TIA Dairy Research Facility Weekly Report 31 March 2014

Report 39

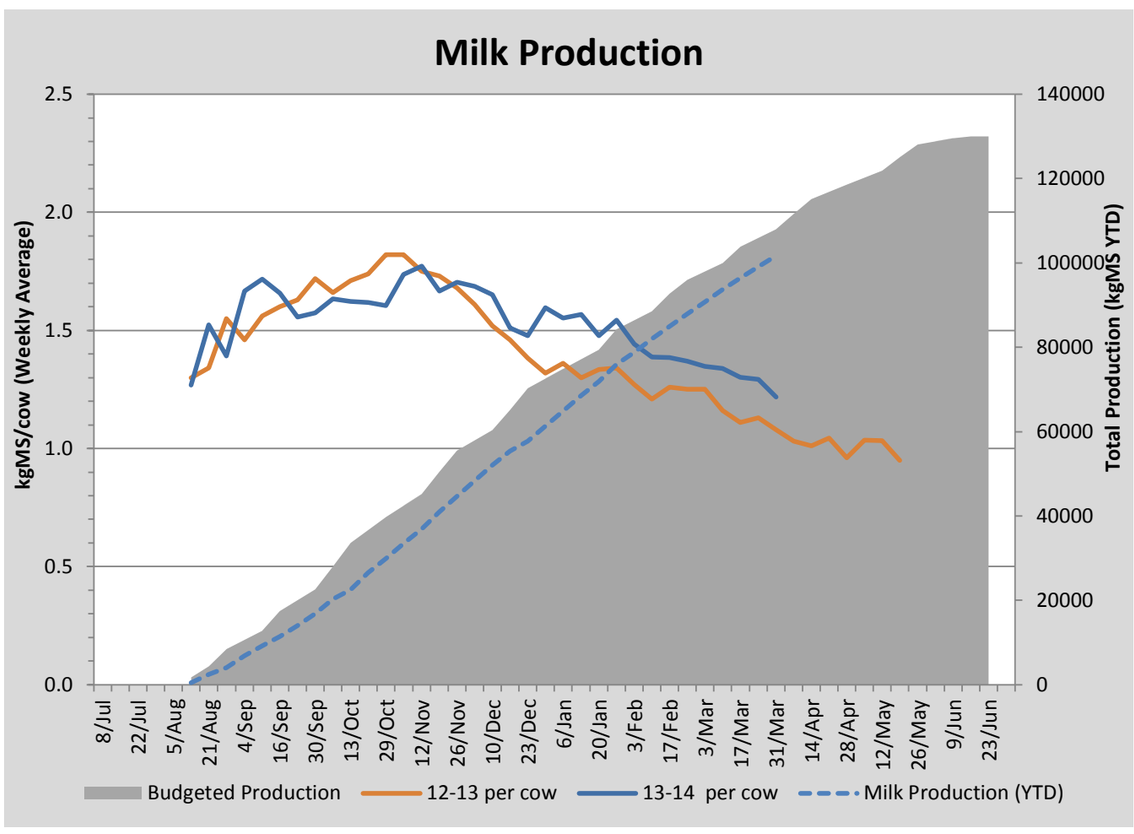
Key Summary Points

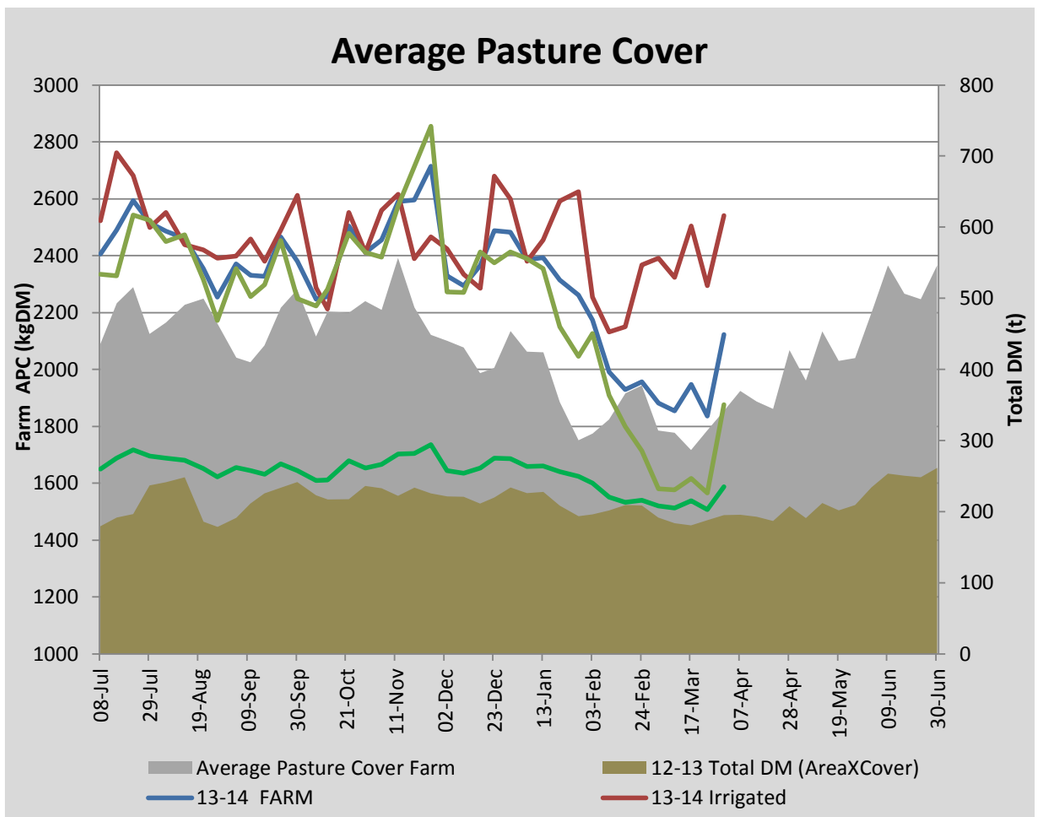
1	Average pasture cover has increased significantly this week to 2123kgDM/ha with good responses to recent rainfall and nitrogen applications on the rain fed paddocks.
2	Per cow milksolid production is down this week. This is most likely due to the high proportion of late season, lower quality silage in the diet.
3	Key focus for the coming week is to organise capital fertiliser applications to the run off and milking platform.

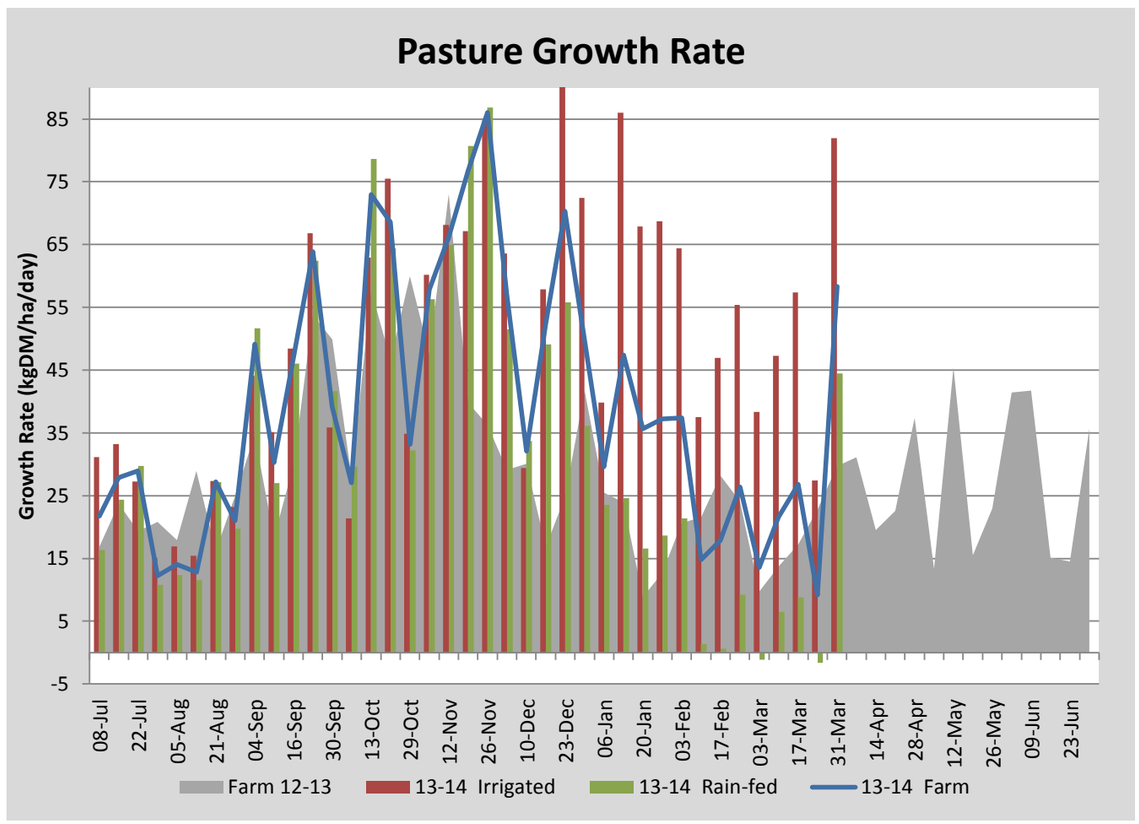
PASTURE INFORMATION	Farm			Irrigated			Rain-fed		
	Last Week	This Week	Variation	Last Week	This Week	Variation	Last Week	This Week	Variation
Grazed milking area (ha)	110.5	110.5	0.0	41.0	41.0	0.0	69.5	69.5	0
Rotation Length (days)	74	74	0	27	27	0	0	0	0
Grazing allocation per day (ha)	1.5	1.5	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Average time since last grazed (days)	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	34	33	-1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Leaf appearance rate (days per leaf)	16	16	1	10	12	2	19	19	0
Average Pasture Cover (kgDM/ha)	1836	2123	287	2294	2541	247	1566	1876	311
Pasture Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	9	58	49	27	82	54	-2	44	46
Post Grazing Biomass (kgDM/ha)	1526	1782	256						
Nitrogen applied YTD (kgN/ha)	120	133	13	15	0	-15	2	20	18

