

Murray Creek Dairy Farm

September 2014 Farm Report

Interpreted information covering the feed supply & stock on hand taken from the Farmwise Report 24th September 2014

COVER

AREA	Effective	Grass	Fodder Beet	Swedes
Milking Platform	374.8	359.9	9.24	5.71

There is approximately 1 hectare of swede to get work into the paddock and 1.5 hectares of fodder beet to lift and store.

		Actual	Target
Average pasture cover	kgdm/ha	2202	>2200
Pre graze cover	kgdm/ha	3000	>3000
Post graze cover	kgdm/ha	1550	1600
Growth	kgdm/ha	43	20
Round length (days)		43	70
% Farm Mown		0%	0%

Key

Kgdm = kgs of dry matter
Kgms = kgs of milk solids
Ha = hectare
R1's = Rising 1 year olds
R2's = Rising 2 year olds
MA = Mixed age cows
Total Farm Area = 414ha
Effective area = 392.5ha

There is good cover/wedge of grass on hand and is of very good quality. It is probably as good as the farm has ever looked. There is still good reserves of supplement's on hand as well as crop the swede crop that cannot be used.

FEED SUPPLY

			kgsgdm	kgsgdm/ha
Pasture	359.00 grass ha's		790518	2202
Silage 22 x 9 x 2.4	468 m ³ @	200kgsgdm/m ³	93600	271
Baleage	40 Bales @	200kgsgdm/bl	8000	23
Crop	.0 ha @	0	0	0
Total Supplements			101600	
Swedes	1.00 ha @	12000kgsgdm/ha	12000	35
Fodder Beet	1.50 ha @	20000kgsgdm/ha	30000	87
Total Crop			42000	
Total Supplement & Crop				2618
Straw	20 Bales			

The feed situation has helped by the slow tail end to calving and reduced cow demand. Over all the farm is very well set up for this stage of the season and helped by the past month of dry conditions and now getting good growth rates and pastures are in a good growing state. Jason has done a great job to have most of the farm in a very good growing state and is well set up leading into October.

STOCK ON HAND

	2x/day	2x/day	1x/day	Penicillin	Colostrum	Springers	Empty	Total
Dairy unit	409	320	21	41	49	130	0	970
Percentage	42%	33%	2%	4%	5%	13%	0	100%
Target Peak Milk	95%							
Milkers/ha	359.85 ha's							

To date 87% of heifers have calved. Calving has slowed down with a number of cows calving at least a cycle late. there is estimated to be 5 - 6 empties in the springer mob. Cow condition and health over all is quite good. To date we have 235 heifer calves on hand with the target of 250 for replacements.

PRODUCTION

Per cow production is improving and we have the feed to support it in October. Production has been budgeted at 355,000kgs but has the potential to reach 380,000.

Month	Target %	Target kgs	Year to Date kgs	Actual kgs	Actual Year to Date	Variance Month	Variance Year to Date
August	2.5%	9500	9500	7000	7000	74%	74%
September	9.5%	36100	45600	35500	42500	98%	93%
October	13.5%	51300	96900				
November	13.5%	51300	148200				
December	13.0%	49400	197600				
January	12.0%	45600	243200				
February	10.5%	39900	283100				
March	10.5%	39900	323000				
April	9.0%	34200	357200				
May	6.0%	22800	380000				
	100%	380000					



Murray Creek Dairy Farm

October 2014 Farm Report

Interpreted information covering the feed supply & stock on hand at the start of the season taken from the Farmwise Report 28th October

MILK PRODUCTION

Production		Ha's	Cow Numbers	Cows/ha	Kgsms	Kgs/cow	Kgs/ha
2013 - 2014	Actual	374.0	950	2.54	363000	381	968
2014 - 2015	Potential	374.0	950	2.54	380000	400	1016
Daily	Actual	374	903	2.41	1730	1.92	4.63

Production Improving. Murray Creek has set their target production at 355,000kgms. Potentially we would like to get to 380,000kgms but realistically it would be better to aim lower than that to a more respectable 340,000. This has taken into account the late start to production and weather. Season to date is going well with 24 cows still to calve.

REGRASSING / CROPPING

Area out of Production	Regrassing / Cropping
Total Ha's	360
Ha's to re-grass ex crop	15
Ha's to Summer crop	10
Ha's to Winter crop	10
Cows in milk	950

Month	Total Ha's	Summer Crop	Winter Crop	Re-grass	Ha's Available	Cow Numbers	Cows/ha
September	360	0	15	0	345.0	950	2.75
October	360	10	0	15	335.0	950	2.84
November	360	10	0	15	335.0	950	2.84
December	360	10	15	0	335.0	940	2.81
January	360	10	15	0	335.0	930	2.78
February	360	10	15	0	335.0	920	2.75
March	360	0	15	10	335.0	910	2.72
April	360	0	15	10	335.0	900	2.69
May	360	0	15	0	345.0	850	2.46

Target is to have cropped paddocks back into grass in the next few days. Summer crop paddocks to be grazed off by late February and sown with new grass by 1st March. Overlap in December between new seasons and old seasons crop. Crop grown on farm is dependent on crop grown at winter grazing so will not require spring transition.

