

# Dairy Farms and GHG emissions

## Smart business, less emissions

This fact sheet is part of the Profitable Dairying series - *Good business management reduces greenhouse gas emissions.*

The Australian dairy industry has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions intensity (emissions per L milk produced) by 30% by 2020.

Good business management to use resources efficiently can reduce the methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions per L milk produced.

### Using resources efficiently

The cornerstone of the Profitable Dairying extension message is that “Good business management reduces greenhouse gas emissions.”

In practice this means:

- Identify and cull less productive animals.
- High quality feed is always best.
- Get your nitrogen fertiliser strategy right.
- In calf, on time, every time.
- Keep cows comfortable.
- Smarter energy use.

The Profitable Dairying series of fact sheets and YouTube clips provides information for farmers about how to tackle the challenge of greenhouse gases emissions management in a practical way, and while improving profitability of the business.



“It is part of the challenge of farming - constantly looking for smarter, more efficient ways to do things. I’m always asking myself ‘Is there a better way I can do this?’ You can get a lot of ideas from others, but in the end it has to be practical for your farm and how your business is structured.”

Wayne Clarke, Casino NSW in discussion with Bill Fulkerson, Norco Field Officer.





### Identify and cull less productive animals

Your most productive cows make the most money and produce the least greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions.

“Our breeding program aims to achieve a cow with large capacity to convert intake into milk.”

Gino Pacitti, Hindmarsh Tiers, SA

### High quality feed is always best.

Feed a high quality diet to increase milk production and reduce GHG emissions intensity.

“We’ve put a lot of effort into refining the system so that the cows are on good feed all year round. The 4-way forage mix and fodder beet have a really good fit in autumn.”

Victor Rodwell, Boyanup, WA

For more information, see [Fert\\$mart](#)

### Get your nitrogen fertiliser strategy right.

Apply nitrogen at the right time, in the right place, with the right product and at the right rate to improve on farm nitrogen use efficiency and reduce GHG emissions.

“Using N efficiently helps to get the best production from our ryegrass/kikuyu pastures.”

Pat Neal, Oxley Island, NSW

For more information, see [Nitrogen Use on Dairy Farms](#)



### In calf, on time, every time.

This makes your herd more profitable and reduces GHG emissions intensity

“Getting cows in calf is like a jigsaw puzzle. Each part needs to be ready to play its role.”

Brian and Michele Lawrence, Meander, Tas.

For more information, see [Dairy Australia In Calf](#)



### Keep cows comfortable

During extreme weather events this will reduce stress and associated losses in milk production. Trees & shrubs can provide shade and shelter, enhancing milk production as well as storing carbon, which may generate carbon credits.

“Our herd is healthier and more productive because the cows are protected from the cold winter winds and they have good shade in summer.”

Graeme Nicoll, Fish Creek, Gippsland

For more information, see [Dairy Australia Cool Cows](#)

### Smarter energy use

Monitor electricity consumption and equipment performance.

“We’ve just installed robots and in the planning process with our technician we considered energy efficiency as much as possible.”

Wayne Clarke, Casino, NSW.

For more information, see [Smarter Energy Use on Australian Dairy Farms](#)



Published by Dairy Australia Limited with support from the Australian Government.

Whilst all reasonable efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of the **Good Business and GHG emissions** publication use of the information contained herein is at one’s own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by Australian law, Dairy Australia disclaims all liability for any losses, costs, damages and the like sustained or incurred as a result of the use of or reliance upon the information contained herein, including, without limitation, liability stemming from reliance upon any part which may contain inadvertent errors, whether typographical or otherwise, or omissions of any kind. © Dairy Australia Limited 2015. All rights reserved.

**Dairy Australia Limited** ABN 60 105 227 987  
Level 5, IBM Centre  
60 City Road, Southbank VIC 3006 Australia  
T + 61 3 9694 3777 F + 61 3 9694 3701  
E enquiries@dairyaustralia.com.au  
[dairyaustralia.com.au](http://dairyaustralia.com.au)