**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)	300	299	-1
Litres per cow	15.3	14.3	-1.0
% Fat	4.90	4.97	0.07
% Protein	3.54	3.40	-0.14
MS/cow/day	1.29	1.22	-0.07
MS/ha/day	3.43	3.22	-0.21
BMCC	153	164	12
Average Liveweight (kg)	524	528	4
	Budget	**To Date**	Variation
Total Milk Production (kgMS)	107,960	101,652	94%
MS/ha YTD	964	953	-11







Thomas Snare
Acting Farm Manager- 0429 940 063

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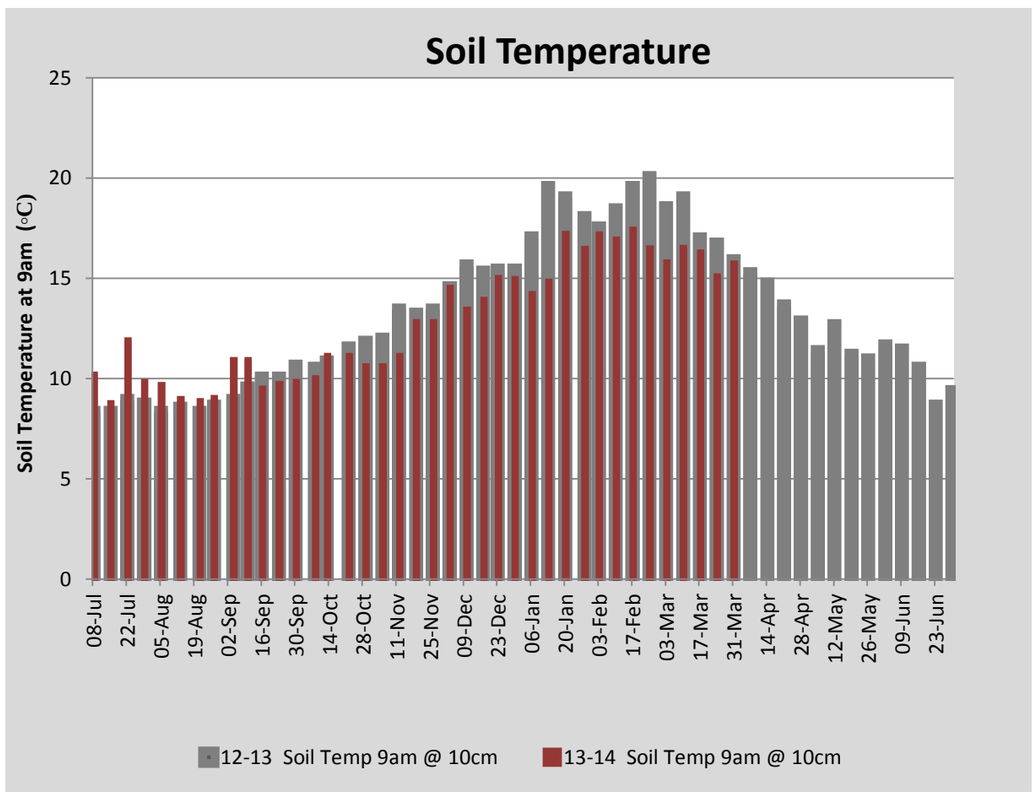
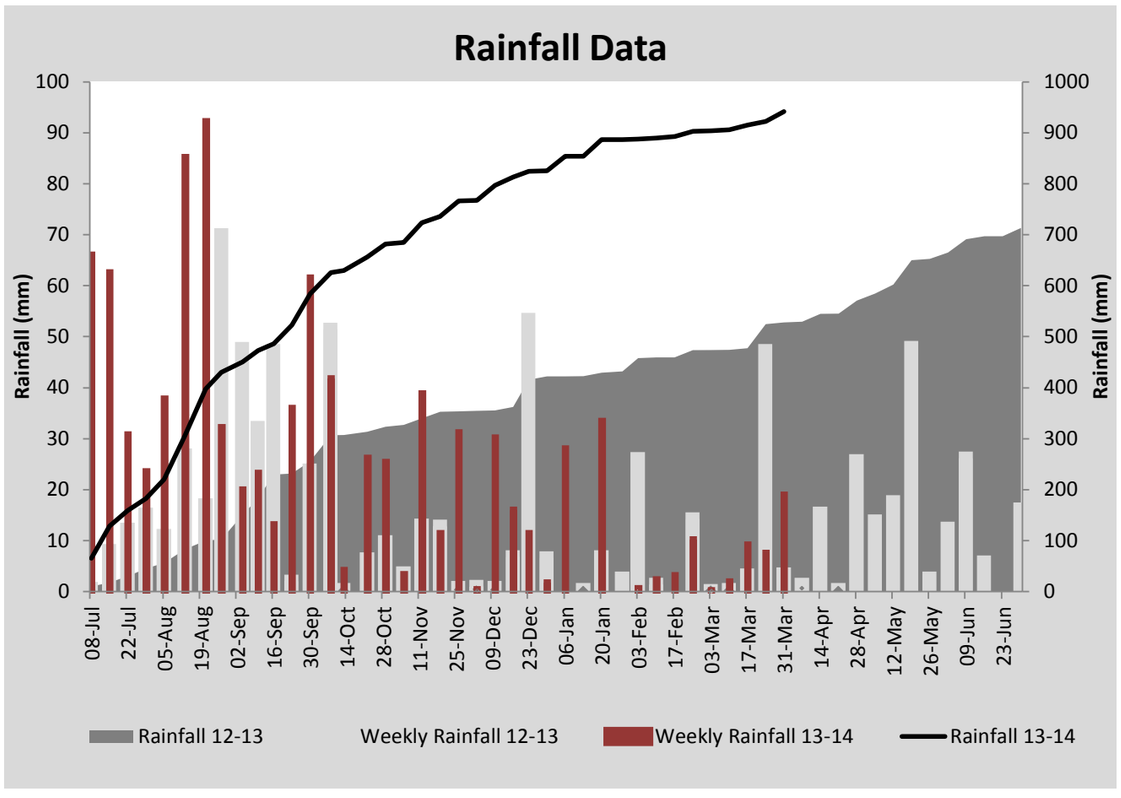
Last 7 days					
Milkers Diet	kg DM	MJ ME	CP (%)	NDF (%)	$/cow
Pasture Intake	6.4	11.4	25.8	41.0	0.0
Concentrates	5.8	13.0	11.0	21.0	0.0
Silage	4.3	10.0	13.6	54.8	0.0
Grazed forage	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other feeds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**16.5**	**191.3**	**17.4**	**37.6**	**0**
Target		**191**	**16-18**	**>33**	**0**

Tonic plantain on the run off has responded well to one 20mm irrigation plus recent rainfall and 30kgN/ha (urea)





Analysis			
Expected growth rate next 7 days (kgDM/ha/day)	41	Target Leaf Grazing Stage	3.0
Total Demand from Pasture (kgDM/ha/day)	24	Predicted APC 7 days time	2241
APC balance (kgDM/ha/day)	17	Predicted APC Change	118.1

Discussion

Average pasture cover has increased significantly this week with good responses to recent rainfall and nitrogen applications on the dryland paddocks. Urea was spread over 44.6ha of the dryland portion of the platform at a rate of 40kgN/ha on More Milk From Forages (MMFF) trial paddocks and 30kgN/ha on non-trial paddocks. In addition to this 15ha of the run off was spread with urea at 30kgN/ha. With good growth rates expected to continue this coming week we will look to lift the drymatter allocation to 17kgDM/cow/day, increase the pasture allocation and reduce the silage in the diet. This will mean shortening the rotation length on the irrigated paddocks to about 25 days for the next couple of weeks after which sufficient cover should be present on some of the dryland paddocks to re-introduce these into the grazing rotation. Per cow milksolid production dropped this week. This is most likely due to the high proportion of late season, poorer quality silage in the diet. With silage allocation being reduced this week and total DM allocation being increased we hope to hold current production into the coming week. Key focus for the coming week is to organise capital fertiliser applications to the run off and milking platform.

