



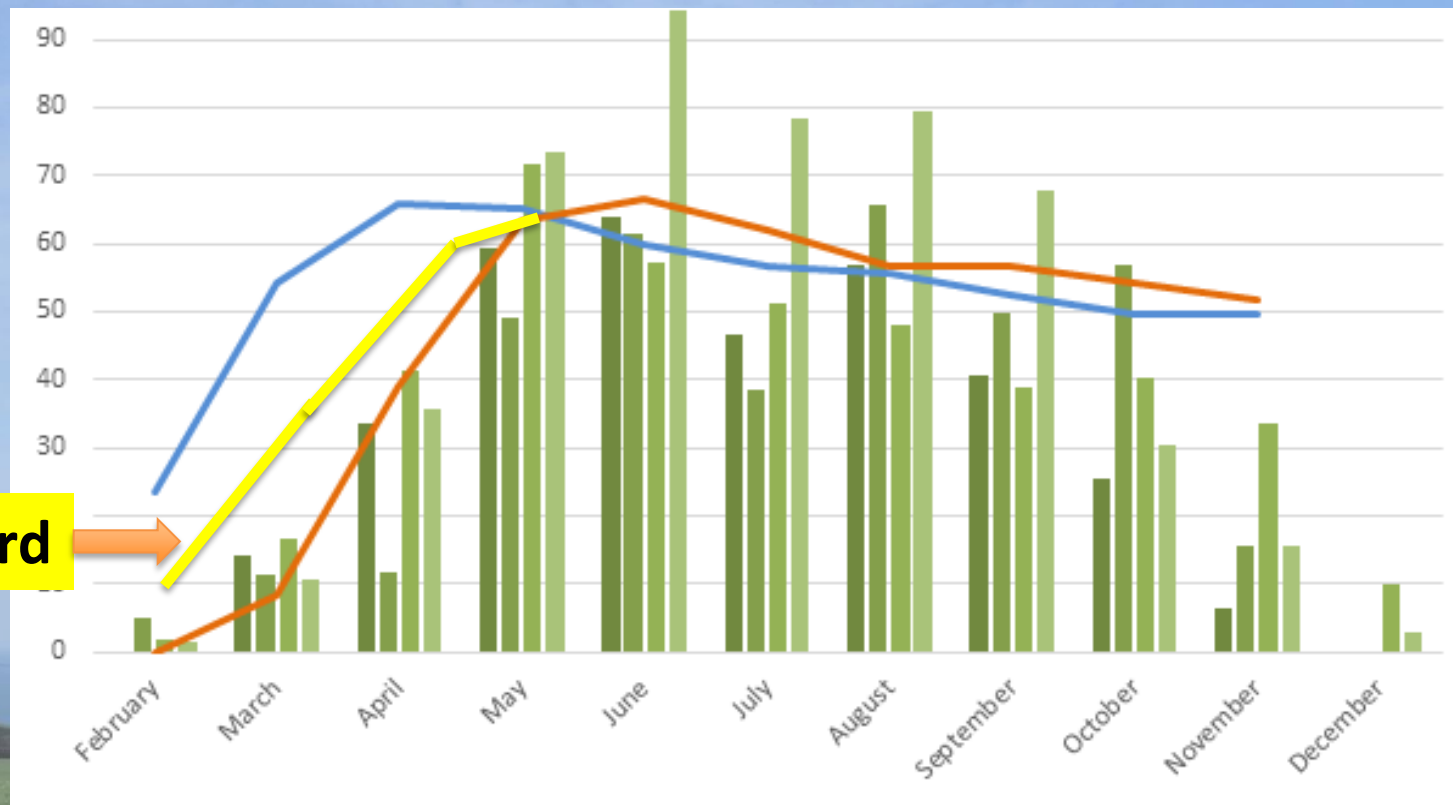
“Dairy Farming at High Stocking Rate and Late Calving Date”

