

## FOCUS FARM UPDATE

Adolph, Mary-Ann and Colin Mathis, Tokoroa

By: Mark Macintosh, Focus Farm Facilitator, AgFirst

Ph: 07 3071142 Email: mark.mac@agfirst.co.nz

**Period 15th-31st December 2008**

### **Current Situation Summary as at 15th December 2008 unless stated otherwise**

Key Indicators	Expected	Actual	
Stock on hand ce/ha	*3.10	3.09	Includes bulls
Rainfall mm for period	*75	103	138mm for the month
10cm Soil Temperature °C	18.0	18.0	
Pasture Cover kgDM/ha	2,375	2,240	
Pasture Growth kgDM/ha/day for period	60	40	
Grazing Rotation days	22	24	
% Supplement in diet for period	0%	0%	
Feed Offered kgDM/cow/day for period	20.0	17.5	Based on pasture assessment
Nitrogen applied to date kgN/ha	101	99	
Supplement on hand kgDM	110,000	106,000	Grass silage
Total Milksolids/ha to date	*768	762	To factory
Daily per ha Milksolids	*5.00	5.20	
Daily per cow Milksolids	*1.61	1.75	
Cow days in milk/ha	*400	390	
Feed to Milk Efficiency kgDM/kgMS	*12.0	10.0	Based on feed offered

\* Original target

- Welcome rainfall arrived this last two week period which helped produce an average result for the month. Despite this the pasture growth rate was very modest. This was attributed to 11ha silage stored and taken on the 19<sup>th</sup> of the month.
- As a result average farm pasture cover was lower than expected but well within the ideal range of 2,100 to 2,300 kgDM/ha.
- The feed wedge (see below) indicates a slight deficit for the next week followed by a slight surplus. This should have little affect on the required grazing rotation and the need to feed supplement.
- We were over ambitious with milker intake. It is well down on target however the conversion to milksolids is better than expected. Overall the cows were producing well relative to expectation.
- Colin has done a great job with the timing of the closing up and harvesting of the surplus grass. He has maintained a consistent pasture cover and grazing residual on the grazing area of around the 2,200 kgDM/ha and 1,600 kgDM/ha respectively.
- The grass silage on hand shown above consists of: 30,000 kgDM taken back in late October; 32,000 kgDM taken this month; and 44,000 kgDM transferred in from the runoff.
- A further 3ha had been tentatively shut for hay.
- A herbage test taken on the 17<sup>th</sup> December indicated a reasonable ME level of 11.1. Details of the test is shown below.

MATHIS HERBAGE		17/12	
<u>Analysis</u>		<u>Level</u>	<u>Medium Range</u>
Dry Matter	%	14.7	12.0 - 25.0
Crude Protein	%DM	22.8	20.0 – 30.0
Acid Detergent Fibre	%DM	26.0	20.0 – 30.0
Neutral Detergent Fibre	%DM	45.6	30.0 – 45.0
Ash	%DM	10.9	7.0 – 14.0
Digestibility (DOMD)	%	69.2	65.0 – 80.0
Metabolisable Energy (ME)	MJ/kg	11.1	9.0 – 12.0
Soluble sugars	%DM	7.1	4.0 – 15.0

- To the 31st December milk production was 3.5% ahead of last year and only 0.7% behind target (see graph below). Currently production is still trending ahead of last year and target. Compared to the group average production is trending well (see graph below).
- The bulk somatic cell count was averaging 140,000. An average of 5 cows were out of the vat for treatment.

