

## 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.*

13 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	1998	1922	1935
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	17	19	19
Rotation Length (days)	30	30	30
Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day)	1.11	1.16	1.25
Production per ha to date (kgMS/ha)	883	1033	1064
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	7 Silage	2.7 PKE 3.5-7 Silage	2.1 PKE 3.1 DDG 3.5 Silage
Supplement Fed to Date (kg DM/cow)	534 Silage	766	802
Average Body Condition Score	4.0	4.0	3.9
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	4	7	2
Nitrogen – Season to Date (kg N/ha)	140	138	140
Milk FEI	A	B	B/C
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	22 mm		

### CURRENT MANAGEMENT

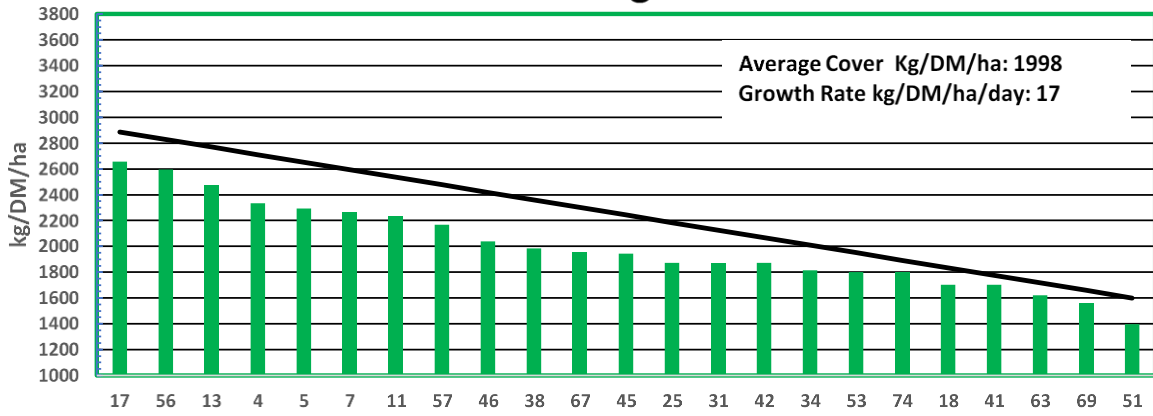
- Pasture covers and growth rates are still low despite some recent rain
- All three farms still have pasture silage on hand. At the present feeding rate the two PKE farms have around two weeks of silage left and there is six weeks left on the Pasture Only farm.
- 9 Culls and empties will be sold off the PKE Only farm to reduce the pressure on FEI.
- The PKE Plus farm has other supplement available so will keep milking all cows.
- The Pasture Only farm has 6 weeks of silage left so all cows will continue milking on this farm.
- Milk FEI is a challenge on both PKE farms. This is reflected in the Worry Scores
- Kikuyu mulching and undersowing will begin at the end of March as the mat is beginning to build up
- Most of the farm has received cricket bait

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

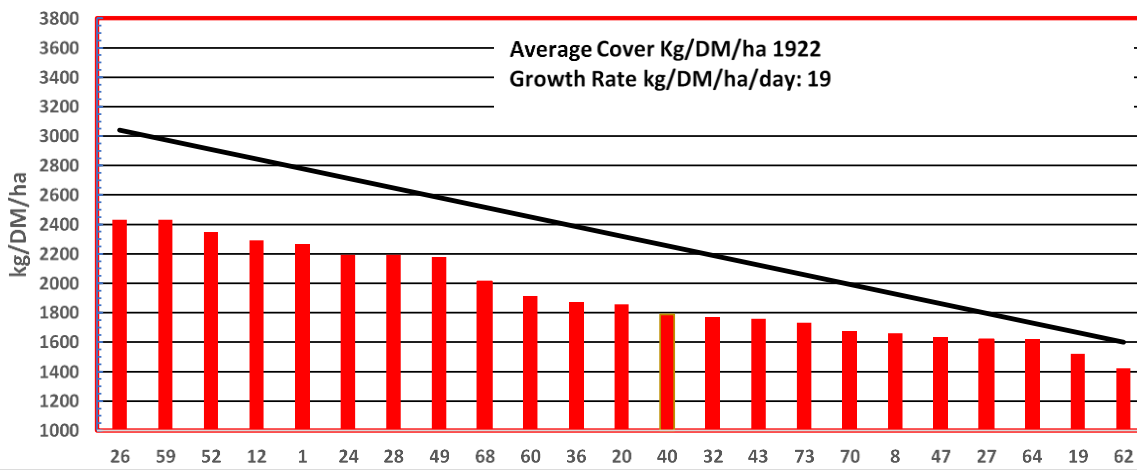
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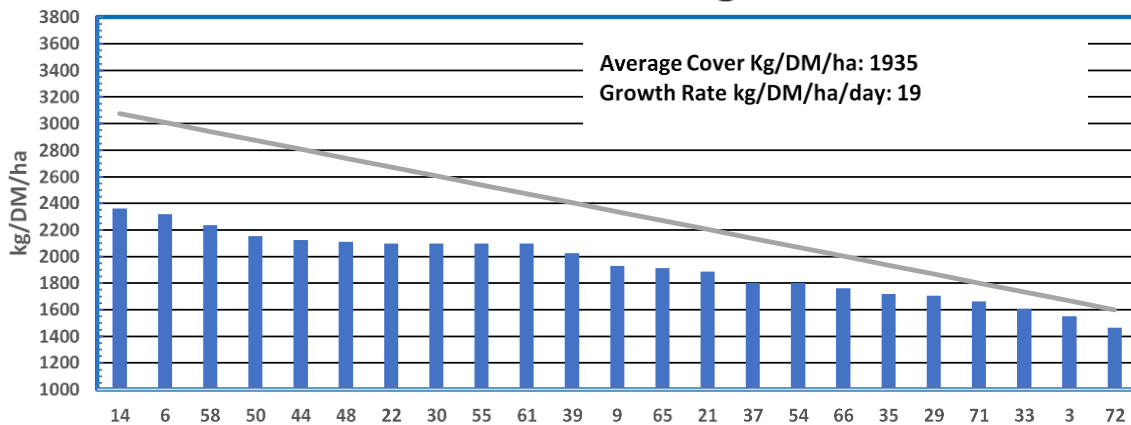
### 12/3/19 Pasture Farmlet Feed Wedge



