

The University of Melbourne

Dookie College Dairyfarm

Weekly Report

Week ending 16th February 2005

	This week	Last week
Cow numbers (in vat)	179	179
Herd milk yield (l/d)	3816	4027
Herd fat yield (kg/d)	159	158
Herd protein yield (kg/d)	127	127
Fat test (%)	4.18	3.92
Protein test (%)	3.33	3.17
Cow milk yield (l/cow/d)	21.3	22.5
Grain (kg/cow)	6	6
Silage/hay (kg DM/cow)	3	2
Bacto	20,000	20,000
Bulk milk cell count	187,000	171,000

	Year to date	Last year to date
Lactation milk yield (l)	718,367	703,932
Lactation fat yield (kg)	28,475	27,311
Lactation protein yield (kg)	23,650	22,664

Pasture growth rate has reduced with the recent cold weather and milk production has started to drop. To take account of reduced pasture growth rates the grazing rotation length has been extended to 30 days. This will allow the ryegrass to approach the three leaf stage.

Nick will continue to monitor the pasture and if the heat returns, will shorten the rotation length again to control the paspalum.

To fill the feed gap from extending the rotation and in an attempt to ensure that the milk does not drop any further in the vat we have been putting 4 bales of silage into the herd each day. We have also given the cows access to a 12ha hill paddock of dryland lucerne for an hour each afternoon. This is growing extremely fast after the rain. It is only about 20 cm high but will get us out of trouble for a few days.

100 kg of urea is being applied to each pasture paddock after grazing to create a cheap wedge of feed in the next round of grazing.