

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.

28 th February 2019	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2128	1971	2002
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	22	20	22
Rotation Length (days)	31	28	30
Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day)	1.08	1.13	1.26
Production per ha to date (kgMS/ha)	843	985	1009
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	3–6 Silage	2.5 PKE 2.6-5 Silage	3.1 PKE 2.1 DDG 2.6 Silage
Supplement Fed to Date (kg DM/cow)	393 Silage	520 PKE 168 Silage	546 PKE 96 DDG 123 Silage
Average Body Condition Score	3.9	3.9	4.0
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	3	5	1
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	140	138	140
Milk FEI	A	B/C	B
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	50 mm		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

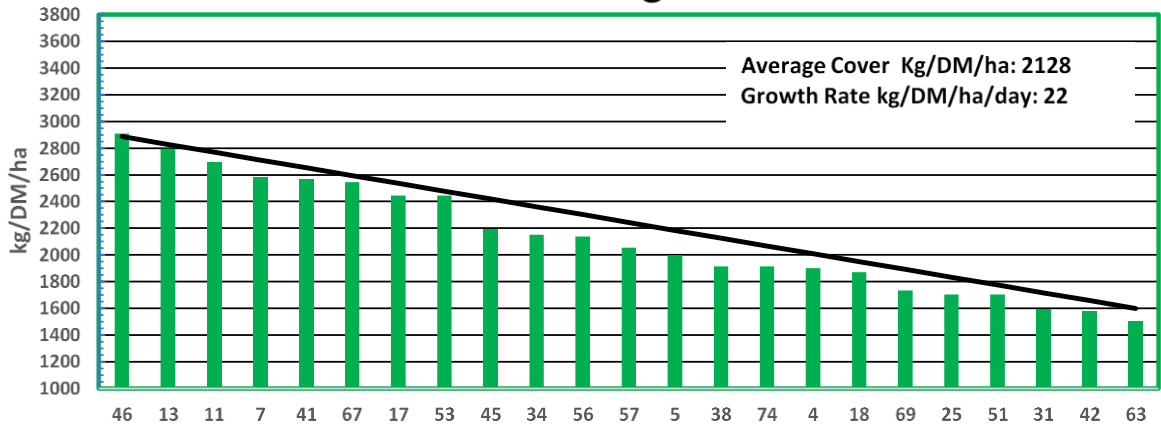
- Pasture covers have been dropping over the last two months, but recent rain is giving kikuyu pastures a new lease on life, for the time being.
- All three farms still have pasture silage on hand. At the present feeding rate the two PKE farms have around a month of silage left and two months on the Pasture Only farm. Culls have been identified but decided to not to send these off while there is feed at hand.
- Milk FEI has taken a bit of managing on the PKE farms. PKE inputs have needed reducing at times to keep in the right zone. Currently 2.5 kg DM/cow/day on the PKE Only farm has us at the top of the B grade.
- Some kikuyu paddocks are building up stolon at the base. Decided not to mow/mulch these yet as they will get dealt to when we seed and mulch all kikuyu pastures, starting late March.
- The whole farm is in the process of getting cricket bait.

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

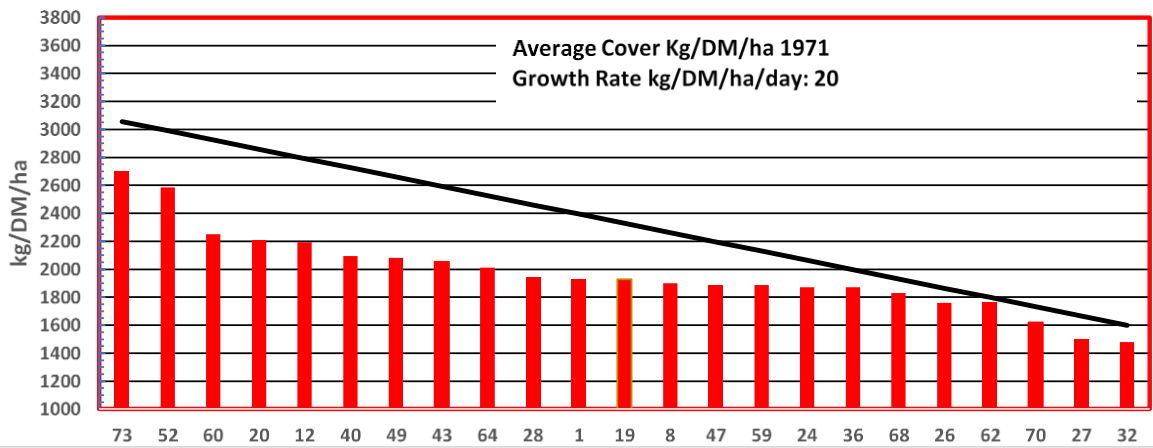
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26/2/19 Pasture Farmlet Feed Wedge



26/2/19 PKE Farmlet Feed Wedge



26/2/19 PKE +, Feed Wedge