Chris Mossman



Introduction

- ★ Calving Date
- ★ Stocking Rate



My herd

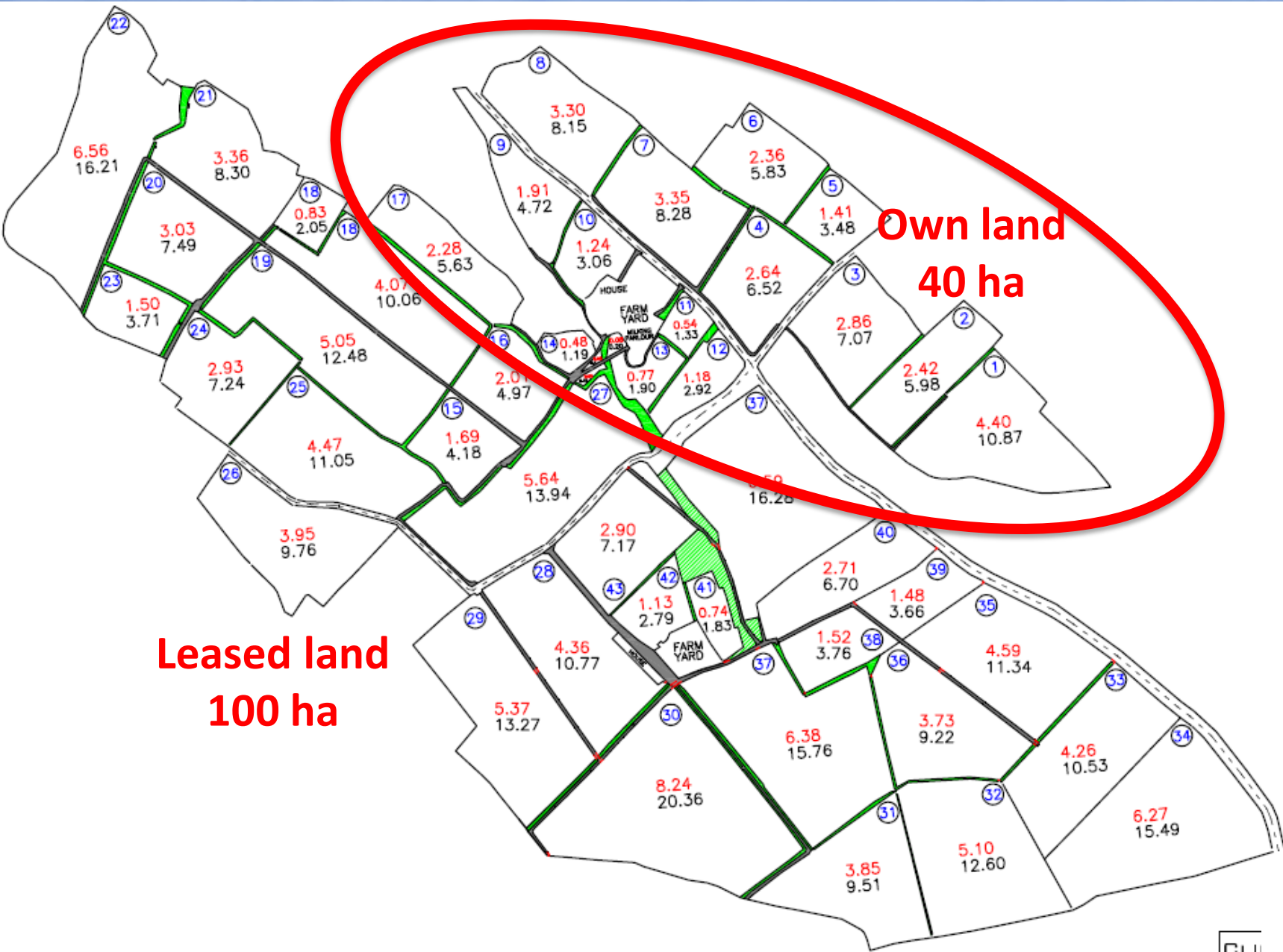
Background

- 202 ha (142 ha platform)
- 450 cows
- 250 R1+R2



Family





Farm Performance

- 500kg MS/cow
- 3 cows/ha 1550kg LW/ha
- 85% calved in 6 weeks
- Less than 10% empty after 10 weeks
- Less than 10% of heifers below target weight at calving
- Average cell counts of less than 120,000
- Clinical cases of mastitis at less than 15%
- Averaging 16% overall losses/year (excluding tb) - TARGET <15%
- Challenging but happy place to work

The challenge is to produce KGs of milk solids **efficiently** and **profitably**



Farm Performance

Year	Sales per cow		Tonnes Fed	Costs (PPL)**
	Litres	Kg MS		
2011	5,902	503	1.04	5 yr av 21.0
2012	5,650	488	1.2	
2013	5,933	501	1.4*	
2014	6,073	517	1.08	
2015	6,210	528	1.1	
2016	6,086	508	1.0	18.2

* Cold spring & dry summer

**Cost excl. depr.,own labour but incl. heifer rearing

• Need more: ✓ COWS AT GRASS

• Need less: ✗ WAGON/SILAGE

✗ SCRAPING

✗ BEDDING



What Stocking Rate?

- What do we grow/ha?
- Water logging or summer droughts?
- Supplements: Quantity fed and ease of feeding?



