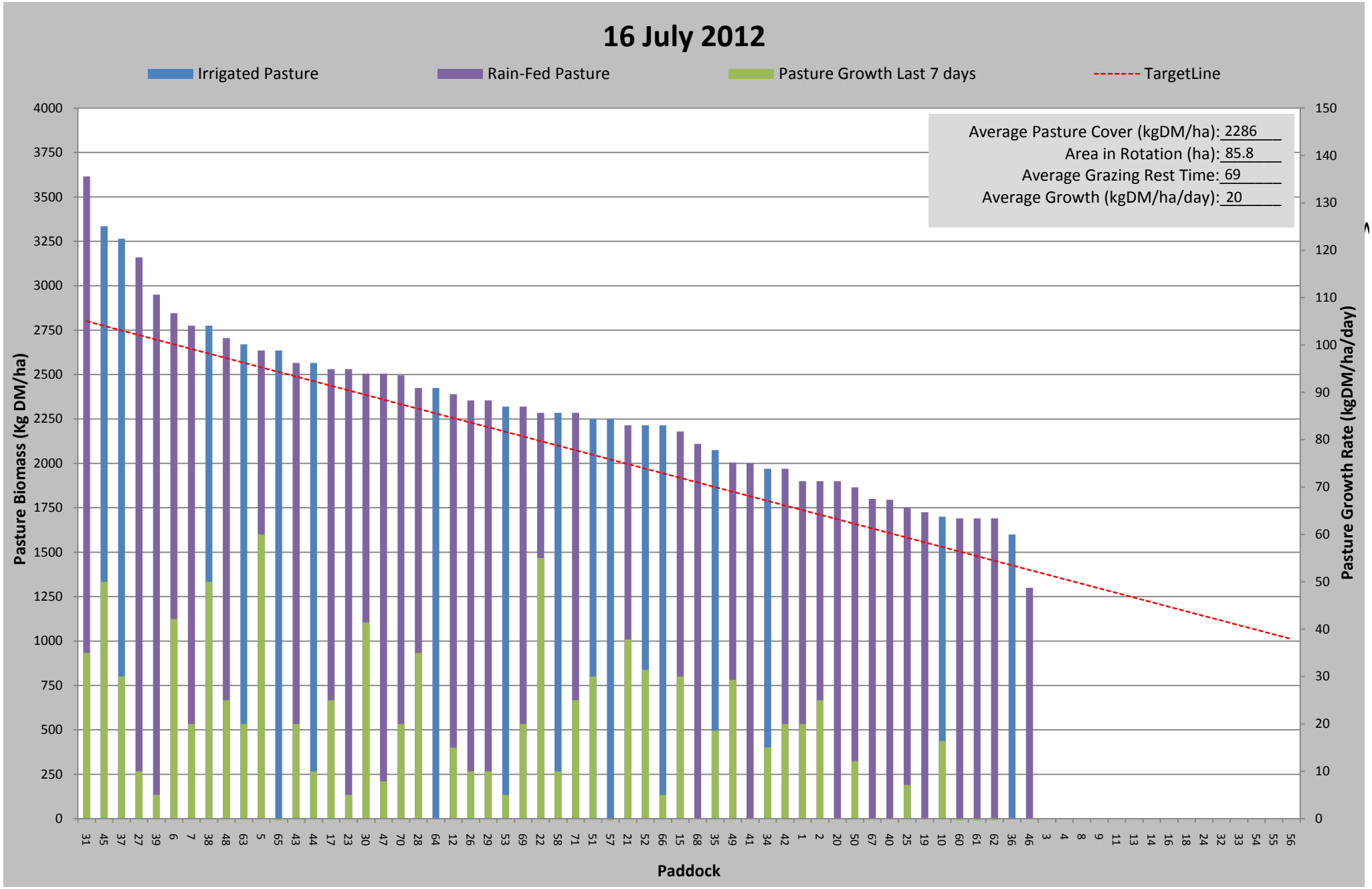

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