

# Participant Information Statement



## **Research Study: Better Preparedness, Lower Risk, Higher Resilience – Animal and Feed base Resilience P2D**

Miss Chloe Wilson (Responsible Researcher)

Dairy Research Foundation | School of Life and Environmental Science | Faculty of Science

Phone: +61 413 296 284 | Email: [chloe.l.wilson@sydney.edu.au](mailto:chloe.l.wilson@sydney.edu.au)

Additional Researchers: Dr Cameron Clark, [cameron.clark@sydney.edu.au](mailto:cameron.clark@sydney.edu.au) University of Sydney, Dr Anna Chilingaryan, The University of Sydney, [anna.chilingaryan@sydney.edu.au](mailto:anna.chilingaryan@sydney.edu.au), Amanda Britton, NSW DPI, [amanda.britton@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:amanda.britton@dpi.nsw.gov.au), Dr Anthony Clark, [anthony.clark@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anthony.clark@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

---

Please read this sheet and ask about things that aren't clear or you want to know more about.

### **1. What is this study about?**

Extreme climate events have a significant impact on livestock and animal feed base systems. Here we work with the Climate Branch of NSW DPI led by Dr Anthony Clark to exploit existing climate data and improve climatic tools for farmer decision making, surrounding extreme climate. Specifically, we are surveying NSW dairy farmers and industry service providers (animal/feed base) who operate within NSW dairy, to identify the climate-based decision support tools used and define their suitability to support management decisions for animals and feed base resilience. Areas of focus will then be refined and developed in direct consultation with the dairy farmers of NSW.

### **2. Who is running the study?**

The researchers conducting this study are Chloe Wilson, Project Officer, The University of Sydney and Dr Cameron Clark, Project Lead and Co-Investigator, The University of Sydney, Dr Anna Chilingaryan, The University of Sydney, in collaboration with Dr Anthony Clark, NSW DPI Climate Branch.

This project is funded by the Storm and Flood Industry Recovery Program (SFIRP) to support NSW Primary Industries in the recovery from the 2021 storm and flood events, with focus on building resilience and preparedness for the dairy industry in the case of future extreme climatic events. The program is led by the Department of Regional NSW alongside the Rural Assistance Authority and delivered through partner organisations, including The University of Sydney.

### **3. Who can take part in the study?**

We are seeking NSW dairy farmers and NSW dairy industry service providers who operate specifically within animal and feed base enterprises. This study's population of interest is focused on those who decide and support on-farm management practices for animal and feed base resilience.

### **4. What will the study involve for me?**

Participation is voluntary. If you agree to participate you will complete a 10 to 15-minute online survey that explores your feedback on the types of climatic tools used, barriers of climate data, on-farm strategies, information channels and willingness to participate in future workshops.

The survey will involve a combination of multiple-choice questions, matrix tables and text entry.

### **5. Can I withdraw once I've started?**

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. You have the option to withdraw any time before submitting and upon exiting from the web browser we will not collect any more information from you. Any information already collected will be deleted and destroyed.

By submitting your survey response, you are consenting to partake in the study. Once your responses are submitted, we won't be able to tell which one is yours. This means you cannot withdraw after submitting the survey. Your decision will have no impact on your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at The University of Sydney.

### **6. Are there any risks or costs?**

Although our questionnaire is focused on the tools and strategies used to manage climate, we are aware that recollecting on adverse weather events may be distressing. Access to support services (Lifeline, ifarmwell and Rural Adversity Mental Health Program RAMHP) will be available to all and if at any stage, you feel that you do not wish to continue you will be able to withdraw. Lifeline on 13 11 14, ifarmwell at <https://ifarmwell.com.au/>, RAMHP Batemans Bay on 0473 477 161.

### **7. Are there any benefits?**

There are no direct benefits for you as a participant in this study. By completing the survey, you will be contributing to the development of climate resources for the wider NSW dairy industry. While this may be intangible in the short term, we hope to provide tools with greater accuracy, usability, and access during future climatic events. There will also be an opportunity to participate in future workshops to further improve and test these, for better decision making and preparedness in the future. Taking part is optional.

### **8. What will happen to information that is collected?**

Survey responses will be stored securely until analysed and reported on using basic descriptive data analysis. Areas of focus for improvement will be identified and further refined and developed in direct consultation with the dairy farmers of NSW. You will not be identifiable in any publications.

### **9. Will I be told the results of the study?**

You have the right to hear the results of this study. Participants will have the option at the end of the survey to be directly involved with this project by working with us in future workshops, or to receive feedback on survey responses in the form of a one-page lay summary. Upon completion of data analysis, this feedback will be provided as a plain language summary and survey findings will be reported and circulated to the wider NSW Dairy Industry.

### **10. What if I would like further information?**

After reading this information, the researcher/s will be available for further discussions and answer any questions you may have. For more information, please contact Chloe Wilson, Chief Investigator, [chloe.l.wilson@sydney.edu.au](mailto:chloe.l.wilson@sydney.edu.au)

### **11. What if I have a complaint or any concerns?**

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of The University of Sydney (2023/906) in accordance with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*.

If you have any concerns about the study's procedures or would like to make a complaint to someone not involved in the study, please contact the University - Human Ethics Manager, [human.ethics@sydney.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics@sydney.edu.au), +61 2 8627 8176

***This information is for you to keep.***