

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.

23rd March 2019	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2192	2007	2031
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	41	33	37
Rotation Length (days)	32	31	32
Cows in Milk	75	75	86
Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day)	1.06	1.11	1.34
Production per ha to date (kgMS/ha)	917	1072	1113
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	3.4 Silage	2.7 PKE 3.1 Silage	2.2 PKE 3.2 DDG 3 Silage
Average Body Condition Score	3.9	3.9	3.9
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	3	5	2
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	140	138	140
Milk FEI	A	A/B	A
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	9 mm		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

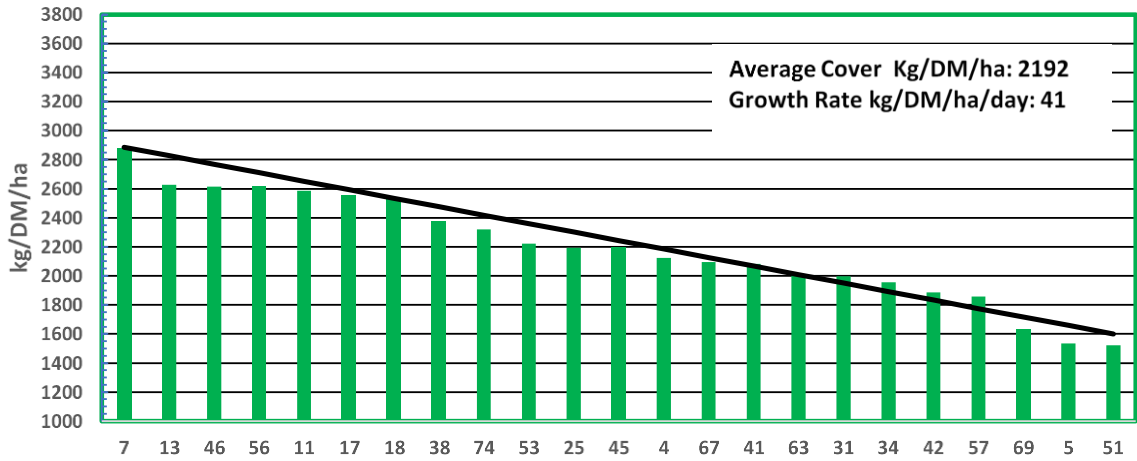
- Pasture covers and growth rates are on the rise, leading to falling FEI on PKE farms
- Both PKE farms have run out of silage now. The PKE Only farm has culled 9 MT cows and will lift PKE by 1kgDM to 3.0kgDM/c/d to balance the removal of silage from the diet.
- The PKE Plus farm will keep all cows milking in anticipation of rapid kikuyu growth next week. The end of silage feeding will be partly balanced by 1kgDM more PKE and 0.8kgDM more DDG for the next week or two.
- The Pasture Only herd will continue receiving 2-3kgDM/c/d silage as needed. This may be dropped out if residuals rise.
- Kikuyu mulching has begun, and Italian ryegrass will be oversown from next week onwards with the mulching plan. This will drop pasture covers and rotations will be lengthened over April to allow for this.
- Zinc is still being added to water to protect from facial eczema damage.

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

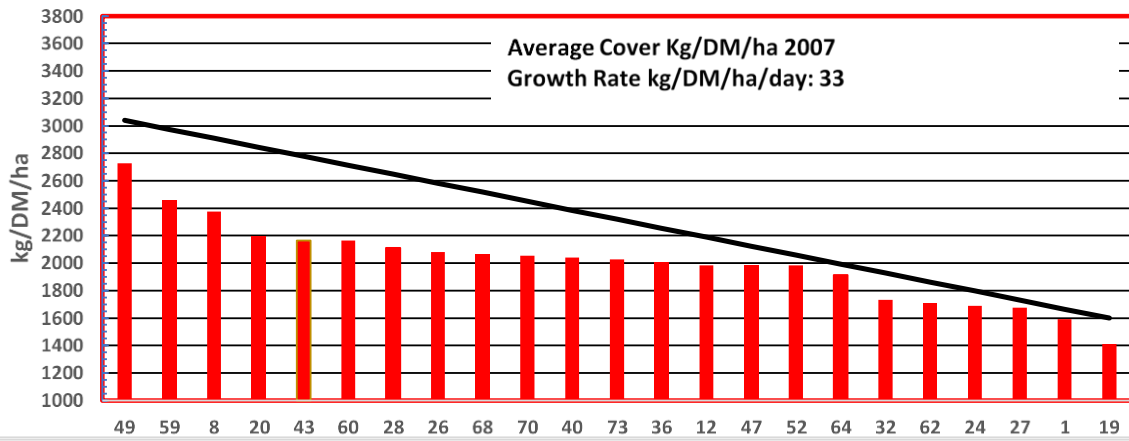
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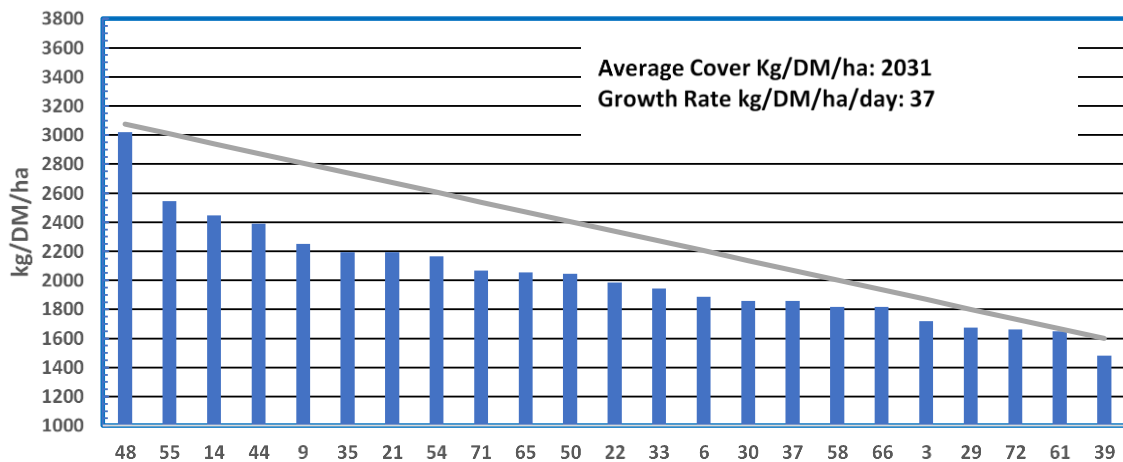
20/3/19 Pasture Only - Feed Wedge



