

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.

17th July 2019	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2118	2194	2345
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	27	32	33
Rotation Length (days)	71	71	71
Cows in Milk	27/77	18/85	29/85
Dry Cows	50	71	60
Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day)	-	-	-
Production per ha (kgMS/ha) (19/20)	-	-	-
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	1.9 Baleage	2.7 PKE	2.7 PKE
Supplement Fed 19/20 season (kg DM/cow)	0	169 PKE	221 PKE & Baleage
Average Body Condition Score (Dries)	5.0	5.0	5.0
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	4	3	2
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	24	19	19
Milk FEI	-	-	-
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	90 mm		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

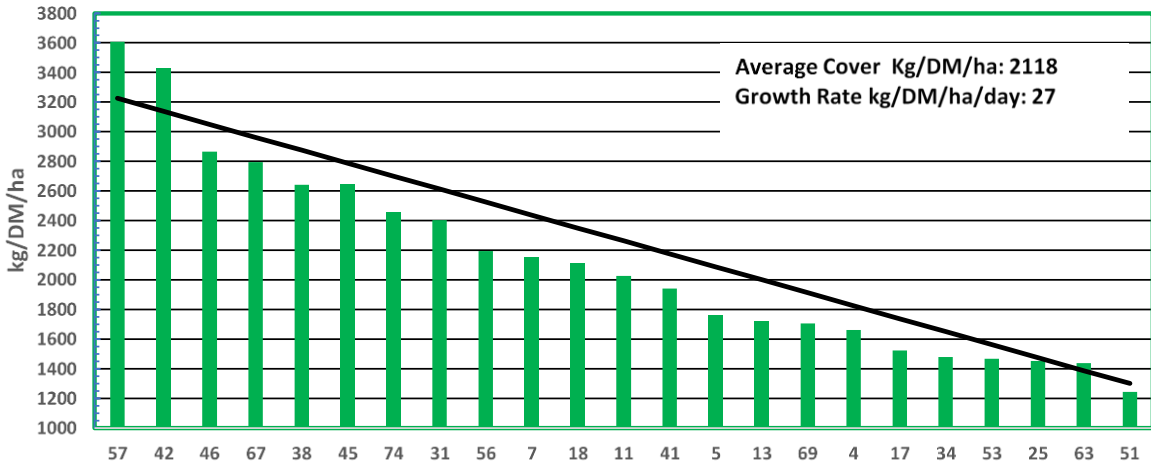
- Pasture covers have been lifting on the PKE farms, however average cover on the Pasture Only farm has not lifted due to a pasture only diet. We have been a bit slow getting Urea on behind the cows and this is starting to have an impact
- Starting to get a bit wet underfoot, however utilisation is still above average for mid-July. We have had a good run (touch wood). Dries are being stood-off overnight during wet periods to protect the pasture
- Pasture area allocated to dry cows continues at 36 m²/cow/day on the Pasture Only farm and 30 m²/cow/day on the two PKE farms. Milkers are getting 80 m²/cow/day on all farms
- Cows on the two PKE farms continue to receive PKE at around 2.7 kg DM/cow/day. Dry cows on the Pasture Only farm have started getting some baleage, likely that the milkers will follow suit (depending on grazing residuals)
- Urea will continue behind the cows at 80 kg/ha with a switch to Ammo 36 at 100 kg/ha in the next few days

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

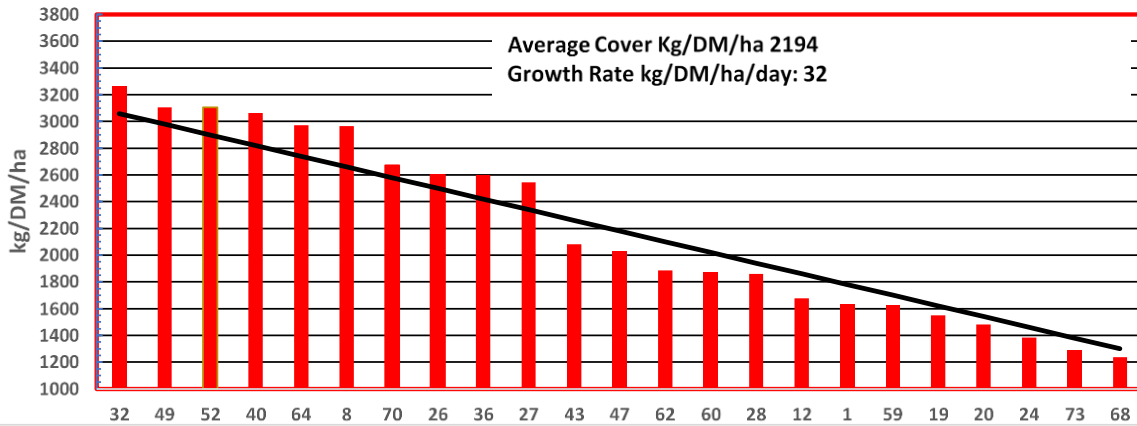
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17/7/19 Pasture Only Farm - Feed Wedge



17/7/19 PKE Only Farm - Feed Wedge



17/7/19 PKE Plus Farm - Feed Wedge

