



DairySA Newsletter

March 08

Managing issues and reducing risk

Dairy Australia is ensuring appropriate systems and processes are in place to help the Australian dairy industry manage a range of issues that may potentially affect its reputation and viability.

'Be prepared' as any good Scout knows is a valuable motto to adhere to; Dairy Australia (DA) is doing just that to ensure the reputation and viability of the Australian dairy industry is secure. Helen Dornom, Manager, Technical Issues explains that the objective of DA is to help identify potential threats and prepare the industry to respond to adverse events and emergencies that occur in relation to domestic and export production and manufacturing.

"By keeping key groups in Australia and overseas informed about what the dairy industry is doing in areas of animal welfare, food safety and environmental management, we are helping to reinforce and uphold a positive image of Australian dairy industry," says Helen Dornom.

To help achieve this and to develop a united voice for the industry, DA is running regional issues management workshops around the country. In December 2007, 28 stakeholders from farming, production, distribution, regulation and the service provider sector attended such a workshop in Adelaide.

Dairy Australia considers the workshops to be an important forum for informing participants of the resources and support structures already in place; to help develop their skills and knowledge of industry issues and risk management; and to gather their perspective on industry issues and risks.

Issues and risks identified at the Adelaide workshop were in-line with the rest of the country, with concerns over potential risks such as milk contamination, carbon footprint, environmental impacts including water, natural disasters, public perception, animal welfare, GMs, OH&S and labour availability and cost, topping the list.

"We know that delivering a single, consistent industry response provides a very positive impact, therefore, it is important for regional, state and national players to know what the message is and who are the best key contacts to deliver it to the media."

The Adelaide workshop highlighted that key contacts for issues need to be widely promoted to ensure people know who to contact should an issue arise. Another outcome from the media training section at the workshop was the need for simple advice, such as a flow sheet or check list, on how to respond to an initial media enquiry. DairySA will be working with DA to resolve the issues that arose from the workshop. By helping the whole supply chain adopt proactive and systematic approaches to issues and risks DA aims to minimise the regulatory burden on dairy farmers.

DA contributes to initiatives and projects on a diverse range of topics to help prepare and respond to issues and risks in Australian and on the international market. These include: the National Animal Welfare Strategy, International Dairy Federation Guide to Good Dairy Farming Practice, Australian Milk Residue Analysis Survey, management of Bovine Johne's Disease and over coming the 'demonising' of dairy fat.

A comprehensive information sheet titled 'Managing issues and reducing risk' is found on the DA website (www.dairyaustralia.com.au) and further information can be obtained by e-mail issuesmanagement@dairyaustralia.com.au.

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DAIRYFARMERS, NATIONAL FOODS, WARRNAMBOOL CHEESE & BUTTER FACTORY, DE CICCIO INDUSTRIES AND MURRAY GOULBURN CO-OP KINDLY SUPPORT THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE DAIRYSA NEWSLETTER

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Funding to Support Best Management Practice in Dairy Effluent Management

Financial support is now available to South Australian dairy farmers for on-ground works relating to best management practices for effluent management, through the recently released 2008 on-ground works incentive scheme. The 2008 scheme supported by DairySA and, the National Landcare Programme follows the success of the 2007 scheme which saw eight dairying properties across the state sharing \$68,000 of incentive payments.

Allendale East dairy farmer Ian Fox, a successful applicant to the 2007 scheme, used the funding to subsidise costs associated with his family's new effluent management system. The system was designed for their new 60 unit rotary dairy and 600 cow herd.

The property's effluent management system comprises of a screw press separator, which separates the solid and liquid components of the raw effluent. The separated liquid effluent is stored in a 54,000 litre open tank and recycled for yard washing. "We are also intending to install a flood wash tank that will utilise recycled effluent," Ian said.

A Williams travelling irrigator is used to distribute the surplus effluent to 40 hectares of dry land during the wetter months, and over 10 hectares of irrigated land during summer/autumn. The separated solids are applied to dry land every two months using a conventional belt spreader. "This year we were able to get a second cut of hay off the dry land paddock that was irrigated with effluent. The late rains helped us, but I attribute it mostly to using the effluent," Ian said.

On-ground works to dairy effluent management systems as part of the 2007 on-ground incentive system have resulted in significant environmental benefits to the state.