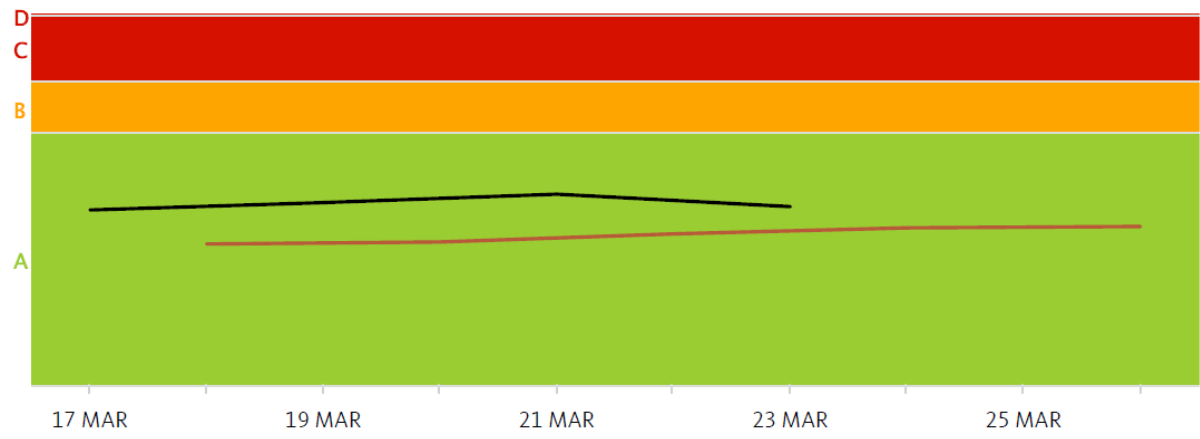
20/3/19 PKE Only - Feed Wedge



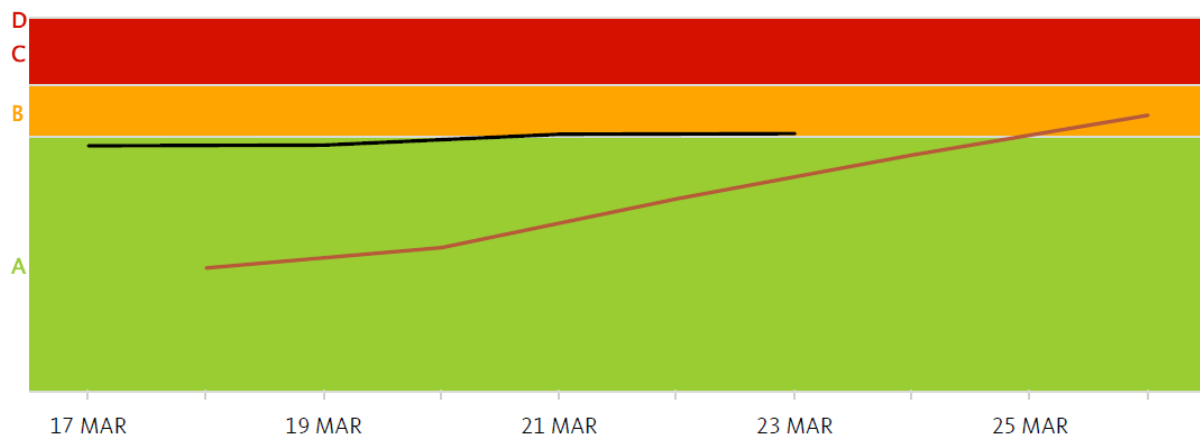
20/3/19 PKE Plus - Feed Wedge



Pasture Only



PKE Only



PKE Plus

