

DAIRY SCIENCE 2007

Meeting the challenges for pasture-based dairying

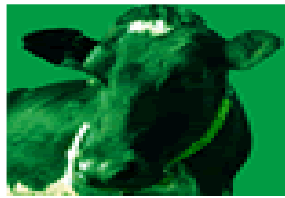
Effects of complementary forages on productivity and profit of dairy systems in southwest Victoria, Australia

D.F. Chapman¹, J. Hill¹, J. Tharmaraj¹, J.L. Jacobs², D. Beca³, R.
Grendon¹, L.Watson¹ and A. Fergusson¹

¹ School of Agriculture and Food Systems, University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010

² Department of Primary Industries, Warrnambool, Victoria 3280

³ Red Sky Agribusiness, Warrnambool, Victoria 3280



DAIRY SCIENCE 2007

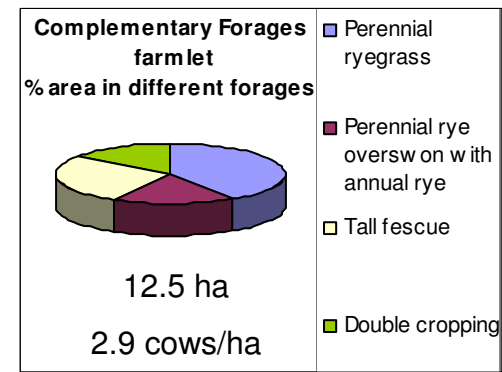
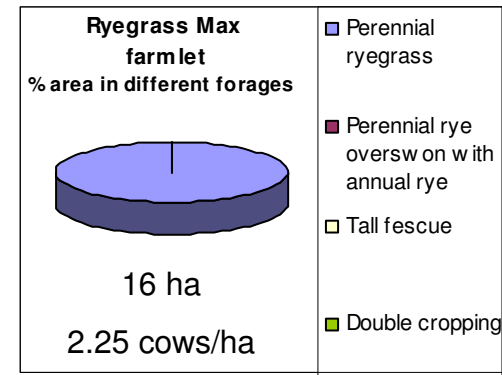
Meeting the challenges for pasture-based dairying

Questions:

- ? Can systems based on complementary forages substantially increase home-grown forage consumption and profit compared to well-managed perennial ryegrass?
- ? If not, why not, and can we find solutions to the obstacles to higher profitability?

Methods:

- ☞ 2 farmlets, at DemoDairy, SW Vic





DAIRY SCIENCE 2007

Meeting the challenges for pasture-based dairying

Results

- ➔ Higher production from CF farmlet, but
- ➔ Total operating profit for 2 lactations no different from RM farmlet

Conclusions

- ➔ Further improvement in profit possible for both systems

	2005/06			2006/07		
	RM	CF	Top 10% ¹	RM	CF	Top 10% ²
kg MS/ha	1,170	1,526	1,043	1,278	1,754	1,022
Op prof \$/ha	1,602	1,990	1,771	1,324	1,018	761

¹ Actual SW Victoria: Red Sky benchmarks

² Estimated SW Victoria: D. Beca, pers comm