

Supplement Use in a Variable Climate Project – NARF (Dargaville)

This project compares three farms with different supplement use on production, profit and environmental impact. The three farm systems are:

1. **Pasture Only Farm** - No imported supplement - 2.7 cows/ha
2. **PKE Only Farm** – PKE used to fill feed gaps within milk FEI limits – 3.1 cows/ha
3. **PKE Plus Farm** - PKE used until milk FEI limit and then other supplements added – 3.1 cows/ha

This project is funded by DairyNZ, MPI (Sustainable Farming Fund) and Hine Rangi Trust.

5 th November 2020	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Farm Area (ha)	28	28	28
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2376	2334	2441
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	77		
Rotation Length (days)	27	26	27
Cows in milk/total cows	77/77	88/88	88/88
Production/cow/day (kg MS)	1.75	1.77	1.84
Production/ha/day (kg MS)	4.90	5.57	5.77
Production - Season to date (kg MS/ha)	453	562	617
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	0	0	0
Supplement Fed - Season to date (kg DM/cow)	181 Silage	310 PKE	293 PKE 147 DDG/SH
Average Body Condition Score	4.1	4.1	4.2
Proportion cows under BCS 4.0	2%	2%	2%
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	4	3	3
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	159	159	153
Milk FEI	A	A	A
Rainfall (mm last 2 weeks)	28 mm		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

- Warm rain has boosted pasture growth to 77 kg DM/ha, expecting this will lift again due to more rain today
- Silage has been cut on all farms. More paddocks have been dropped out for cutting in the next week or two
- Pasture walks are now being conducted weekly as conditions are changing so quickly
- Mating has gone well. We have used enough AB straws to get required replacement numbers so bulls will go out tomorrow
- Most of the fescue/ocksfoot paddocks have been topped and are on a faster rotation than the rye/kikuyu paddocks
- Sustain will continue at 40 kg/ha with the rain, trying to increase the surplus for silage
- Calves are being weaned and going off farm to grazing

For more information including past updates and field day handouts, go to www.nddt.nz

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