

The University of Melbourne

Dookie College Dairyfarm

Weekly Report

Week ending 19th September 2003

	This Week	Last week
Cow numbers (in vat)	112	100
Daily milk (l)	2608	2189
Daily fat yield (kg)	95	82
Daily protein yield (kg)	92	77
Fat test (%)	3.63	3.77
Protein test (%)	3.52	3.52
Litres/cow	23.3	21.9
Pellets (kg/cow)	4	4
Silage (kg/cow)	0	0
Bacto	*	36
Bulk milk cell count	103	177

	Year to date	Last year to date
Milk (l)	59,539	39,638
Fat (kg)	2,240	1,450
Protein (kg)	2,088	1,402

It has been a (relatively) quiet week at the Dookie Dairy. Minimal rain has fallen over the last week and Nick must make the decision as to when to start irrigation if rain is not received soon. Late application of water to these pastures could result in the loss of 2-3 weeks' growth. Nick is currently considering the application of water to one third of the farm just to be safe as nothing is really lost using this tactic, as well as insuring against decreased rate of pasture growth. The irrigation channels have been sprayed with Roundup in preparation for the irrigation season.

Nitrogen is still being applied at a rate of 50 kg urea per hectare after each grazing which has resulted in the rapid growth of the pastures, which is very pleasing for Nick. He is also still topping every second or third paddock grazed and the extra effort appears to be worth it as the ryegrass in these paddocks is tillering nicely.

Calf rearing is going well with 35 calves on hand and a further 60 cows still expected to calve. Nick is hoping to rear 40 calves for the season and is not far from reaching this expected total.

Adam Murphy and Greg Wilson