

Seasonal Update:

The lack of rainfall over the dairying regions in WA has meant many have depleted or are depleting home-grown feed resources on their farms. The LER has begun to stretch out as nights are getting colder. Now is a perfect time to revisit your feed budget, and make sure you have supplies on hand or ordered if you need them. For those with pasture, the application of nitrogen fertiliser at the required rate is a cost-effective way to grow additional pastures.

Leaf Emergence Rates (LER) week 4 - June (Based on current max and min air temperatures)			
Serpentine	Bunbury	Margaret River	Albany
14.5	13.5	14	13

Tactic for Tight Times (TFTT)

Feed Budgeting:

An important part of dealing with tight times is knowing how much feed is required for the number of stock you have over the coming months. Planning in advance will allow you to lock in quality feed before demand for feed inflates prices.

Here's some key tips:

- ✓ Develop a month-by-month feed budget for all your stock
- ✓ When calculating monthly feed demand, use accurate stock numbers and realistic energy requirements for different classes of stock (see below for a daily energy requirements for different classes of stock)
- ✓ When calculating total feed deficit for each month, use sound estimates of pasture growth and utilisation rates, and quantities of home-grown hay and/or silage on-hand
- ✓ Make realistic allowances for feed wastage based on your intended feed-out methods (in the dairy and on feedpads will typically have minimal wastage (1-5%), whereas grazing or feed-outs on sacrifice paddocks could have between 15-25% wastage).
- ✓ Revise your feed budget when circumstances change (change in stock numbers, change in weather which fluctuates pasture growth rates, a new batch of grain with different energy %).

Class of Stock	Daily ME (energy) requirements
Milking Cows	70 – 95 MJ ME for maintenance (dependent on liveweight, walking and weather) Plus 5 – 5.5 MJ ME per litre of milk produced. Plus any additional ME if gaining weight
Dry Cows	90 – 100 MJ ME (dependent on liveweight, and liveweight change)
Yearling Heifers	80 – 100 MJ ME (depending on liveweight)
Calves	40 – 80 MJ ME (depending on liveweight)

Dairy Australia has an easy to use Feed Budget Tool developed in Microsoft Excel which can be downloaded from the TFTT website: <http://tftt.dairyaustralia.com.au/tips%20tools%20and%20resources/tools%20and%20resources> among other handy factsheets and tools can also be found on the TFTT website.

Upcoming Events

WAFarmers Dairy Conference Thurs 27th July 2017, email reception@wafarmers.org.au or call (08) 9486 2100 to register.

Livestock Euthanasia Accredited Courses – 19th and 20th July. Contact us for further information and locations, and to register.



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