



Who provides and manages milk recording of herds in Australia?

Dairy herd improvement organisations provide milk recording (herd testing), artificial breeding and herd management services in Australia.

These services are available throughout Australia from private companies and co-operatives. Twelve laboratories test milk samples for milk recording, and 16 herd improvement organisations provide advice, data analysis and reporting using one of five data processing systems (listed below).

Many of the companies (listed in the table on the following page) are members of the National Herd Improvement Association of Australia (NHIA).

Technote 23 lists advantages of using milk recording data in mastitis control programs.

Agriculture Victoria Ellinbank operates a commercial somatic cell count service that enables milk testing laboratories to assess the accuracy of their somatic cell counts.

Features of the five data processing systems in Australia

| Data processing systems | Marketed by | Companion products for use on farms ¹ |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| AusHerd | Victorian Dairy Industry Authority | AusStock, PCFarm |
| CHISWA | Joint venture between Consolidated Herd Improvement Services Co-operative (CHIS) and Herd Improvement Services of Western Australia | CHISPC_DAIRY |
| Dairy Herd Recording Scheme (DHRS) | Dairy Express | PCExpress |
| MISTRO | Maffra Herd Improvement Co-operative | MISTRO FARM |
| WinHerd | Tasmanian Dairy Industry Authority (TDIA) | WinFarm, SortaCow ² |

¹ Most data can be transferred between systems by standard Data Interchange Formats (DIF files)

² SortaCow is used to organise sample bottles on test day and identify missing cows

Herd improvement organisations regularly forward their herd recording data to the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme (ADHIS) to generate state and national statistics and to assist farmers to benchmark their herd’s performances. The statistics are published annually by National Herd Improvement Association of Australia.

The national statistics:

- include herds that have at least 30 cows;
- include cows that have a 305 day lactation for the fiscal year being reported, and those that completed a 305 day lactation from the previous test period;
- count cows once only for each season; and
- exclude cows from production figures for a variety of reasons such as when the interval between tests is greater than 150 days, heifers calve before 18 months of age, the first test is more than 100 days after calving, or the lactation length is less than 120 days.

Key papers

National Herd Improvement Association. Dairy herd improvement report 1997-1998. 1999.

Sixteen dairy herd improvement services in Australia that provide milk recording statistics (NHIA 1999)

| Centre | Location | Region serviced | Laboratory |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Australian Herd Recording Services | Kenilworth | New South Wales, Queensland | Kenilworth ¹ , Melbourne ² |
| Bovine Inseminations | Tongala | Northern Victoria | Tongala ¹ , Melbourne ² |
| Colac HI Co-op | Colac | Western Victoria | Colac ¹ , Melbourne ² |
| Consolidated HI Services Co-op | Kyabram (eight sub-centres in NSW, Tasmania, Western Victoria) | Northern Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria) | Kyabram |
| Dairy Express | Armidale, Wacol | NSW, Queensland | Armidale, Wacol |
| Maffra Herd Improvement Co-op | Maffra | Gippsland | Maffra |
| HI Services of SA Co-op (HISCOL) | Yankalilla | South Australia | Yankalilla |
| HI Service WA (HISWA) | Bunbury | Western Australia | Bunbury |
| Northern Herd Development Co-op | Cohuna | Northern Victoria, South Australia | Cohuna |
| South Gippsland HI Inc | Korumburra | Gippsland | Korumburra |
| Tasmanian Dairy Industry Authority | Hadspen | Tasmania | Hadspen |
| Timboon HI Co-op | Timboon | Western Victoria | Timboon |
| Victorian Herd Management Services | Leongatha (one sub-centre in Warragul) | Gippsland | Leongatha ¹ , Melbourne ² |
| Western HI Co-op | Warrnambool (regional) office at Terang | South Australia, Tasmania, Western Victoria | Warrnambool ¹ , Melbourne ² |
| West Gippsland HI Co-op | Warragul | Gippsland | Warragul ¹ , Melbourne ² |
| Yarram HTA Inc | Yarram | Gippsland | Yarram |

1 Site of weigh station

2 Site of milk analysis