TIA Dairy Research Facility Weekly Report 4 December 2012

Week 23

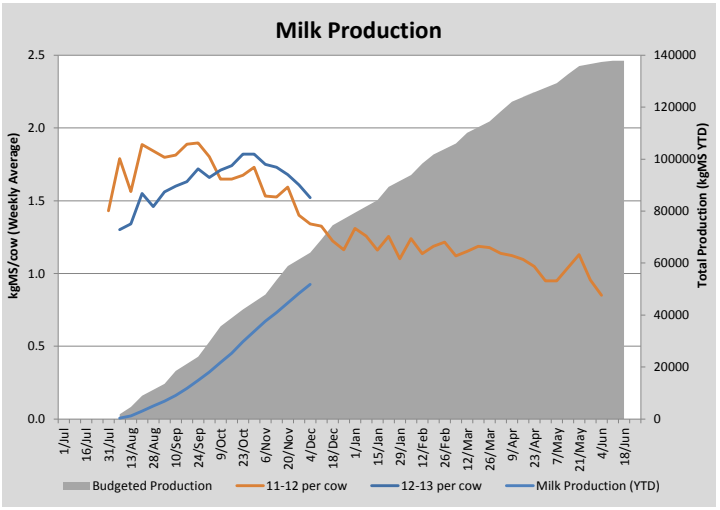
Key Summary Points

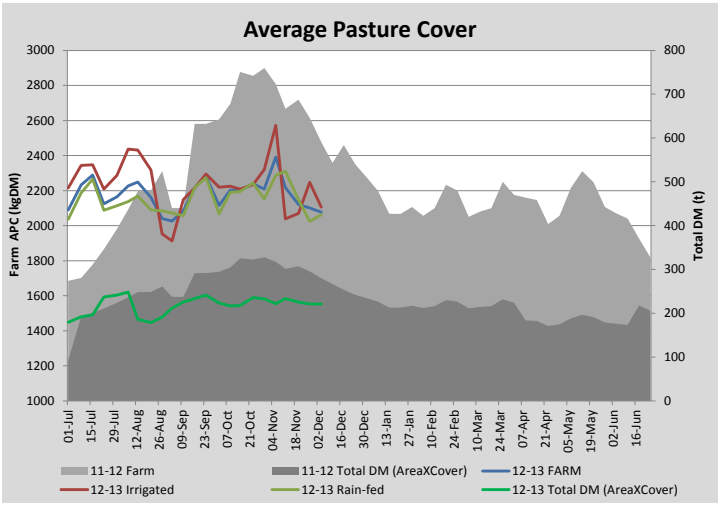
1	Average pasture cover has held the last week but irrigated growth rates are still behind ideal
2	The pasture quality continues to decline and per cow milk production is following
3	Key focus this week is identifying under-performing cows/high cell count cows to remove from the system to optimise profit from supplementary feeding

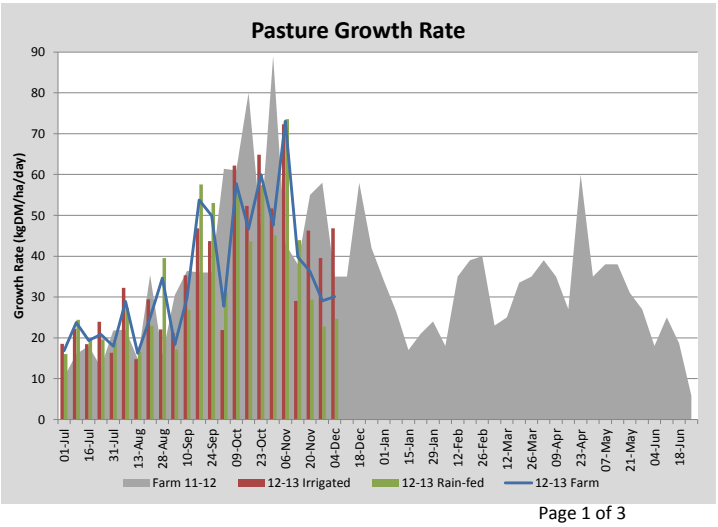
PASTURE INFORMATION	Farm			Irrigated			Rain-fed		
	Last Week	This Week	Variation	Last Week	This Week	Variation	Last Week	This Week	Variation
Grazed milking area (ha)	105.4	106.3	1.0	35.9	35.9	0.00	69.5	70.4	0.95
Rotation Length (days)	46	41		45	24		46	64	
Grazing allocation per day (ha)	2.3	2.6	0.30	0.8	1.5	0.70	1.5	1.1	0.40
Average time since last grazed (days)	38	44	6	25	22	3	45	55	10
Leaf appearance rate (days per leaf)	13	13	0	10	10	0	15	15	0
Average Pasture Cover (kgDM/ha)	2100	2077	-23	2248	2106	-141	2024	2062	38
Pasture Growth Rate (kgDM/ha/day)	29	30	1	40	47	7	23	25	2
Post Grazing Biomass (kgDM/ha)	1550	1600	50						
Nitrogen applied YTD (kgN/ha)	140	140	0	18	0	-18	0	0	0