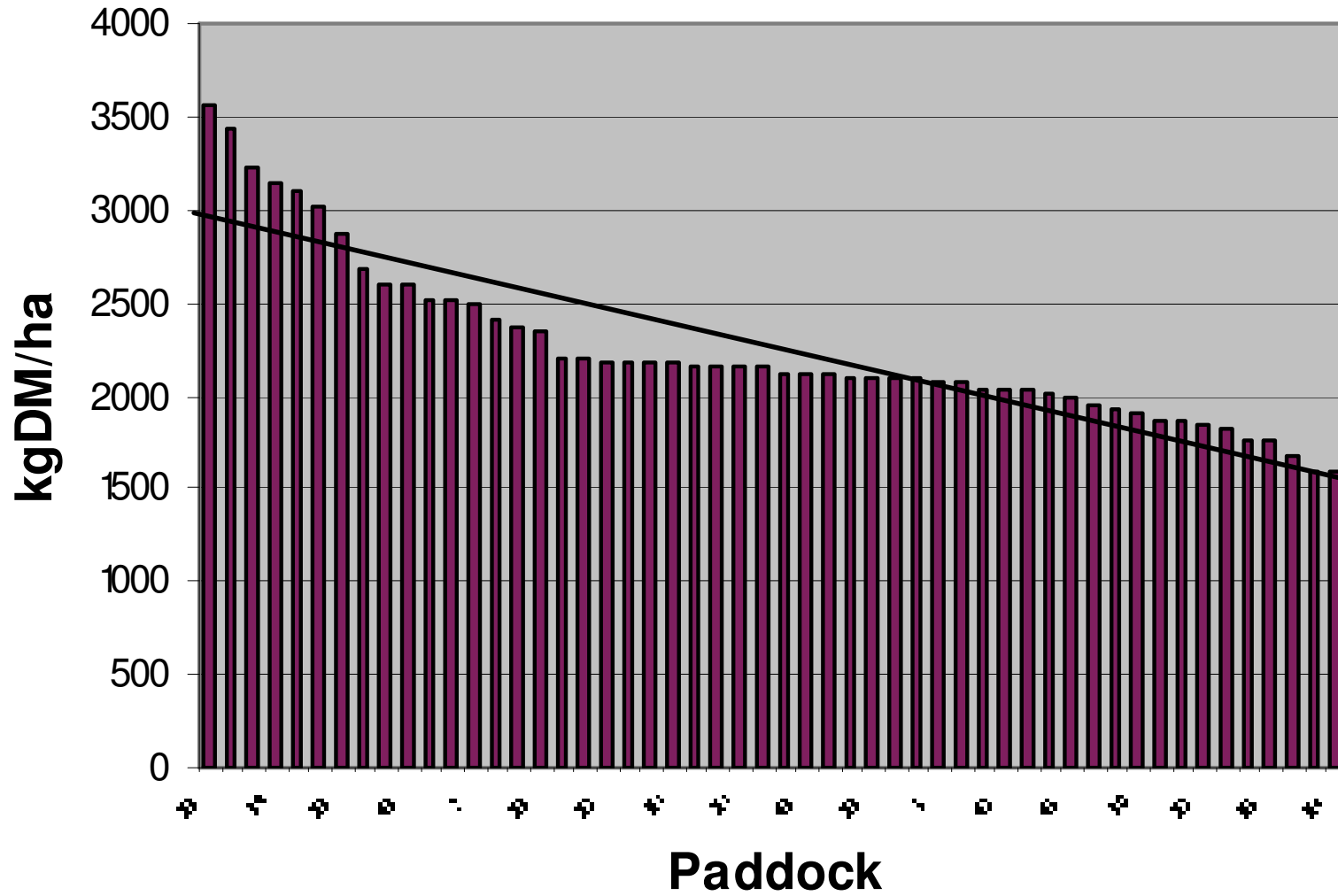
### **Management for the next period to 15th January 2009.**

The main aim for the next period will still be to optimise pasture quality so as to maximize cow feed intakes and keep on top of mastitis. This will be achieved with the following management:-

