

WINTER MANAGEMENT

Season to Date:

The grazing season has begun on most farms now, with pasture becoming a major part of the ration. The leaf emergence rates below should give you a good idea of how many days it will take to grow a new ryegrass tiller (leaf). Grazing at the 3-leaf stage will ensure plant quality is optimised and you're getting maximum utilisation from your pasture.

Leaf Emergence Rates (LER) week 1 June (Based on current max and min air temperatures)			
Serpentine	Bunbury	Margaret River	Albany
13.5	13.2	13.6	13.1

Grazing Management:

Knowing the LER allows you to allocate daily grazing area depending on pre grazing cover and post grazing residuals. Targeting low residuals (around 5-7cm) for highly digestible annuals is realistic this early in the season, and this will optimise dry matter utilisation. With early pastures remember fibre levels are often lower so keep an eye out for inadequate fibre levels in the ration, particularly if also feeding a highly fermentable cereal grain such as wheat. A small amount of good quality hay can help lift dietary fibre levels.

Mastitis Control:

The wetter weather brings a higher risks of mastitis, both from shed contamination and paddocks or laneways. Here are a few quick reminders to help reduce the risk:

- Walk the herd calmly to and from the dairy to reduce mud splash
- Cows should enter the dairy willingly
- Only put cups on clean, dry and plump teats. Sometimes washing and drying are necessary
- Ensure cups are put on correctly, and vacuum is monitored daily
- If more than 1 in 20 cows have cup slip, get your machine checked
- Cover the entire surface of teats with a registered teat spray after every milking

Young Stock:

Weaned calves are likely out grazing now and maintaining growth through winter/spring on high quality pasture shouldn't be difficult. Holstein heifers should be gaining around 700g/day, and Jersey's around 500g/day to be calving down at 24-27 months of age without compromising health and fertility. From weaning to 9 months of age rumen capacity is limited and heifers will need a diet high in protein and energy. A typical 100kg Holstein heifer has a total ME requirement per day of 36.8 MJ and will require a ration with 17% crude protein for optimum growth and maintenance. During this period of growth, it's important to stimulate lean body growth and not to deposit excess body fat. Lean body growth (muscle and skeletal growth) will result in increased frame size while maintaining a consistent body condition score. An important concept to understand when rearing heifers is that they become less efficient at using energy for growth as they get older. A 100kg heifer calf requires 20 MJ ME to put on 1kg of liveweight above maintenance energy requirements, where as a 400kg heifer requires 40 MJ ME to put on 1kg of liveweight.

**Expression of interest open for a Cups on Cups Off Course June/July, please email: Jessica@westerndairy.com.au



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