**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 (vat)	334	333	1.00
Litres per cow	22.8	21.6	1.20
% Fat	3.96	3.95	0.01
% Protein	3.10	3.04	0.06
MS/cow/day	1.61	1.52	0.09
MS/ha/day	4.59	4.39	0.20
BMCC	184	176	8.00
Average Liveweight (kg)			
	Budget	To Date	Variation
Total Milk Production (kgMS)	64016	51746.00	81%
MS/ha YTD	572	462	-110







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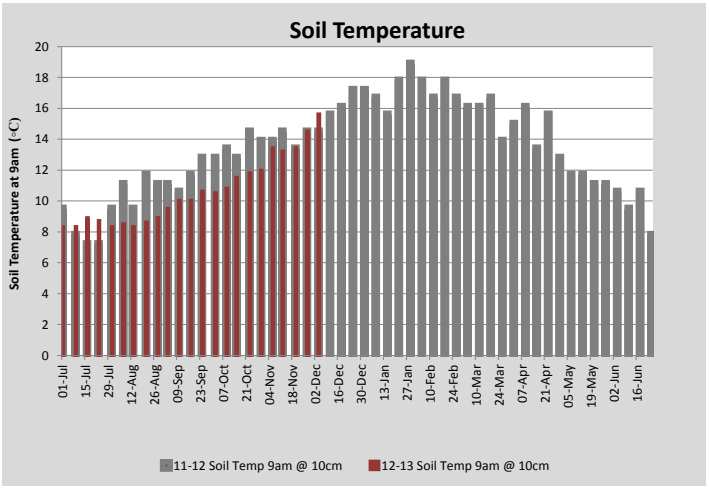
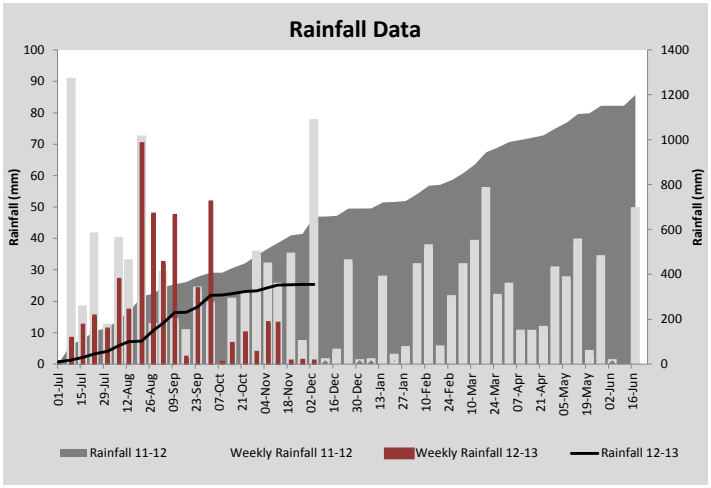
Last 7 days					
Milkers Diet	kg DM	ME	CP	NDF	$/cow
Pasture Intake	9.5	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Concentrates	4.5	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Silage	4.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grazed forage	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other feeds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**18**	**198.5**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Target	**18**		**0**	**0**	**0**

New perennial pasture coming up under the centre pivot





Analysis			
Expected growth rate next 7 days (kgDM/ha/day)	30	Target Leaf Grazing Stage	3.0
Total Demand from Pasture (kgDM/ha/day)	29	Predicted APC 7 days time	2087
APC balance (kgDM/ha/day)	1	Predicted APC Change	9.9

