

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.

| 6 th June 2019 | Pasture Only Farm | PKE Only Farm | PKE Plus Farm |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha) | 2133 | 1855 | 1945 |
| Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day) | 36 | 30 | 34 |
| Rotation Length (days) | 56 | 80 | 80 |
| Cows in Milk | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Dry Cows | 76 | 91 | 88 |
| Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day) | - | - | - |
| Production per ha (kgMS/ha) (18/19) | 1012 | 1238 | 1315 |
| Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day) | | 5.0 PKE | 5.0 PKE 2.9 Silage |
| Total Supp fed 18/19 (kgDM/cow) | 564 Silage | 998 PKE and silage | 1212 PKE, DDG and silage |
| Average Body Condition Score | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.6 |
| Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High) | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha) | 156 | 164 | 165 |
| Milk FEI | - | - | - |
| Rainfall (last 2 weeks) | 76 mm | | |

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

- Pasture covers have lifted in the last week with a slow rotation and N going on
- Both PKE herds will stay on 80d rotations and use supplement to achieve cow condition target
- The Pasture Only herd is on track to meet pasture cover and BCS targets so the rotation will stay at 56 days, and the 48b silage will be saved for calving.
- Urea is following the herds at 80kg/ha
- Kikuyu mulching has finished now. Pregrazing quality on mulched paddocks is excellent with good clover content
- All cows will be jabbed with Selenium and B12 prior to calving. MgO will be introduced mid June.

NARF field day - Thursday 20th June 2019. Guest speakers Paul Bird and Jane Kay.

Profit of each farmlet for the last season will be presented.

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

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