



Australian dairy sustainability

THRIVE WITH
**AUSTRALIAN
DAIRY**

As an industry that requires land, water and animals, and employs people to provide human nutrition, we are constantly striving to be the best we can be when it comes to ensuring a sustainable future where our industry and our customers thrive.

To do this, Australian dairy pledges to provide nutritious food for a healthier world.

It is this promise that is at the heart of the world-leading **Australian Dairy Industry Sustainability Framework**.

In the framework, we have made commitments:

- to enhance economic viability and livelihoods
- to provide best care for our animals
- to reduce our environmental impact
- and to improve the wellbeing of our people and our community.

Each year we report on our progress and refine the framework, to ensure we are living up to our promise.

Launched in 2012 the Australian Dairy Industry Sustainability Framework presents a chance for the industry to reflect on past achievements, the present environment and what we can do to improve our efforts in the future.

The Australian dairy industry is looking towards 2030 and beyond, reviewing the goals and targets in the framework and then collaborating to foster the necessary practice changes.

Whatever the future holds, we know we need to move faster. We must do more to keep dairy foods accepted as part of sustainable diets and a valued source of nutrition for a healthier world.

If we work together for a sustainable future for people and the planet, we will thrive together.

Enhancing livelihoods in the dairy industry

Australian dairy is committed to creating a vibrant industry, where people, communities and businesses, both domestically and globally can thrive together.

We focus on innovation and economic resilience to ensure our industry can continue to flourish into the future.

Key to this are our education initiatives such as the People in Dairy program, which helps farmers upskill, and the Our Farm, Our Plan program that provides training support for farmers to improve business performance and manage volatility with strength and agility.

Facts

83% of farmers are confident about the future of their business (up by 3% on 2021).¹

Profitability has continued to improve with 86% of survey respondents reporting an operating profit in 2022/23, and 80% expecting to do so in 2023/24.²

1,2 2024 National Dairy Farmer Survey.

Case study



Charting a course for success

Two years ago, Simpson dairy farmers Craig and Sophie Bennett were making plans to leave the industry; today they have plans in place for a long-term future in dairying.

The turning point was Our Farm, Our Plan. A learning program that helps farmers develop their business skills, identify long-term goals, improve business performance and manage volatility.¹²

"With Our Farm, Our Plan we both identified our goals and charted a course to achieve them. Once we had those goals written down, it has been a lot easier to map the road forward."

"We identified our greatest risks and put procedures in place to tackle them." **Craig and Sophie Bennett**

12 Simpson dairy farmers do U-turn on dairy exit plan, Gardiner Foundation.

Improving wellbeing

The Australian dairy industry strives to improve the wellbeing of people around the world by providing nutritious, safe, high-quality dairy products and ingredients.

Australian dairy is committed to producing safe products, reducing recalls, and embedding food safety culture within dairy food businesses.

The industry is actively involved in the review of the Australian Dietary Guidelines and is collaborating on research that shows that dairy is crucial to a healthy and sustainable diet.

Facts

Dairy is a core food group in the Australian Dietary Guidelines.³

Zero non-compliant chemical residues found during the Australian Milk Residue Analysis (AMRA) Survey.⁴

More dairy in the diet reduces falls (by 11%) and fractures (by 33%) in the elderly.⁵

3 Australian Dietary Guidelines, National Health and Medical Research Council.

4 Australian Milk Residue Analysis (AMRA) Survey 2021/22.

5 Illuliano et al, Effect of dietary sources of calcium and protein on hip fractures and falls in older adults in residential care: cluster randomised controlled trial (2021), **British Medical Journal**.

Case study



Dairy reduces risks of falls and fractures

Bone health degeneration is a fact of ageing. As we get older, it is more likely that we will fall and fracture our weakening bones.

But ground-breaking new Australian research published, in the British Medical Journal, shows that there is a simple change we can all make to reduce the risk of falls and fractures in aged care residents.

Consume more dairy.