Thomas Snare
Acting Farm Manager- 0429 940 063

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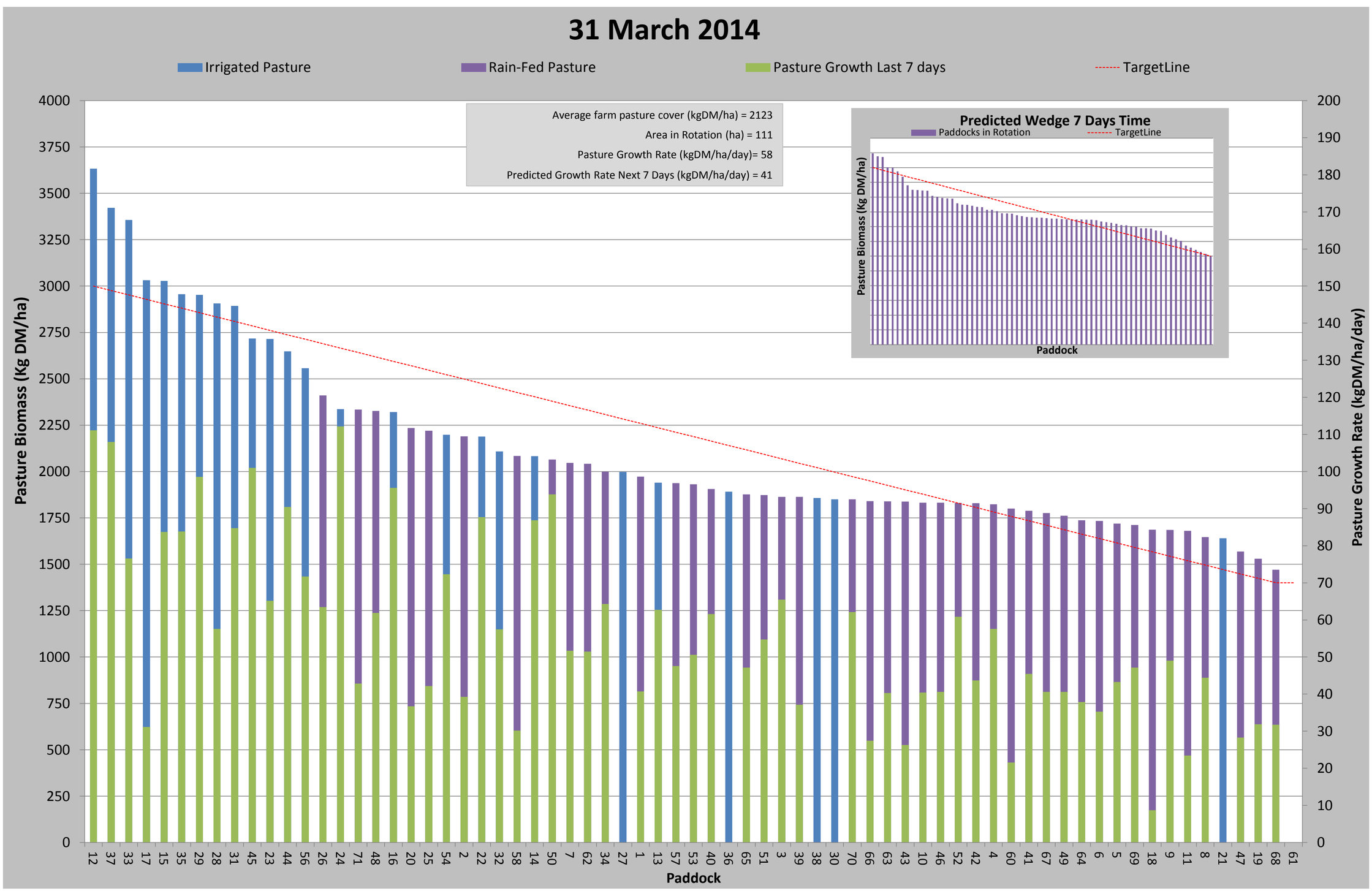

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