

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

'Looking to the Future' Field Day – Thursday 10th June 2021 – 10:30am start.

NARF - 531 State Highway 12, Dargaville. SN 18379

Presentations on:

- **End of year profit from the three NARF farms**
- **Description of new trial starting June 21**
- **Alternative pasture species in Northland**

This project compares three farms with different supplement use on production, profit and environmental impact. Each farm is 28 ha. 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.

20th May 2021	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	1984	1974	1927
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/d, last 2 weeks)	34		
Rotation Length (days)	39	40	46
Production/cow/day (kg MS)	-	-	-
Cows in Milk/Peak Cows	0/78	0/88	0/88
Production - Season to date (kg MS/ha)	936	1272	1405
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	0	0	0
Supplement Fed - Season to date (kg DM/cow)	402 Home Grown Silage	779 PKE 292 HG Silage	791 PKE 288 DDG/SH 406 HG + Purch Silage
Average Body Condition Score	4.5	4.4	4.3
Proportion cows under BCS 4.0	0%	0%	0%
Proportion cows under BCS 4.5	18%	27%	51%
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	3	4	6
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	174	172	168
Rainfall (mm last 2 weeks)	30 mm		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

- Pasture covers now include new grass paddocks which are 13% of each farm. Rotation lengths are pushing out to build cover more quickly.
- New fescue/ocksfoot pastures will have their first grazing in the next week, which is around 9 weeks from sowing. Pasture plants and chicory have established well but some paddocks have strong Poa presence. We are hoping grasses and clovers out-compete the poa over time
- All herds are now dry, and are being fed above maintenance to achieve BCS gain.
- Cows and paddocks will be re-allocated in early June for new trial.
- **For more information including past updates and field day handouts, go to www.nddt.nz**