

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.

3 rd June 2020	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Farm Area (ha)	28	28	28
Area in Rotation (with new grass pdks out)	25	25	25
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	1638	1784	1739
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	32		
Planned Rotation Length (days)	62	83	107
Cows in milk/cows calved	0/77	0/89	0/89
Production/cow/day (kg MS)	-	-	-
Production/ha/day (kg MS)	-	-	-
Production/ha season to date (kg MS)	833	1,149	1,301
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	2.0 Silage	2.0 PKE	Dries 5.1 PKE
Supplement Fed 19/20 season (kg DM/cow)	404 Silage	978 PKE 181 Silage	1,093 PKE 210 DDG 263 Silage
Average Body Condition Score	4.35	4.7	4.6
Empty Rate	6%	6%	7%
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	6	3	3
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	151	153	151
Milk FEI	-	-	-
Rainfall (mm last 2 weeks)	47 mm		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

- Pasture growth is finally away now with decent warm rain last week. Pasture covers are still lower than target but rising quickly now with our long rotations
- All cows are now dry and starting to gain weight. Both PKE herds will go onto 100+ day rounds now with PKE to build cow condition
- The Pasture Only Farm is feeding silage to both lengthen the round to 75 days and gain cow condition. It is a real balancing act on this farm. We will feed 15 b and save 35b for start of calving. The lightest few cows and heifers will run ahead of the herd on ad lib pasture
- The heifers are all in their herds now. They are lighter than we would like this year but are gaining weight now. They will be drenched and receive Copper and Selenium next week
- Urea is following all herds at 80kg/ha

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

The Northland Dairy Development Trust thanks our sponsors:

Farm Source & Fonterra / Ballance Agri-Nutrients / Avoca Lime / GEA-FIL / Cashmanager RURAL online