When dairy consumption was increased in aged care residents, to 3.5 serves per day, there were 33% fewer fractures, 46% fewer hip fractures, and 11% fewer falls over a two-year period.¹³

13 Iuliano et al, Effect of dietary sources of calcium and protein on hip fractures and falls in older adults in residential care: cluster randomised controlled trial (2021), **British Medical Journal**.

Ensuring best care for our animals

Exceptional care for animals is not only an expectation of customers and stakeholders, but also an ethical responsibility of the whole dairy industry.

The Australian dairy industry is committed to striving for health, welfare and best care for all animals throughout their lives.

To achieve this we ensure our industry adheres to the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle and the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock. We have also conducted an Animal Husbandry Survey since 2005 to track improvements in animal welfare and identify opportunities for improvement.

Facts

90% of farms have cooling infrastructure to help prevent heat stress.⁶

Achieved target to cease routine calving induction by 2022.⁷

2021 introduction of new indicator for antimicrobial stewardship.⁸

⁶ Dairy Trust Tracker Survey 2021.

^{7,8} Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework.

Reducing our environmental impact

Australian dairy is mindful of our stewardship role and our responsibility to protect our people and our planet.

From on farm initiatives to reduce methane emissions from cows, to innovations to increase recyclability of dairy packaging, the industry is working hard to address our environmental impact across the entire supply chain.

The Australian dairy industry is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 30% by 2030, and since 2010/11 there has already been a 25.5% reduction in intensity by Australian dairy processors.

Facts

80% of farmers use recycled water in the dairy shed.⁹

88% of waste from dairy processing diverted from landfill.¹¹

96% of dairy farmers have implemented practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).¹⁰

^{9,10,11} 2023 Australian Dairy Industry Sustainability Report.

Case study



Breeding and cow welfare

Datagene is an industry-owned organisation, developing modern tools and resources for genetic gain and herd improvement in the Australian dairy industry.

Datagene has developed an Australian Breeding Value for heat tolerance, which allows farmers to breed animals with improved tolerance to hot, humid conditions – a characteristic that is likely to become increasingly important in a warming climate and can also have benefits for animal welfare.¹⁴

¹⁴ Data Gene.

Case study



Ellinbank: towards carbon neutrality

The Ellinbank SmartFarm is a leading dairy innovation facility, fast-tracking innovative technology solutions in a research environment and showcasing them to the dairy industry on its 500-cow dairy farm.

The SmartFarm has an ambitious target of being the first carbon neutral dairy farm in the world, through reducing methane emissions, improved fertiliser and manure management practises and generating electricity through alternative energy including wind, solar and bio-digestion.¹⁵

¹⁵ Agriculture Victoria.

Our promise to you

Since 2012, the goals and targets for each of our commitments to sustainability have been tracked, measured and publicly reported through the Australian Dairy Industry Sustainability Framework.

You can track our progress here:
dairy.com.au/sustainability

More information

For additional information visit
dairyaustralia.com.au/thrivetogether
or scan the QR code:



ENHANCING ECONOMIC VIABILITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Creating a vibrant industry that rewards dairy workers and their families, communities, business and investors



1 Increasing competitiveness and profitability



2 Increasing community resilience and prosperity



3 Everyone home safely, every day



4 Providing a productive and rewarding workplace



IMPROVING WELLBEING OF PEOPLE

Providing nutritious, safe, quality dairy food



5 Ensuring safe dairy products



6 Contributing to improved health outcomes



PROVIDING BEST CARE FOR ANIMALS

Striving for health, welfare and best care for our animals throughout their lives



7 Providing best care for animals for whole-of-life

- Full compliance with animal welfare standards
- Recommended practices adopted by all industry
- Antimicrobial Stewardship – the dairy industry uses antibiotics responsibly



REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Meeting the challenges of climate change and providing good stewardship of our natural resources



8 Improving land management



9 Increasing water use efficiency



10 Reducing GHG emissions intensity



11 Reducing waste

Disclaimer

The content of this publication is provided for general information only and has not been prepared to address your specific circumstances. We do not guarantee the completeness, accuracy or timeliness of the information.

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