



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.*

8 th November 2018	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Pasture Growth Rate (kg DM/ha/day)	42	47	49
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2149	2188	2222
Rotation Length (days)	26	29	29
Pasture Demand (kg DM/ha/day)	56	49	51
Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day)	1.56	1.61	1.59
Production per ha to date (kgMS/ha)	432	500	510
Cows in Milk	75	85	86
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day, milkers)	0	2.7	2.6
Supplement Fed to Date (kg DM/cow)	237 (baleage)	298 (PKE)	302 (PKE)
Average Body Condition Score	3.9	4.0	4.1
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	5	5	5
Nitrogen - Season to Date (kg N/ha)	122	124	123
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	38		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

- Pasture cover has dropped on the Pasture Only farm. Silage has been cut and those paddocks are now back in the rotation which should help going forward. Cover has been holding steady on the other two farms, but all could use a good rain.
- The pasture wedge shows lower pre-graze covers coming in the next week. Rotation length will be extended to 30 days for all farms.
- PKE has been going into the two PKE farms for the last 10 days at around 2.7 kg DM/cow/day. This will be stepped up to 3.2 kg DM/cow/day as residuals are trending below the 1500 – 1600 kg DM/ha desired range. Further increases will be dependent on milk FEI which is currently sitting near the top of the A zone. We will be watching this closely.
- The Pasture Only farm will likely start feeding baleage in the next week as pre-graze covers drop.
- AI is all but finished with just a few stragglers that have not yet cycled. Bulls are ready to go out on Monday. A few light conditioned cows and non-cyclers remain on OAD milking.
- The chance of rain in the next couple of days will allow a bit of catch up on nitrogen (Sustain). Further nitrogen applications will be around rain events.

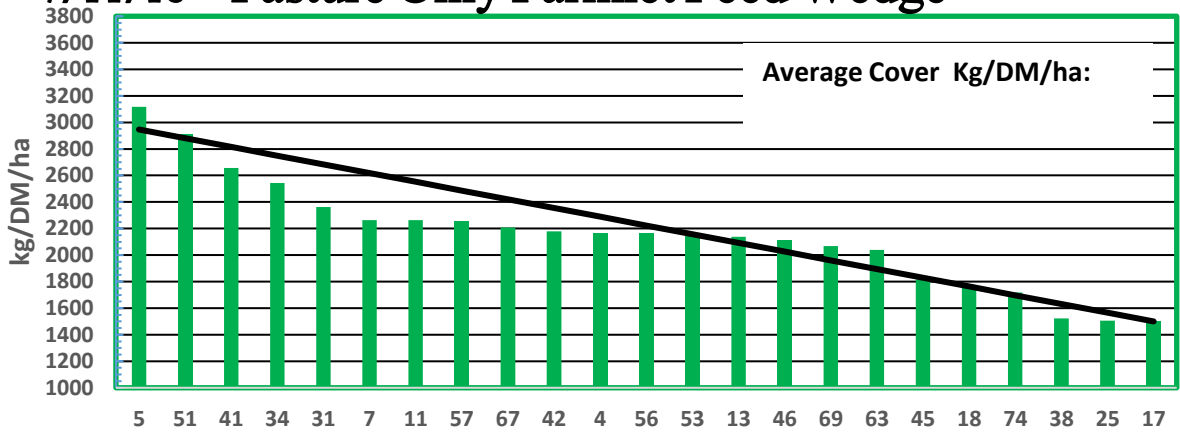
Book the date in – 4th December 2018. NDDT/NARF ‘Farm Systems for Profit’ field day at Tomarata Hall. 10am start, all welcome.

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

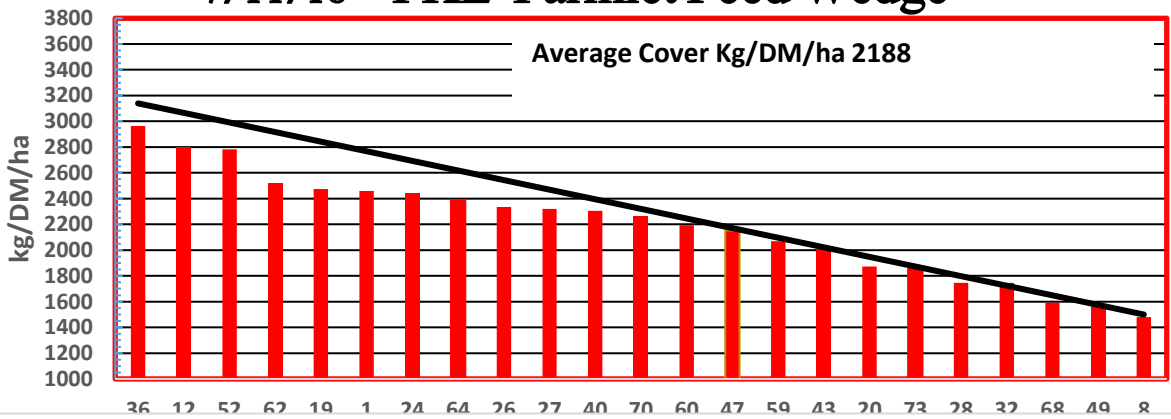
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7/11/18 Pasture Only Farmlet Feed Wedge



7/11/18 PKE Farmlet Feed Wedge



7/11/18 PKE Plus Farmlet Feed Wedge

