

## IS THE COLD HERE TO STAY

### Season to Date:

Rainfall for the season has been continuing well for most parts of the state, however the cold weather has definitely kicked in and has slowed pasture growth rates down throughout, as seen below with the leaf emergence rate – which is calculated with mean maximum and minimum temperatures.

Leaf Emergence Rates (LER) week 4 July (Based on current max and min air temperatures)			
Serpentine	Bunbury	Margaret River	Albany
15.4	14.3	13.3	14.8

### Transition Cow Management (TCM):

We recently had a workshop in Bunbury looking at transition cow management, and how the last 3 weeks of a dry cow's diet are critically important for lactation and fertility. Some important things to note when managing those dry cows were:

- The ideal length for a TCM diet is 21 days; this sets the rumen up for lactation and has been proven to have positive fertility effects
- Dry cows need a high energy density diet as appetite is suppressed by up to 30% before calving. However, feeding high quality feeds can minimise the appetite suppression.
- The target protein level for a TCM ration is 14%-16% DM
- The target energy level for a TCM ration is 11MJ/kg DM, or 100-120 MJ/cow/day
- The DCAD of the diet must be negative or as close to as possible, neutral is okay, this lowers the milk fever risk
- A calcium level below 0.6% DM, magnesium level above 0.45% DM and a phosphorus level below 0.4% DM will decrease milk fever risk
- Aim to fed about 12kg DM/cow/day with a high energy density, and a fibre content of above 36% DM
- The aim of a TCM diet is to prevent and control diseases such as milk fever. Milk fever is a gateway disease to other diseases such as mastitis, metritis, LDA's, ketosis and retained placentas
- Its recommended to include heifers in your farms TCM diet to help rumen adaptation for lactation and grain feeding, and socialisation

### Spring fertiliser and tissue testing:

Now is a great time to be tissue testing on farm and deciding what fertiliser you might need to be applying over spring. Our Agribusiness Team Leader Kirk Reynolds is very knowledgeable in this space and welcomes any queries or concerns you might have about your farm.

### Upcoming Events:

- Rearing Healthy Calves – 16<sup>th</sup> August in Scott River and 17<sup>th</sup> August Denmark, contact us to register
- COCO – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of August at Vasse Research Centre, contact us to register



KIRK REYNOLDS

0429 110 485

kirk.reynolds@westerndairy.com.au



RUAIRI MCDONNELL

0448 939 336

ruairi.mcdonnell@westerndairy.com.au



JESSICA ANDONY

0435 174 719

jessica@westerndairy.com.au

WESTERN DAIRY INCORPORATED

www.westerndairy.com.au

(C/O: SWCC) PO Box

5066 Bunbury WA 6230