

## 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.*

<b>30th August 2018</b>	<b>Pasture Only Farm</b>	<b>PKE Only Farm</b>	<b>PKE Plus Farm</b>
Pasture Growth Rate (kg DM/ha/day)	50	48	49
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2334	2284	2326
Rotation Length (days)	38	34	33
Pasture Demand (kg DM/ha/day)	49	56	52
Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day)	1.83	2.02	1.99
Production per ha to date (kgMS/ha)	127	150	157
Cows Calved	69	79	80
Dry Cows	7	8	7
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day, milkers)	4.3 (Baleage)	2.9 (PKE)	2.8 (PKE)
Supplement Fed to Date (kg DM/cow)	237	229	222
Average Body Condition Score	4.0	4.1	4.1
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	2	1	1
Nitrogen - Season to Date (kg N/ha)	63	68	73
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	65		

### **CURRENT MANAGEMENT**

- It seems spring has struck on the farm with pasture growth rates around 50kg DM/ha/day. It is a bit wet in places but ground conditions are so much better than last year. It is early days but still we are feeling pretty positive, at the moment.
- Rotation length is in the mid 30's which has cows getting around 100 sq m/cow/day. With good pasture covers on hand we have decided to speed up and hold at 30 days now, a week ahead of schedule. This will have the Pasture Only cows getting around 125 sq m and the other farms on around 110 sq m/cow/day. The spring rotation plan is targeting a 25 day rotation by 12<sup>th</sup> September.
- Residuals have been rising. Due to this and the faster rotation, all supplement will stop on all three farms.
- FEI grading kicks in next week. All farms are currently in the A zone.
- A few light conditioned heifers are on OAD milking.
- Ammo 36 continues immediately in front of, or behind cows at 100 kg/ha.

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