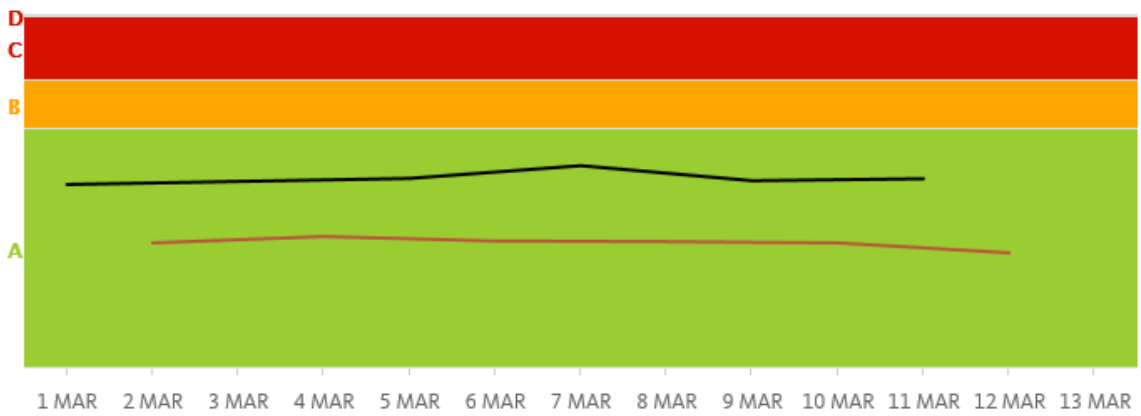
### 12/3/19 PKE Farmlet Feed Wedge



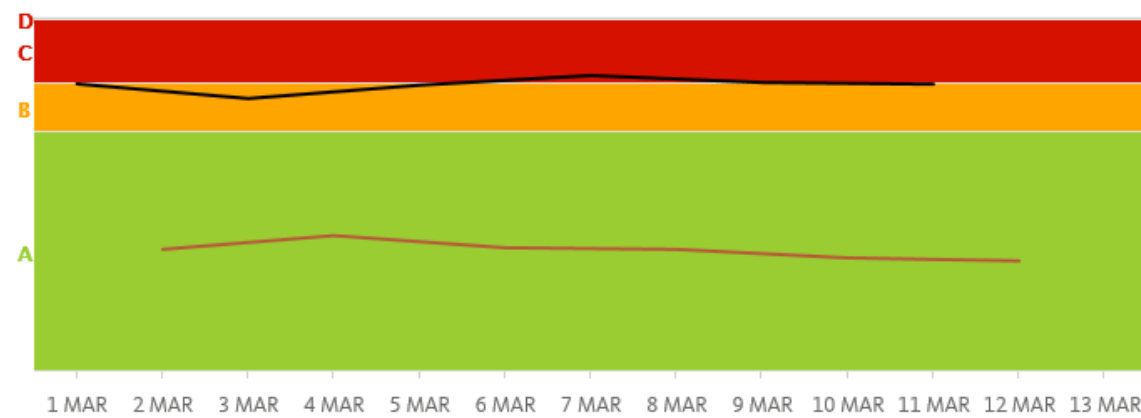
### 12/3/19 PKE +, Feed Wedge



FEI Average : **This Season** compared to **Last Season**



FEI Average : **This Season** compared to **Last Season**



FEI Average : **This Season** compared to **Last Season**

