

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.

2 nd July 2019	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2131	2085	2271
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	33	31	38
Rotation Length (days)	77	77	89
Cows in Milk	0	4	4
Dry Cows	77	85	85
Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day)	-	-	-
Production per ha (kgMS/ha) (19/20)	-	-	-
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	0	2.7 PKE	2.7 PKE
Supplement Fed 19/20 season (kg DM/cow)	0	131 PKE	178 PKE & Baleage
Average Body Condition Score	4.9	5.1	5.1
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	4	4	2
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	20	11	12
Milk FEI	-	-	-
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	76 mm		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

- Pasture covers have been slowly increasing but have not yet met the desired average pasture cover of 2400 kg DM/ha by calving
- Pasture area allocated to dry cows will be reduced slightly to 36 m²/cow/day on the Pasture Only farm and 30 m²/cow/day on the two PKE farms. This will provide a 90+ day rotation on all farms. Milkers will be allocated 80 m²/cow/day of pasture
- All cows on the two PKE farms will continue to receive PKE at 2.7 kg DM/cow/day. Cows on the Pasture Only farm are receiving no supplement, though 160 kg DM/cow of baleage is available as required
- Urea will continue behind the cows at 80 kg/ha. This will change to Ammo 36 at 100 kg/ha over the next few weeks

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

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