

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.*

26th September 2018	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Pasture Growth Rate (kg DM/ha/day)	69	68	65
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2495	2450	2309
Rotation Length (days)	25	29	28
Area out of rotation (silage)	14% (4ha)	7% (2ha)	
Pasture Demand (kg DM/ha/day)	59	56	54
Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day)	1.7	1.83	1.78
Production per ha to date (kgMS/ha)	253	294	306
Cows in Milk	75	85	86
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day, milkers)	0	2.6 PKE	2.6PKE
Supplement Fed to Date (kg DM/cow)	237 (baleage)	282 (PKE)	266 (PKE)
Average Body Condition Score	3.8	4.0	4.0
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	5	4	4
Nitrogen - Season to Date (kg N/ha)	87	89	82
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	35		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

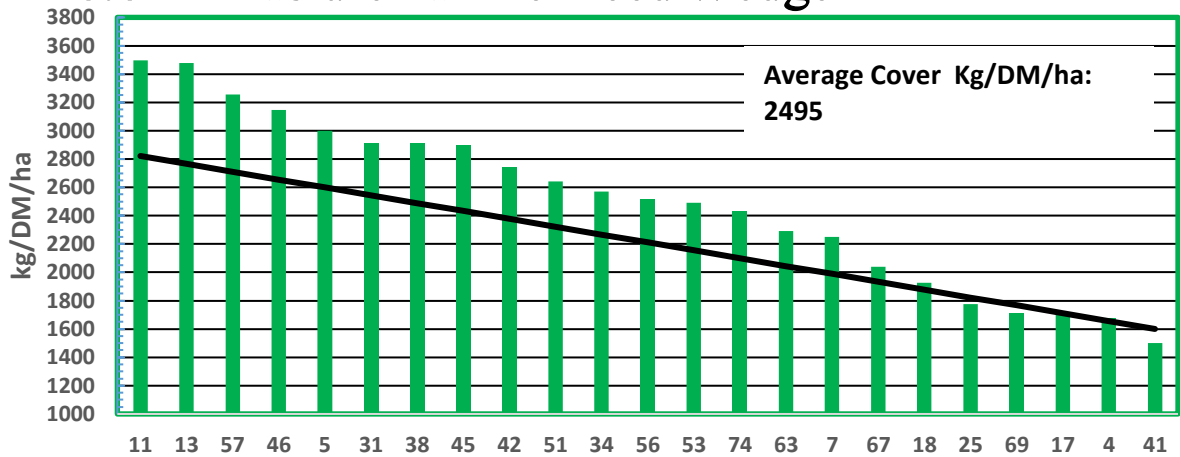
- The foul weather last week knocked the cows back a bit. Both PKE herds received PKE for a few days to mitigate this and have held their condition. The Pasture Only herd dropped in production and BCS however despite being offered plenty to eat.
- Pasture cover has risen on all farms and rotation lengths have now sped up to 21-23 days on all farms. This will help recover the lost ground.
- The Pasture Only herd has dropped out 14% (4ha) and the PKE Only herd 7% (2ha). These surpluses may increase and we are watching residuals and feed wedges closely.
- Higher Worry Scores are reflecting the constant monitoring and adjusting required to efficiently capture all surplus pasture.
- Nitrogen continues behind the cows in the form of Ammo 36. We will switch to Sustain next week once we run out of the Ammo we have on hand.
- Cows are cycling well and numbers are generally on target. Any light non-cyclers will be milked OAD from the start of mating until they cycle.
- Feed Wedges Below

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

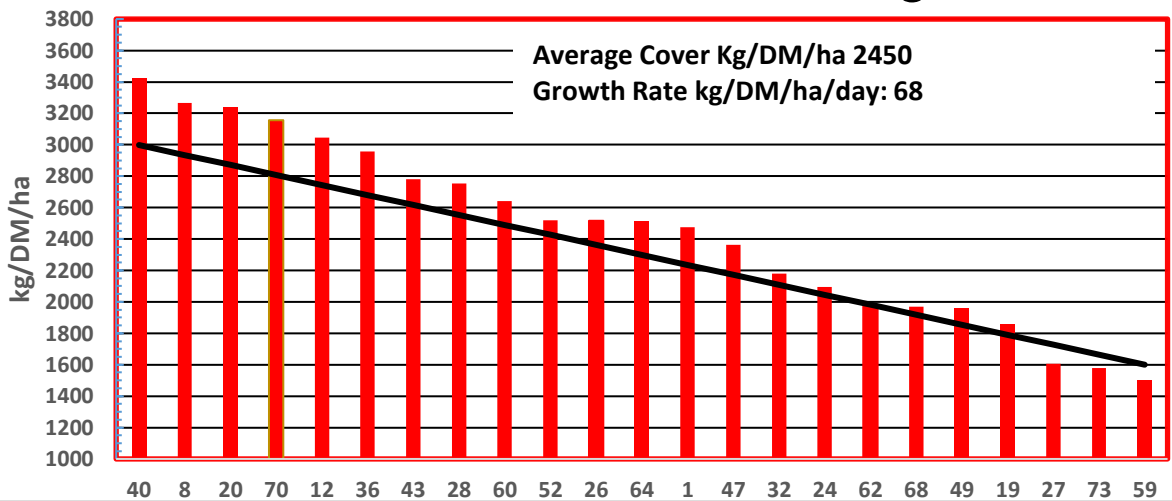
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25/9/18 Pasture Farmlet Feed Wedge



25/9/18 PKE Farmlet Feed Wedge



25/9/18 PKE +, Feed Wedge

