

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.

19 th December 2018	Pasture Only Farm	PKE Only Farm	PKE Plus Farm
Cows in Milk	75 (100%)	85 (100%)	86 (100%)
Average Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)	2410	2273	2290
Rotation Length (days)	25	23	24
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha/day)	68	67	66
Area out of Rotation (silage)	4.9ha(18%)	4.7ha(17%)	3.58ha(13%)
Production per cow (kgMS/cow/day)	1.52	1.48	1.48
Production per ha to date (kgMS/ha)	604	708	717
Supplement Fed (kg DM/cow/day)	0	0	0
Supplement Fed to Date (kg DM/cow)	253 baleage	364 PKE	373 PKE & DDG
Average Body Condition Score	3.95	4.0	4.0
Worry Score (1 = Low, 10 = High)	3	3	3
Nitrogen - Season to Date (kg N/ha)	140	138	140
Rainfall (last 2 weeks)	15ml		

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

- Continued rain is keeping pasture growth high and silage paddocks will be harvested in the next week
- Pasture quality is improving with clover booming and causing the need for bloat oil in troughs
- Worry scores are reflecting the management required to keep residuals right and capturing all surplus. Kikuyu growth has taken off too. More silage will be dropped out if needed.
- Mating appears to have gone well and bulls were removed today after 11.5weeks total mating period.
- Nitrogen use has finished apart from 60kg/ha Sustain to go on silage paddocks after harvest.

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

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