

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.

25 th September 2019	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2164	2235	2311
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	52	54	63
Rotation Length (days)	29	30	30
Cows in Milk	70	87	87
Dry Cows	0	0	0
Production/cow/day (kg MS)	1.22 OAD	1.82	1.97
Production/ha/day (kg MS)	3.04	5.58	6.13
Production/ha season to date (kg MS)	198	280	313
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	0	4.1 PKE	4.1 PKE 1.6 DDG
Supplement Fed 19/20 season (kg DM/cow)	162 Silage	413 PKE	416 PKE 105 Silage DDG 8
Average Body Condition Score (Milkers)	3.95	4.1	4.1
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	4	3	2
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	91	92	87
Milk FEI	A	B	B
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	10 mm		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

- Pasture covers have begun rising on all farms with the good weather last week. Supplement will be reduced as residuals rise above 1600.
- The PKE Plus herd will continue to feed 1kgDM/c DDG as FEI is in B. This will be cut out as pasture intakes rise and FEI drops
- The Pasture Only herd has responded to the increased area per cow and BCS has risen. This herd will now go back onto TAD with the exception of 7-8 light cows which will stay on OAD milking.
- Cows will all be metrichecked and given Selenium/B12 by our vet Brian Lowe from Dargaville Vet Services.
- Mating starts 1 October.
- **For more information including past updates and field day handouts, go to www.nddt.nz**

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