There is a need to identify another ten to fifteen hectare's for winter next spring. We should consider aerating ex crop paddocks pre sowing new grass. There is still some residual feed left that would be best eaten out by the dry or empty cows until the paddocks can be ploughed.

GRAZING ROUND LENGTHS

Target period	Oct-Nov	Nov-Feb	Feb-Mar	Mar-Apr	Apr-May	May
Target date				10-March	10-April	1-May
Round length	30	30	35	40	50	50
Hectares	360	344	344	344	352	352
Hectares per day	12.0	11.5	9.8	8.6	7.0	7.0
Cows in milk	950	940	930	920	900	850
Cows per hectare	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.4
M ² per cow/12hrs	63	61	53	47	39	41
Cows per ha 24hrs	79	82	95	107	128	121
Cows per ha 12hrs	158	164	189	214	256	241
Kgsdm per cow	19	18.5	17.5	17.5	18	18
Total kgsdm required	18050	17390	16275	16100	15750	15300
Kgsdm/ha required	1504	1517	1656	1872	2237	2173
Grazing residual	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600
Pre grazing cover	3104	3117	3256	3472	3837	3773

The above is a schedule of target grazing rounds throughout the season. We need to plan ahead with the aim of achieving these targets and fully feeding milkers.

HECTARES REQUIRED IN VARIOUS GROWTH RATES

	Oct-Nov	Nov-Feb	Feb-Mar	Mar-Apr	Apr-May	May
Growth Rate kgsdm/ha/day	40	45	50	55	60	65
Kgsdm per cow	19	19	19	19	19	19
Potential cows/ha	2.1	2.4	2.63	2.9	3.2	3.4
Cows in milk	950	950	950	950	950	950
Hectares required	452	396	361	328	297	279
Hectares available	347	347	347	347	347	347
Surplus hectares	-105	-49	-14	19	50	68

As shown above the farm requires growth rates in excess of 51kgsdm/ha/day to meet the requirements to fully feed cows when all are in milk. We have allowed 20kgsdm per cow to allow for calf feeding. When growing in excess of 51kgsdm there could be potential for surplus feed or supplements. Initially there will be approximately 360ha's available for the milking round.



Murray Creek Dairy Farm

Farm Management Report

*By Jason Herrick
October/November 2014*

Mating

We have had a really good cycling rate pre-mating and cows are beginning the mating period very strongly. We currently have 46 non cycling cows and unsound cows in with the bull and the remaining cows in with the AI herds. Currently we have 10 Hereford bulls on farm with 1 in with dry cows and 3 in with non cycling cows and the remaining on rest and awaiting their turn.

Pasture & cropping

Currently we have 42 hectares set aside for silage with growth rates well above demand. The weather is proving to be a handful as we are really wet and struggling to get mower in action but I am mowing ahead of the cows when weather allows. We are going to put two paddocks into Kale and have enough on farm to winter 200 cows at home. The weather is set to improve so fingers crossed we can get it done in next week.

Cowshed

We are getting closer to having this shed up and running. Steve Barr is helping immensely in getting this achieved. The wear strip underneath last week came away and caused us some grief but the engineers have been in and repaired it. We have almost completed the full maintenance of the plant in the shed and will know exactly what may need replacing. In the past week we have had our soft starter for effluent pump fail and the cost of repairing it is almost the cost of a bigger new one. I have found out we need a bigger one as the old one was right on its limit for the current pump we are running. I have consulted with Steve Barr and we made the decision to put the new bigger one in, cost of around \$1300

With some better weather the cows should maintain through November into December. Octobers production was slightly better than last years with the insurance of the lost milk due to refrigeration issues earlier on. This has now been fixed and resolved to get us through this season.

Sandy & myself are very happy and are really enjoying working on Murray Creek and look forward to seeing how much we can improve this farm. We have included a few photo's of the past few months.

Jason & Sandy



Snow in the Calf Shed



New additions to the Murray Creek family

Murray Creek Production

355,000

KG MS

Month	Target 2014-2015	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011
June						
July						
August	9148	7052.44	9273.79	7651.7	3771.5	5528
September	41164	36020.48	39119.76	32140.6	28570.3	23554.3
October	53742	50166.64	50905.92	48472.4	46805.5	38716.3
November	50311	48700.43	51010.33	50053.4	45692.8	40942.9
December	44594		46582.23	47941.4	41028.6	36106.3
January	41889		44200.96	43906.1	38319.4	33366.2
February	35255		38305.04	37754	35555.9	30756.8
March	34303		36461.74	30444.3	33315.6	31543
April	27443		31203.02	25581.3	29154.2	25274
May	17152		16595.29	17441.5	23227.6	18106.5
Total	355001	141939.99	363658.08	325441.40	283894.3	321644.7

**Production is at 30th November
2014.**

KGMS

Month To Date This
Season

48,700.43

Month To Date Last
Season

51,010.33

Variance

% **3.2** %down

Year To Date This
Season

141,939.99

Year To Date Last
Season

150,309.80

Variance

% **8** %down