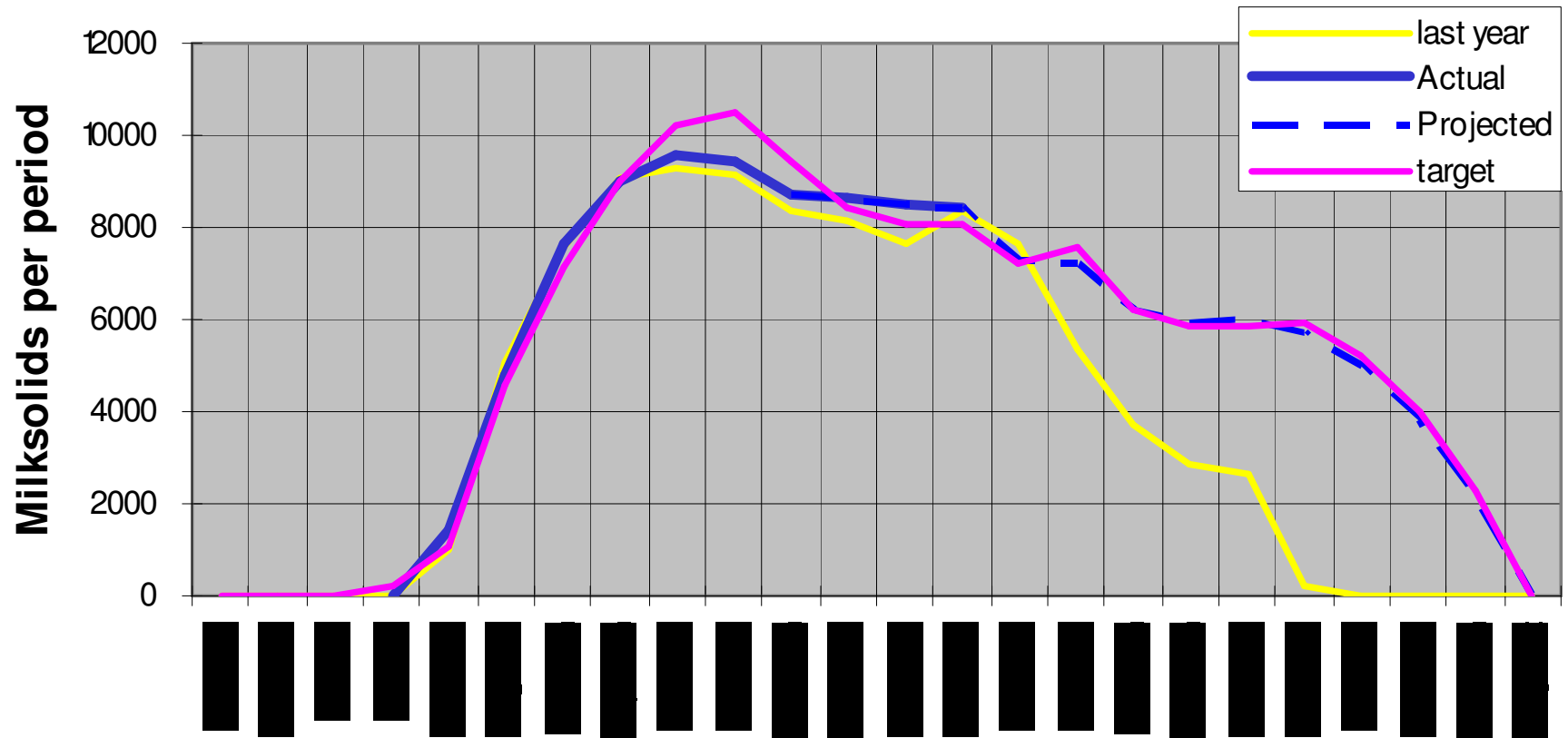
- Maintain a grazing residual of 1,600 kgDM/ha (8 clicks on pasture meter).
- Maintain a grazing rotation of 20-25 days. To go longer than this will build up a wedge of feed for the summer period however will significantly reduce pasture quality and production. The insurance for the summer is the pre-summer nitrogen and supplementing palm kernel when required.
- No more nitrogen need be required until the autumn period.
- Continue to strategically top high fertility areas within paddocks as required.
- Pull from the grazing rotation any pregraze pastures exceeding 3,000 kgDM/ha. It is expected no more surpluses should eventuate given average pasture growth.
- Continue to focus on maintaining the bulk somatic cell count at below 150,000. Policy will be to check whole herd twice per week.
- Milk production is now on track for 126,000 kg milksolids from 306 cows (412 kgMS/cow). This is similar to the original target of 127,000 kg however if the cows continue to milk well (per cow), target production should be exceeded over the next month.  
The previous best for the farm was 119,559 kgMS in the 2006/07 season.

# Mathis Feed Wedge

## 30 Dec 08



# Mathis Milksolids 2008/09



### Dairypush Farms - Milksolids/ha/day Comparison 2008/09

