

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.

9th April 2019	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2065	1998	2058
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	18	19	28
Rotation Length (days)	31	32	30
Cows in Milk	75	75	86
Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day)	0.99	1.05	1.40
Production per ha to date (kgMS/ha)	959	1121	1181
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	3.4 Silage	3.1 PKE	3.0 PKE 4.0 DDG
Average Body Condition Score	4.0	4.0	4.0
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	2	3	1
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	140	138	140
Milk FEI	A	A	A
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	55 mm		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

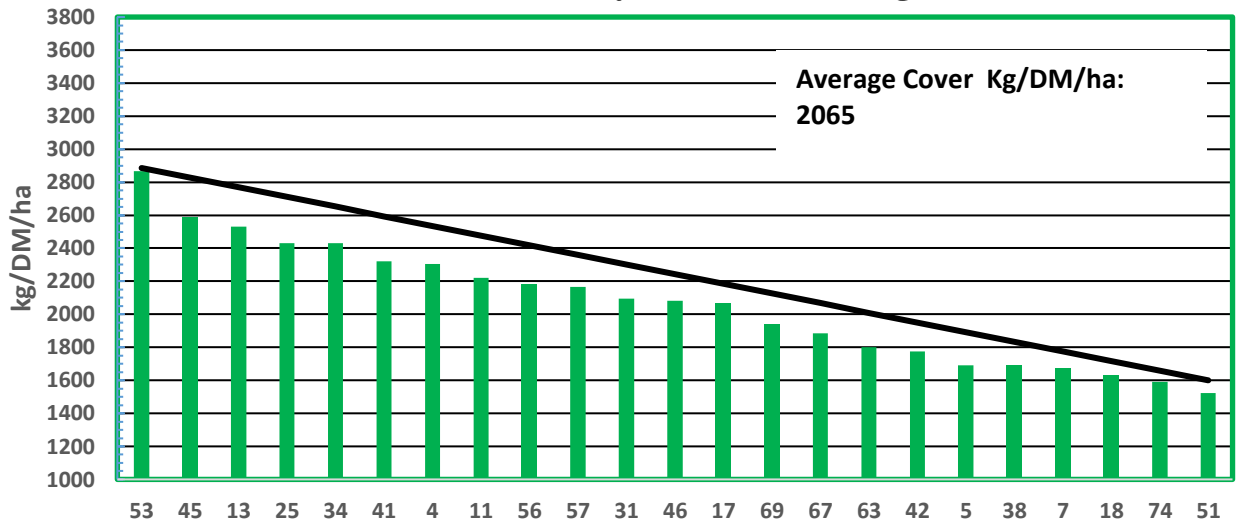
- Pasture covers and growth rates have been a bit stagnant, but recent rain seems to be kicking kikuyu back to life
- Feed is adequate on all farms so will continue milking all cows still on hand. A few light conditioned cows going on Once A Day (OAD). Likely to dry off light conditioned and early calving cows on the Pasture Only farm within the next fortnight
- Both PKE farms have seen the milk FEI drop over the last week as the pasture has greened up. On both farms we will increase PKE feeding from around 3 kg to 4 kg DM PKE/cow/day and see if the milk FEI stays acceptable
- The PKE Plus farm will drop DDG feeding from 4 kg to 1.6 kg DM/cow/day due to increasing PKE feeding (cheaper feed) and increasing pasture covers
- The Pasture Only cows are getting silage, though this will be halved down to around 1.7 kg DM/cow/day from today on
- Kikuyu areas are being mulched behind the cows. Italian ryegrass and slug bait are being spread ahead of the mulcher
- Eczema spore levels have risen this week. Zinc continues to be added to water

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

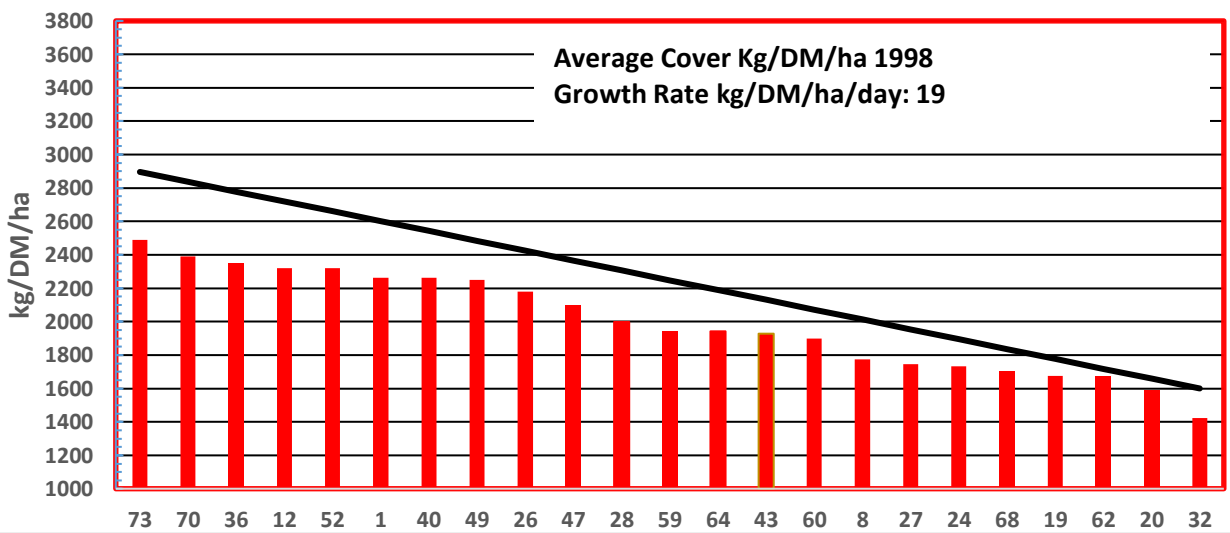
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2/4/19 Pasture Only - Feed Wedge



2/4/19 PKE Only - Feed Wedge



2/4/19 PKE Plus - Feed Wedge