Discussion

We have managed to hold our average pasture cover the last week however irrigated covers have dropped. With the problems experienced with the irrigation system at the start of the season, the soil moisture dropped below optimal levels. While the irrigation system is now working and the soil moisture is being maintained at an optimal level, irrigated pasture growth rates are still lower than they would have been had these issues not occurred. To assist pasture growth rates, 40 kg N/ha is being applied to paddocks after each grazing. Pushing out the irrigated rotation two weeks ago helped build covers but meant we compromised on pasture quality slightly on some paddocks grazed this week and this made achieving residuals more difficult (1650kgDM/ha residuals on two paddocks this week). With the lack of soil moisture we are going to struggle to maintain average covers moving forward. The cost of production will also rise as the amount of supplement needed to fully feed the cows increases (already almost half the diet in supplement). To help maximise profit we will soon reduce the number of milkers by culling 15-20 low producing/high cell count cows (most of which have already been identified as not being kept for next year and not mated). Will continue to aim for an average rotation of greater than 60 days on the rain-fed pasture and 25 days on the irrigated. Our AI period finishes this Friday (6 weeks of AI) and we will then put Jersey Bulls out with the herd.

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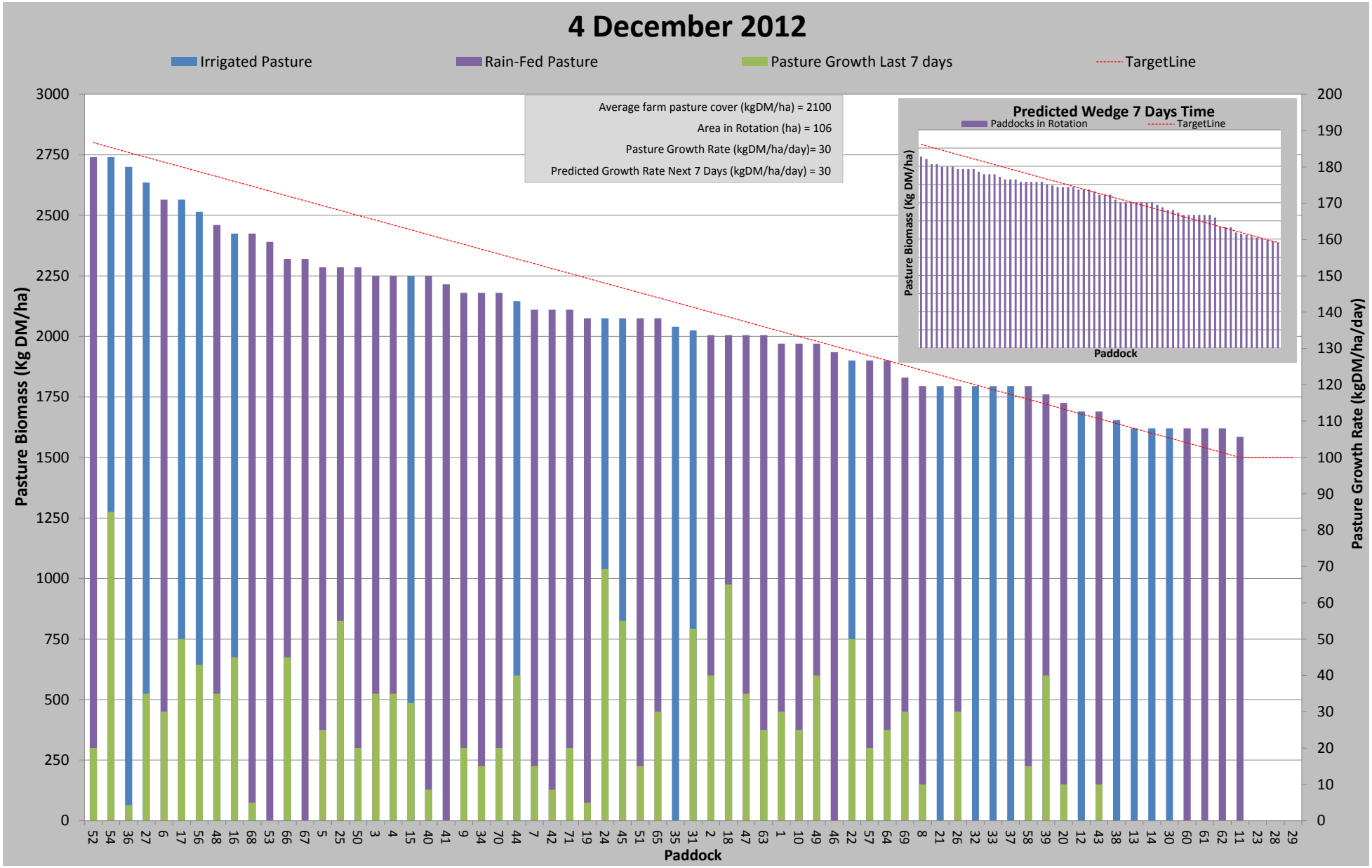

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