My Farm – overall SR 2.8 LU/ha

- Light, free draining soil
- Rainfall: 30” per year
- Susceptible to summer drought
- Grass Growth: 11.5-12.6 tonnes DM/YR
- 1 ton/cow of concentrate supplement
- Purchase silage no more than 1 in 5 years
- Can graze from Feb until 20th December



My Farm – milking platform SR 3 cows/ha

- A cow requires 5.5 tonnes DM/YR
- Aim: 3 cows / HA
- 3 cows x 5.5 tonnes DM = 16.5 tonnes
- 16.5 tonnes DM – 3 tonnes concentrate = 13.5
- Average grown: 12 tons @ 80% utilisation = 9.6
- Deficit is filled from the support block



**FUTURE OBJECTIVE:
TO GROW MORE GRASS/HA**



Growing & Harvesting more Grass DM

- Improve soil fertility
- Re-seeding
- Improve grazing skills
- Improve herd efficiency
- Re-looking at the role of clover

All of the above have massive room for improvement



Fast & Furious Calving

Year	Number	50% herd calved
2007	120	14 days
2012	302	17 days
2014	352	15 days
2015	373	14 days
2016	407	9 days
2017	450	<i>10 days</i>

Why?

Days in milk

Heifer calves = 2 wks

Concentrates labour

Graze effectively



Confidence to calve quickly

- Agrinet – spring & autumn grass budgets
- Closing & opening covers vital
- Knowledge of magic day
- **Defend AFC of 1800 kg DM/ha**
- Full feed cows – at all times



2017 Calving Predictions

- 464 to Calve (131 Heifers Or 28%)
- 75% 6 week in calf rate
- 15 Days to calve half the cows
- 10 Days to calve half the herd
- 91% calved in 6 weeks
- 12% empty after 9 weeks breeding in 2016



What we have done to assist Fast & Furious Calving

- Calve at BCS 3
- Jersey AI on heifers
- Producing milk vs. producing beef calves
- PLENTY of bedding
- Any intervention:
 - ➔ Pen & Strep
 - ➔ Gloves
 - ➔ Plenty of Hibiscrub
- Cows with difficult calving
 - ➔ Propylene Glycol
 - ➔ Oxytocin & Metacam (help uterus close down and improve recovery)
- Detect metritis early (stockmanship)
- Metri-check all cows early April
- Use of intervention drugs
 - CIDR/Estrumate
- Blood/milk tests 4 to 5 weeks into production to indicate herd energy status

Breeding Routine

PRE-PLANNING:- “It’s a busy time!”

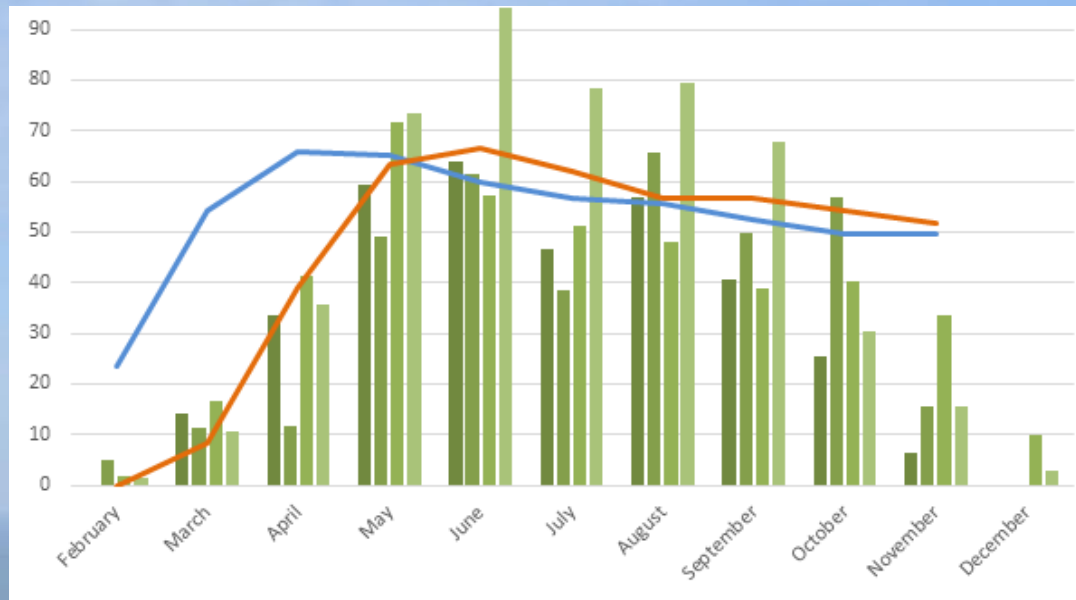
- Book vets well ahead
- Ensure you are well staffed
- Have plenty of bulls lined up

Intervention

- Insert CIDR into non-cyclers EARLIER
- “**Why Wait**” programme
- Aim: Serve 2/3 of herd in 1st week of AI
- Expected return on intervention investment through increased days in milk

Conclusion

- Positive impact on MY farm
- BUT dependent on fast & furious calving period
- OTHERWISE danger of grass growth getting out of control



IT'S ALL GREAT FUN!