



FINDING THE EDGE

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“There is nothing quite as satisfying as seeing a new crop germinate and the knowledge that you planted it”

Pasture Focus Philosophy

- You are a market gardener. You are there to grow feed your cows simply harvest what you grow. The responsibility of how they harvest the feed is entirely yours.
- All daily chores must be aimed to grow as much high quality pasture and harvest it in such a way that results in a rotation plan which will maximise regrowth. Milk production is a result of your actions.
- Graze to 4-5 cm residual threshold. Energy is stored in the bottom 4-5 cm of the tiller. Chew below the threshold and you remove energy for regrowth.
- Maximise growth by grazing to 3 leaf stage. 40% to 60% of the plants growth is in the 3rd leaf stage.
- Profitability is getting the fine line right between maximising quality and maximising growth.
- Undersow or oversow any areas that are bare. ‘Sunlight that hits bare ground will never produce milk’
- Always do what you need to do when you need to do it to get the results you are after.
- Monitor growth rates and residuals regularly. Your feed wedge is the most important graph in your business. Milk and money graphs follow a close second equal.
- Use supplements to fill holes in pasture supply and to maximise pasture production and maintaining production and cow condition.
- Be realistic about harvesting your crop. Budget on harvesting up to only 80% of pasture growth.
- Topping in spring means topping not skimming the ground with your mower. Lift the height of the blades to 5 cm from the ground surface.
- You will never have feed quality problems if you leave 1800 kgdm behind in the first spring rotation. Don’t be so stupid.
- The difference between 1600 kgdm residual and 1900 kgdm residual is two clicks on a platometer or 1 cm in height. Do you still think you can target 1500 kgdm residual and get it right each time?
- Work hard to make things happen. The difference between getting it right and getting it wrong is simply timing. Trust your gut instinct.
- Finally your beliefs become your thoughts which turn into your actions. Think success Feel success!