

**The University of Melbourne**

**Dookie College Dairyfarm**

**Weekly Report**

Week ending 4th March 2005

	This week	Last week
Cow numbers (in vat)	179	179
Herd milk yield (l/d)	3,920	4,035
Herd fat yield (kg/d)	163	164
Herd protein yield (kg/d)	131	135
Fat test (%)	4.17	4.08
Protein test (%)	3.35	3.34
Cow milk yield (l/cow/d)	21.9	22.5
Grain (kg/cow)	7	7
Silage/hay (kg DM/cow)	2	3
Bacto	0	20,000
Bulk milk cell count	218,000	268,000

	Year to date	Last year to date
Lactation milk yield (l)	663,757	650,309
Lactation fat yield (kg)	26,212	25,091
Lactation protein yield (kg)	21,837	20,977

The last week has mainly been spent in irrigating and managing the pasture rotation. The rotation has been speeded up to 24 days, thanks to the warmer weather of the last few days. There is a fine line in managing the paspalum and looking after our ryegrass.

Also this week we are putting out fertiliser at different rates, depending on paddocks and trial plots, but this should give us a good autumn boost of feed. The application of fertiliser was somewhat delayed as we have been preparing for a phosphate trial. Now that all of the earthworks, with specially designed flumes, have been installed and tested the trial is just about ready to go. Three or four students and a post-doctoral student have been involved in setting up the trial and it should run for a minimum of 12 months.

You can find out more about this trial at the Dookie Dairy Field Day which will be held on Tuesday 12th April from 11am to about 12:30 pm – so make this a date in your diaries!