

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.

30 th July 2019	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2033	2127	2294
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	35	40	40
Rotation Length (days)	53	51	48
Cows in Milk	55	49	57
Dry Cows	22	40	32
Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day)	1.44	1.56	1.74
Production per ha (kgMS/ha) (19/20)	2.05	2.15	2.37
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	1.9 Baleage	2.7 PKE	2.7 PKE
Supplement Fed 19/20 season (kg DM/cow)	37 Baleage	212 PKE	266 PKE & Baleage
Average Body Condition Score (Dries)	4.4	4.6	4.7
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	5	3	2
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	42	37	33
Milk FEI	A	A	A
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	31 mm		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

- Conditions continue to be pretty good underfoot. Little pugging damage to date means that pastures should continue to show reasonable growth rates going forward. Pasture covers have dropped over the last two weeks, especially on the Pasture Only farm. Somewhat a result of us being a bit slow in following the cows with nitrogen
- Cow condition has dropped faster on the Pasture Only farm than the PKE farms. This along with lower pasture cover has increased the ‘worry score’, though baleage on hand means we have options
- Dry cows on the PKE farms will be allocated 40 m²/cow/day with 2 kg PKE/cow/day. On the Pasture Only farm, dry cows will get 50 m²/cow/day and no supplement
- Milkers will be allocated 80 m²/cow/day on all farms. Milkers on the PKE farms will get 3 kg PKE while milkers on the Pasture Only farm will get 3-4 kg DM silage. This supplement will be adjusted depending on whether cows are achieving optimum grazing residuals
- Ammo36 is being spread behind the cows at 100 kg/ha

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

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