



# NUTRITION GUIDE

## FOCUS ON COWS AT GRASS

**The link between Megalac and increased milk production is well established in high-input, high-yielding cows. But does it have the same effect in grass-based herds receiving low levels of concentrate supplementation ?**

To answer this question we evaluated the effect of Megalac on the performance of grazing dairy cows for 200-days of lactation at the Dairy Research Facility of the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture.

### The treatments at grass

#### Control Cows vs Megalac Cows

Standard concentrate  
at 4 kg/cow/day



Standard concentrate at  
4 kg/cow/day  
+ Megalac at 250 g/cow/day

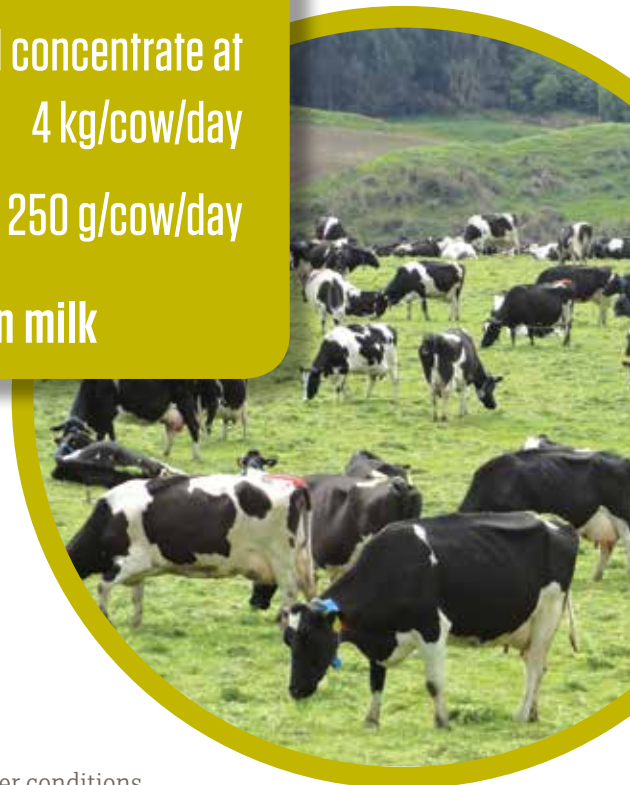
Megalac offered from 20 to 220 days in milk

### The cows

- 150 Holstein-Friesian and Holstein-Friesian crossbred dairy cows.
- Mating commenced at 76 days in milk using AI and continued for 6 weeks. Bulls introduced for a further 8 weeks, after which all mating ceased.

### The pasture

- Grazing allocations set to provide 12-14 kg grass dry matter/cow/day.
- Grass silage offered depending on grass availability which varied with weather conditions.



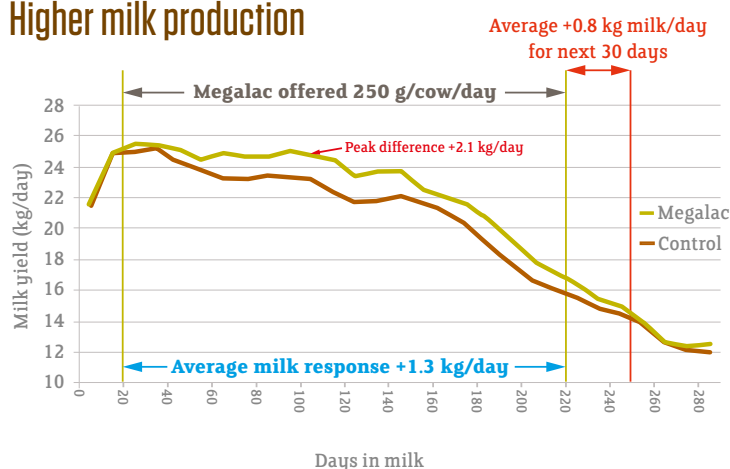
## Milk production results

	Control	Megalac cows
Milk yield (kg/day)	21.7	23.0
Total lactation milk yield (kg)	5061	5410
Milk fat (%)	4.34	4.30
Milk fat yield (g/day)	946	995
Milk protein (%)	3.14	3.08
Milk protein yield (g/day)	685	713
Live weight (kg)	489	494

**6.9%  
INCREASE**  
in milk production

Higher milk yield for a further 30 days after end of Megalac supplementation

### Higher milk production



## Maintains high fertility

Fertility	Control	Megalac cows
Conception rate to first service (%)	70	68
Final pregnancy rate (%)	92	91

## THE CONCLUSION

Supplementing grazing cows with **Megalac** improves milk yield **and** maintains high fertility.

### Why do Megalac cows perform better?

Megalac is a high-energy rumen-protected fat supplement (ME 33.3 MJ/kg dry matter) and this energy is converted very efficiently to milk. Grass intake varies on a daily basis and additional energy from Megalac helps cows' meet their genetic potential for milk production.



For further information:

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