Project Technical Officer, Michael O'Keefe said up to 134 ML of freshwater will now be conserved as a direct result of using recycled effluent for dairy yard and feed pad washing. "On top of the water saving the eight successful farms will also capture up to 100 tonnes of nitrogen, 19 tonnes of phosphorous and 70 tonnes of potassium annually from their dairy and/or feed pad effluent management systems – all which has the potential to be utilised as an effective fertiliser on farm," Michael said

Applications to the 2008 on-ground works incentive scheme need to be submitted by the 28th March 2008. All South Australian dairy farmers are encouraged to apply. For further information regarding the 2008 On-ground works incentive scheme, please contact Michael O'Keefe, 08 8842 6272 or visit www.dairyindustrysa.com.au

Heat stress effects linger

Recent research has found that the effects of heat stress last much longer than previously thought. The impact on herd fertility lasts for up to five weeks after a hot spell, and tends to be greater in higher producing cows.

The findings, by Dr Bill Tranter from Tableland Veterinary Service and Dr John Morton from the University of Queensland shed new light on some common practices to manage heat stress.

"Because heat stress has an effect during the five weeks prior to servicing, there's little to be gained by not inseminating on very hot days, or by inseminating in the morning, instead of the evening," Dr Tranter said. Running a bull with the herd during summer will increase submission rates but it won't improve conception rates.

The effect can be severe during periods of continuous hot humid weather.

For example the average number of services to achieve one conception is usually about two, but increases from up to four or even six with prolonged periods of heat stress.

"In these situations, it's definitely worth using cheaper semen straws or possibly even running bulls at those times because it will take it will take more inseminations to achieve a pregnancy," he said.

The best option is to implement some simple ways to reduce the effects of heat stress throughout the hot months. These include providing shade or sprinklers, lots of water and modifying the daily.

For more information contact Dr Steve Little Grains2Milk Project Leader Dr Steve Little, Grains2Milk Program Leader mob 0400 004 841 email: slittle@dairyaustralia.com.au

Coming event from CowTime: **Go with the Flow (2008 Shed Shake-up)**

Go with the Flow, CowTime's 2008 Shed Shake-up will run over the coming months. Don't miss it if you want more milk and less stress without compromising quality. We'll show you how to the cows' natural instincts to do the work for you.

CowTime's Shed Shake-up is a field day with a difference, combining ideas from technical experts, a farm visit, the opportunity to talk to local dairy service suppliers, free lunch and a lucky-door prize.

The program includes:

- discussion and DVD on cow behaviour, the impact of stockhandling on cows and the effect of shed design on cow flow
- visiting a near by dairy for discussion and ideas
- take home info pack including a DVD to watch with staff.

Brought to you by Dairy Australia, your dairy service levy making milking easier. For more information, contact Diana Carr, ph 03 5624 2222 or www.cowtime.com.au

SA: 16th April Birdwood Lutheran Hall, 17th April Mt Compass Tavern,
contact Kirsty Flower (08) 87659043 or Verity Ingham (08) 8766-0127

Building a new dairy or renovating an existing one?

Want it to be environmentally friendly?

Like it to incorporate resource (energy/water/chemicals) efficient designs and equipment?

These InfoSheets can get you started:

1. **Efficient Dairy Layout & Design:**
[Getting Started](#) - Deals with the principles of environmentally friendly efficient design. It identifies things to consider and highlights the importance and benefits of planning.
[Thermal Efficient Design](#) - [Construction Materials](#) [Renewable Energy Sources](#) -
2. **Efficient Dairy Operation:**
[Dairy Lighting](#) [Dairy Pumps & Motors](#) - [Heating Water](#) - [Cooling Milk](#)
3. **Efficient Water Use:**
[Water at the Dairy](#)

To find the InfoSheets look at <http://www.dairyindustrysa.com.au/>, under "Technical Info for Farmers", "Starting a Dairy"

Dairy Feature – Lucindale Field Days 14th & 15th March

Come to site 675 at the SE field days this year! DairySA and other industry organisations and businesses are showcasing some features of the dairy industry. The SEFI project **motorbike pasture monitor** will be there, **speak with dairy industry representatives about all things dairy** including dairy products, pasture and forage management, new innovations, workshops and programs, starting a dairy, effluent management, funding programs There will be **cheese & milk tastings** each day with Limestone Coast Cheese Company and the SA Holstein Youth Group will be running a **gumboot toss** (start training now!), **photos with calves** and heaps of other fun activities. See you there!

2008 Australasian Dairy Listing

The Dairy Industry Association of Australia (DIAA) has published a second edition of the sought-after industry directory, the Australasian Dairy Listing.

