

## 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

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24 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	116	117	136
Rotation Length (days)	24	22	22
Area out for silage	33%	29%	25%
Cows in Vat	71/71	87/87	87/87
Dry Cows	0	0	0
Production/cow/day (kg MS)	1.59	1.83	1.90
Production/ha/day (kg MS)	4.03	5.76	5.96
Production/ha season to date (kg MS)	310	448	496
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	0	0	0
Supplement Fed 19/20 season (kg DM/cow)	162 Silage	477 PKE	480 PKE 105 Silage 23 DDG
Average Body Condition Score (Milkers)	4.16	4.18	4.12
3 week submission rate	90%	83%	81%
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	2	2	2
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	116	124	125
Milk FEI	A	A	A
Rainfall (mm last 2 weeks)	20		

### **CURRENT MANAGEMENT**

- Pasture growth has risen to over 100kgDM/ha/day on all farms, and more surplus has been dropped out today, for cutting in the next 3 days
- The Pasture Only farm has 33% out, PKE Only 29% out and PKE Plus 25% out for silage
- Grass demand is now 71kgDM/ha/day on the Pasture Only farm, 83 on PKE Only, and 79 on PKE Plus farm
- The Pasture Only herd has gained weight and are milking and cycling well on TAD
- Mating started 1st October, going well with 81-90% submission in the first 20 days.
- Dargaville vets will come tomorrow and check all non-mated cows. Any true non-cyclers will be put on OAD milking until they are mated
- N is continuing at 60kg/ha urea for the next week if rainfall continues.
- **For more information including past updates and field day handouts, go to [www.nddt.nz](http://www.nddt.nz)**

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