

## 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.*

5 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2342	2043	2238
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	59	46	64
Rotation Length (days)	22	22	21
Cows in Milk	69/69	88/88	88/88
Production/cow/day (kg MS)	1.51	1.74	1.73
Production/ha/day (kg MS)	3.84	5.46	5.44
Production/ha season to date (kg MS)	365	525	573
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	0	0	0
Supplement Fed 19/20 season (kg DM/cow)	162 Silage	477 PKE	480 PKE 105 Silage 23 DDG
Average Body Condition Score	4.11	4.22	4.21
3 week submission rate	90%	83%	81%
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	2	4	3
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	118	121	122
Milk FEI	A	A	A
Rainfall (mm last 2 weeks)	12		

### **CURRENT MANAGEMENT**

- Drier weather over the last fortnight has dropped pasture growth back, rain would be useful. Average pasture cover has followed suit on the two PKE farms due to the higher stocking rate and no PKE currently being fed, while cover has held steady on the lower stocked Pasture Only farm. Silage paddocks are cut but are some way off grazing again.
- PKE will be reintroduced on the PKE Only farm today at 3kg DM/cow/day. The PKE Plus farm has higher pasture covers, however they will likely start getting PKE in the next few days.
- AI finishes tomorrow and bulls will go out into the herds.
- The weather forecast is being watched closely, with rain likely in the next few days N will be spread on recently grazed paddocks.

**For more information including past updates and field day handouts, go to [www.nddt.nz](http://www.nddt.nz)**

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