

Dairy Farm Monitor Project

2022-23 South West Victoria performance



Dairying in South West Victoria



Approximately **941** dairy farm businesses in South West Victoria produced **1.85 billion litres** of milk in 2022-23, accounting for **36%** of Victorian milk production output and **23%** of Australia's milk production.

Physical farm characteristics

1% ↓



Average herd size
385 cows

Stable



Milk solids sold
526 kg MS/cow

2% ↑



Homegrown feed
64% of metabolisable energy consumed

In 2022-23 farm profitability has been influenced by:



33% ↑ in average milk price to **\$9.81/kg MS**

9% ↑ in herd and shed costs to **\$0.70/kg MS**

17% ↑ in total feed costs to **\$4.08/kg MS**

6% ↑ in overhead costs to **\$3.07/kg MS**.



124% of long-term average rainfall saw wet conditions and reduced conserved feed

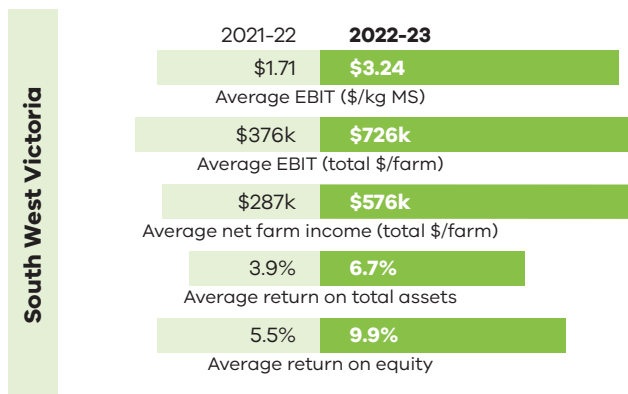


0.3 t DM/cow decrease in average supplements fed (total 3.7 t DM/cow)



Highest total costs (variable and overhead) in 17 years of DFM.

In 2022-23, all participants (25 of the 25) recorded a positive return on total assets



Return on total assets and milk price



Future expectations 2023-24



Four-in-five farmers expect business returns to decline or stabilise

Concerns as reported by farm businesses:



Input costs
19%



Climate
18%



Pasture/fodder
17%