UNIVERSITY of TASMANIA
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Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture

TIA DAIRY HIGH FARMLETS MONTHLY REPORT - JAN 2024

Dairy Australia

22/01/2024	Week 30	Farmlet 1		Farmlet 2		Farmlet 3		Farmlet 4	
# Cows		29		29		29		22	
SR (Cows/ha)		3.94		3.94		3.94		2.99	
Pasture species		Perennial ryegrass & White clover		Perennial ryegrass & White clover		Perennial ryegrass & White clover & Plantain		Mixed Species	
Nitrogen (kg N/ha.year)		300		150		150		0	
Daily Production									
		Per ha	**Per cow**	**Per ha**	**Per cow**	**Per ha**	**Per cow**	**Per ha**	**Per cow**
Litres		119.2	31.7	111.2	29.8	120.8	30.6	89.2	29.9
Protein (kg)		4.1	1.10	4.0	1.07	4.1	1.04	3.2	1.08
Fat (kg)		5.1	1.35	4.8	1.30	5.2	1.31	3.9	1.30
Milk Solids (kg)		9.2	2.44	8.8	2.37	9.3	2.35	7.1	2.38
Production to Date									
		Per ha	**Per cow**	**Per ha**	**Per cow**	**Per ha**	**Per cow**	**Per ha**	**Per cow**
Protein (kg)		645.5	163.8	645.7	163.9	645.8	163.9	502.5	168.1
Fat (kg)		801.5	203.4	792.5	201.1	775.3	196.8	609.3	203.8
Milk Solids (kg)		1447.1	367.3	1438.2	365.0	1421.1	360.7	1111.7	371.9
Pasture Performance									
Pasture Growth (kg DM/ha.day)		98		82		97		89	
Pasture Cover (kg DM/ha)		2559		2747		2534		2575	
Milking Cows Intake (kg DM/cow.day)									
Pasture		16.4		16.6		16.4		16.6	
Concentrates		5.8		5.8		5.8		5.8	
Silage		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0	
Other Supplements		0.0		0.0		0.0		0.0	
Total Intake		**22.2**		**22.4**		**22.2**		**22.5**	
Nitrogen use									
		This Period	**Season**	**This Period**	**Season**	**This Period**	**Season**	**This Period**	**Season**
Nitrogen applied (kg N/ha)		9	146	4	99	4	97	0	0

Comments

Per cow milk production for each of the farmlets for January was about 2.4 kg MS/day. Approximately 900 kg pellets has been fed per cow to date. Farmlets 1-3 have each produced over 1400 kg MS/ha and should achieve 2000 kg MS/ha by the end of the season. Farmlet 4 has lower per hectare production because of the lower stocking rate. This lower stocking rate was chosen because no nitrogen is being applied to this farmlet so lower pasture growth was anticipated. However, the pasture growth on farmlet 4 has actually been similar to the other farmlets (approximately 14 t DM/ha to date) meaning this farmlet has been understocked and has had more surplus pasture that has been made into silage. Making silage on these farmlets is proving to be a logistical challenge as each farmlet is only 7.36 hectares and 8 paddocks (0.9ha each). So dropping out a paddock, takes out 1/8th (12.5%) of the farmlet which is fairly significant for the farmlet but insignificant for silage contractors being asked to come and make approximately 10 bales in a paddock (big thank you that they are doing this though).

Moving forward, the focus is on maintaining pasture quality. With very high pasture growth, this can be challenging and is being managed through a slightly fast rotation length (17-18 days or 2-leaf stage). Silage also continues to be made as necessary to manage any surplus. The amount of nitrogen being applied is set for each farmlet. Outside of a research trial, if the pasture growth was above requirements, the amount of nitrogen applied could be reduced. However that is not an option for the farmlet study as we are aiming to compare the difference between nitrogen rates on each of the farmlets. This means that nitrogen continues to be applied at 30 kg N/ha after each grazing on farmlet 1 and 15 kg N/ha after each grazing on farmlets 2 and 3. No nitrogen is being applied to farmlet 4.

A field day is being held at the research farm on February 28 and everyone is invited to come along and have a look at each of the farmlets, hear a lot more detail about their performance and ask questions.

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