

2017-2018 season

In June 2017, 227 Friesian cows were split into three farmlets – Pasture only (All Grass; 69 cows - 2.9 cows/ha), PKE (79 cows - 3.3 cows/ha) and kibble maize / barley (79 cows - 3.3 cows/ha). PKE was fed throughout lactation at a rate of 1-5 kg/cow/day (716 kg DM/cow) & kibble maize or barley was fed if required to achieve pasture targets in early and late lactation (633 kg DM/cow).

2017-2018 season results

	Kg MS/cow	Kg MS/ha	Milk income/ha @ \$6.75 / kg MS	Supplement fed/ha (kg DM/ha)	Cost of supplement/ha	Operating profit/ha
All grass	357	1,028	\$8,943	0	0	\$3,349
PKE	410	1,349	\$10,571	2,357	\$613	\$4,373
Kibble maize/ barley	398	1,309	\$10,974	2,083	\$1,229	\$3,550

At a payout of \$6.75/kg MS, in shed feeding of kibble maize or barley to lactating dairy cows was not profitable, compared with all grass or PKE, due to the high cost of the grain (kibbled maize/barley) purchased for \$504/T(58.6 cents/kg DM) delivered. Feeding PKE in trailers during periods of feed deficit and through spring to harvest extra pasture silage was more profitable than the all grass system at a cost of \$231/T delivered. There was no effect of system or supplement feeding on mating performance, with the All Grass / lower stocked system achieving the same 6 week in-calf rate and not-in-calf rate as the two supplemented herds at a higher stocking rate. There were also no differences in cow liveweight & condition score between the herds.

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