

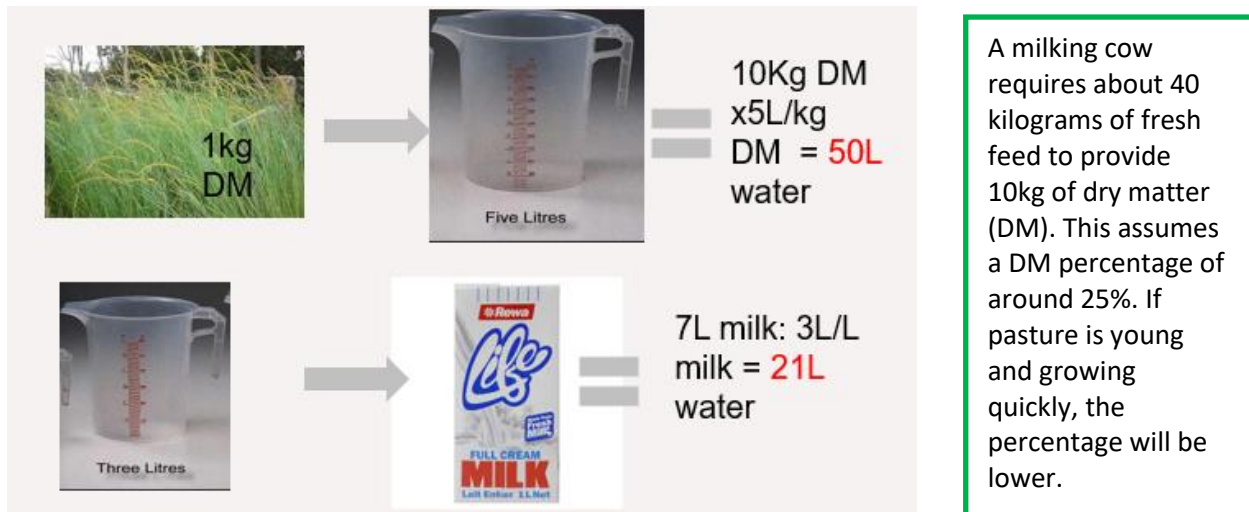


Fiji DAIRYNOTE 3.2 – Pasture and Water: Water Requirements

Good Practice Guide for Fiji Dairy Farmers

Water requirements

- Water transports nutrients throughout the body, aids in digestion, removes wastes, helps maintain body temperature and is required for milk production.
- Milk comprises almost 87% water. When you provide fresh, clean water, cows drink more, eat more and produce more milk.
- Milking cows require about 50 litres of water for maintenance and then 3 litres of water for every litre of milk they produce.



- Cows have a very good sense of smell. Dirty water or containers will reduce their water intake.
- Water is also very important for young stock and dry cows. Young stock must have enough water every day to build muscle and grow well. Even calves drinking milk need fresh clean water at all times (remember milk is a food).

Young stock need = 20-30L/day
 Dry cows need = 40-50L/day
 Milking cows need = 70-140 litres/day

- High temperatures and high humidity increase the stress on the animal and increase water requirements.
- The highest water intake will be after milking. Cows can drink up to 14-20 litres per minute, so 10 cows drinking at the same time can consume up to 200 litres in 60 seconds! That's a whole yellow drum!

More Water = More Milk = More \$