



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.*

12 th September 2018	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Pasture Growth Rate (kg DM/ha/day)	47	51	48
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2243	2258	2328
Rotation Length (days)	32	29	31
Pasture Demand (kg DM/ha/day)	50	50	50
Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day)	1.82	1.8	1.82
Production per ha to date (kgMS/ha)	187	220	230
Cows Calved	73	82	85
Dry Cows	3	4	2
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day, milkers)	0	0	0
Supplement Fed to Date (kg DM/cow)	237 (baleage)	257 (PKE)	248 (PKE)
Average Body Condition Score	3.9	4.0	4.1
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	1	1	1
Nitrogen - Season to Date (kg N/ha)	78	77	73
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	28		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

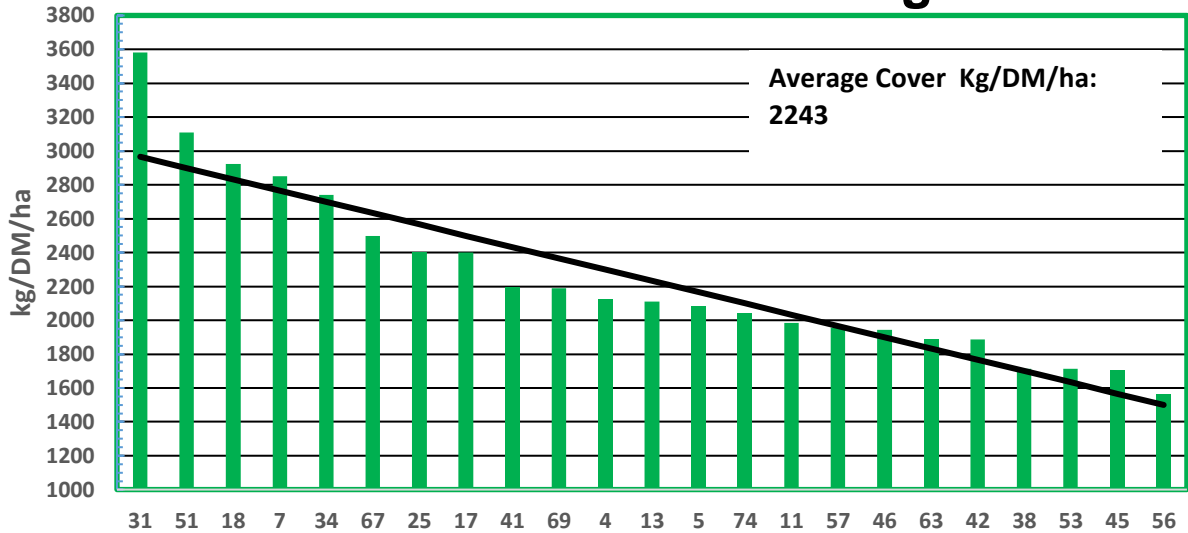
- Pasture cover is holding steady. The bouts of wet weather led to PKE being reintroduced last week, however the current spell of good weather should allow cows to be on pasture only for the next few weeks.
- Current pasture growth is matching pasture demand on the farms, as was expected for mid-September. We are moving to a 25 day rotation given the expectation that pasture growth will increase over the next few weeks.
- With the lower stocking rate, it is likely that the Pasture Only treatment will need to start dropping paddocks out of the rotation during the next few weeks.
- Nitrogen continues behind the cows in the form of Ammo 36. We will switch to Sustain once we run out of the Ammo we have on hand.
- Monitoring of cycling cows has started.

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

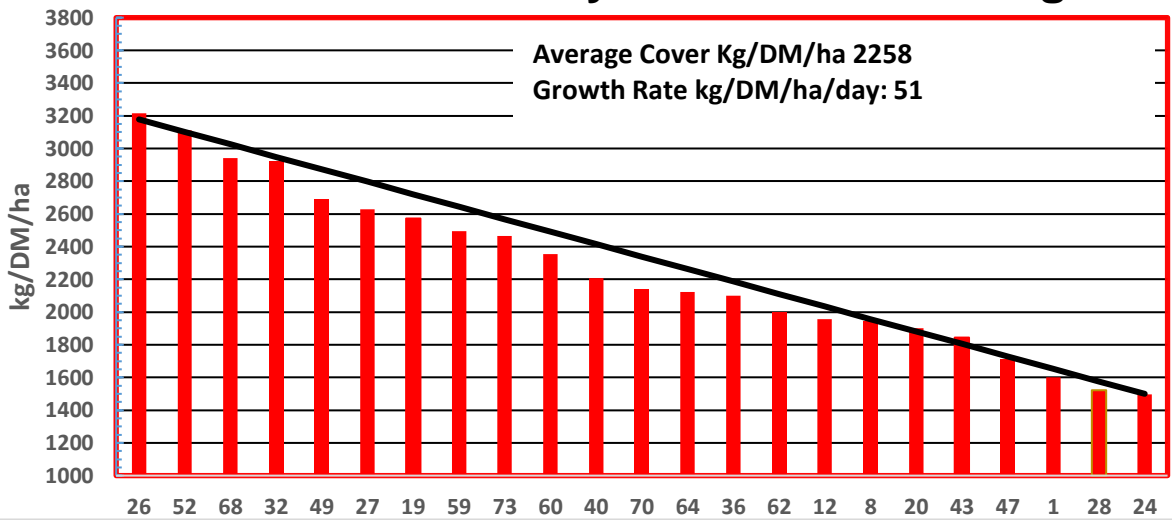
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11/9/18 Pasture Farmlet Feed Wedge



11/9/18 PKE Only Farmlet Feed Wedge



11/9/18 PKE Plus Farmlet Feed Wedge