The 2008 Australasian Dairy Listing is the most up-to-date and complete post-farmgate industry listing available. It covers all aspects of post-farmgate dairy production, from speciality dairy product manufacturers and research providers to ingredient suppliers and equipment manufacturers.

The printed edition of the listing contains 1300 entries on 156 pages, including 567 dairy product manufacturers, 600 suppliers to the industry in 24 categories and 133 industry and government bodies. The listing is also searchable online at www.diaa.asn.au

For more information contact: Irina Fainberg at 03 9329 3535 or irina.fainberg@substitution.com.au

Let there be light!

Good lighting in the dairy encourages smooth cow flow and makes milking easier. Often a big improvement can be achieved simply by turning a light on at the dairy entrance, or changing the angle of the light to reduce shadowing.

CowTime's Darold Klindworth explains that cows are sensitive to light and changes in lighting.

"Cows will hesitate if moving from the bright outdoor light of a yard into a darker dairy. They will also avoid stepping over a shadow because they regard it as a barrier," he said. Mr Klindworth suggests examining a dairy 'through the eyes of a cow'. "You'll be surprised by what you discover," he said.

South Australian dairy farmer Derris Koch's cows always hesitated before entering one side of the dairy.

When he stood in the yard looking towards the platform at cow height he was nearly blinded by the afternoon sun shining through a gap in the roof line.

He solved the problem by installing shade cloth across the gap. Cows now enter the dairy without hesitation, improving cow flow and reducing the milker's frustration levels.

Find out more at this year's Shed Shake-Up (see page 3 for details).

What are milksolids? What is milk solids?

DPIWE's Ian Hubble explains one of the mysteries of the milk business...

"The term milksolids (one word) is used to describe the valued components of milk that farmers are paid for currently milk fat and protein.

It is distinct from the term milk solids (two words) that is also used, particularly by the secondary side of the industry, to collectively describe all the solid components in milk for product analysis purposes – i.e. milkfat, protein, lactose and minerals. If, in the future, farmers were to be paid for other components of milk, the term milksolids would still be appropriate with adjustment of the relative value of the milk components.

The word milksolids was coined when the New Zealand dairy industry changed from paying on a milk fat only basis to payment for milk fat and protein in the early 1990s. The Tasmanian dairy industry soon followed suit after moving to a fat plus protein minus volume payment system.

Milksolids is simply milk fat and protein production added together. However, as both milk fat and protein are paid for at different rates, the price received for milksolids requires some complex calculations. This is also the case when a step-up is paid.

If milk protein information is not available, MS can be estimated by multiplying MF production x 1.75. The milk fat component can be estimated by multiplying MS x 0.57. Similarly, protein can be estimated by multiplying = MS x 0.43.

The protein-to-fat ratio becomes an important consideration for dairy farmers in maximising their return for milk. A good ratio for Friesians is 0.8:1 and for Jerseys 0.7:1. For example, a 3.2 % protein test and 4.0% fat test gives a ratio of 0.8:1.

Working out milksolids milk price

Q: What is the price per kg milksolids if the February milk price is \$3.48 per kg fat and \$8.69 per kg protein? My fat test is 4.41% and protein test is 3.18%. The dilution cost charged by my factory is 3.19 cents per litre.

Fat income per litre:	0.0441 kg x \$3.48	\$0.1535
Plus protein income per litre:	0.0318 kg x \$8.69	\$0.2763
Less dilution cost per litre		\$0.0319
Milk income per litre		\$0.3979

Each litre of milk contains 4.41% + 3.18% = 7.59% milksolids hence there are $1/0.0759 = 13.175$ litre per kg milksolids. Price per kg milksolids is thus $\$0.3979 \times 13.175 = \5.24 .

The milk price is \$5.24 per kg milksolids before other add-ons such as production incentives and fat bonus and before deducting levies.

The dilution charge varies between factories so check that you have the correct dilution charge for the factory you supply before using this method to estimate your milk price.

For more information contact Ian Hubble 03 6434 5424

Managing a Changing Climate

The SARDI Climate Applications Unit invites **all primary producers** to a one-day workshop. (Cost \$140) Presented by experienced climate and agricultural scientists Melissa Rebbeck or Peter Hayman with visits from the Bureau of Meteorology. **Goolwa ~ March 18th; Penola ~ March 25th; Strathalbyn ~ April 4th**

To register your interest contact Trudi Duffield. 08 8303 9718 or duffield.trudi@saugov.sa.gov.au

For Dairy Dates see the DairySA Web site www.dairyindustraysa.com.au