How Now Gippy Cow





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FEEDBASE AND ANIMAL NUTRITION

Gippsland Forage Value Index for 2024

Image of Nambrok perennial ryegrass trial in Sept 2023

By Ruairi McDonnell, FVI Project Lead for Dairy Australia

Still unsure what variety of ryegrass to select this sowing season? Make sure to look at Dairy Australia's Forage Value Index before making your choice. The FVI has been updated for the 2024 pasture sowing season with updated trial data and information and can be accessed at www.dairyaustralia.com.au/FVI

As with previous years, there are separate lists for the Gippsland regions for perennial, annual and Italian ryegrass varieties. This year, hybrid ryegrass varieties (that have a mixture of Italian and perennial parentage) are included on the perennial ryegrass FVI in a separate sub-list. This is because they have slightly different agronomic characteristics to true perennial ryegrass varieties (faster winter & early spring growth but reduced long term persistence with an expected productive lifespan of less than that of well-managed perennial ryegrass varieties).

The FVI has become one of the key tools that farmers and agronomists use to select the most profitable varieties for sowing each year. A unique feature of the tool is that it is generated from trial data of varieties across multiple regions in the prominent pasture growing areas of Australia.

In addition, the trials that are used to generate the FVI rankings each year are run to a very strict set of protocols agreed by the Pasture Trial Network. No individual seed company has anywhere close to the same number of different trial sites as the PTN and the FVI, which is now informed by dozens of different locations in Australia, including several in Gippsland.

Unlike individual seed company trial data often used in marketing and promotion, there is no bias towards any varieties or companies in the FVI or PTN data. It is simply an independent assessment of the data without any commercial interest, designed purely to make farmers more informed about what exactly they are buying.

CONTINUED OVER



NOTMAN PASTURE SEEDS

Base AR37, 4Front NEA, Reward Endo5, Matrix plus Clovers



Gippsland Forage Value Index for 2024 Dairy Beef Field Day focuses on genetics, nutrition and markets

Gippsland: Forage Value Index 2024 – PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

Perennial cultivars	Gipps FVI	Total trials	Autumn	Winter	Early spring	Late spring	Summer	Endophyte	Ploidy	Heading date	Marketer	Gipps trails	Metab- olisable energy	No. of trials measured
Array NEA2	423	3	129	137	104	100	125	NEA2	Diploid	Very Late	Barenbrug Australia	0	11.05	3
4front NEA2	421	6	127	131	102	103	130	NEA2	Tetraploid	Late	Barenbrug Australia	0	11,36	3
Maxsyn NEA4	415	6	132	135	101	97	130	NEA4	Diploid	Mid	Barenbrug Australia	0	11.05	3
Base AR37	415	22	125	136	103	101	129	AR37	Tetraploid	Late	DLF Seeds	2	11.20	8
Legion AR37	338	8	125	136	102	94	123	AR37	Diploid	Mid	DLF Seeds	0	11.13	4
Viscount NEA4	337	10	118	122	105	102	127	NEA4	Tetraploid	Late	Barenbrug Australia	1	11.17	6
Bealey NEA2	329	13	120	125	102	100	127	NEA2	Tetraploid	Very Late	Barenbrug Australia	1	11.28	4
Kidman AR1	318	9	118	123	107	99	123	AR1	Diploid	Early	Barenbrug Australia	1	10.99	4
Reward Endo5	315	18	120	126	97	100	129	Endo5	Tetraploid	Very late	DLF Seeds	2	11.34	8
One50 SE	306	7	116	128	103	96	128	SE	Diploid	Late	DLF Seeds	0	11.11	3
Platform AR37	287	10	116	131	99	100	120	AR37	Diploid	Late	DLF Seeds	0	11.23	4
Banquetil Endo5	269	9	114	123	100	99	124	Endo5	Tetraploid	Late	DLF Seeds	0	NA	0
Impact2 NEA2	267	16	113	121	103	100	121	NEA2	Diploid	Late	Barenbrug Australia	2	11.11	4
Hustle AR1	259	14	115	120	102	99	123	AR1	Diploid	Mid	RAGT	1	11.05	5
Expo AR37	250	11	115	125	97	98	124	AR37	Diploid	Late	DLF Seeds	2	11.17	4
Excess AR37	249	13	117	129	97	96	121	AR37	Diploid	Mid	DLF Seeds	2	11.04	4
Prospect AR37	247	13	113	126	101	96	122	AR37	Diploid	Late	DLF Seeds	2	10.98	4
Jackal AR1	224	8	115	116	101	99	119	AR1	Diploid	Mid	AGF seeds	1	11.00	4
Platinum	218	7	114	126	96	98	118	Low	Diploid	Late	Valley Seeds	1	10.98	4
One50 AR1	208	11	110	121	101	96	122	AR1	Diploid	Late	DLF Seeds	1	11.04	4
One50 AR37	199	18	112	122	99	96	120	AR37	Diploid	Late	DLF Seeds	2	11.03	7
Matrix SE	198	11	112	119	99	95	122	Nil	Diploid	Late	Cropmark Seeds	2	11.09	5
AusVic	179	5	110	106	102	103	117	Low	Diploid	Mid	Various	0	10.91	2
Avalon AR1	78	13	104	109	95	102	108	AR1	Diploid	Mid	Various	2	10.92	3
Wintas II	54	4	101	107	93	105	105	Nil	Diploid	Mid	Tasglobal Seeds	0	11.06	1
Victorian SE	0	22	100	100	100	100	100	SE	Diploid	Early	Various	2	10.93	8

Hybrid cultivars	Gipps FVI	Total trials	Autumn	Winter	Early spring	Late spring	Summer	Endophyte	Ploidy	Heading date	Marketer	Gipps trials	Metab- olisable energy	No. of trials measured
Samurye NEA12	755	3	128	149	126	104	154	NEA12	Tetraploid	Late	Barenbrug Australia	0	NA	0
Shogun NEA2	384	6	108	132	114	98	133	NEA2	Tetraploid	Late	Barenbrug Australia	1	11,11	4
Victorian SE	0	22	100	100	100	100	100	SE	Diploid	Early	Various	2	10.93	8

- A separate hybrid cultivar list has been created for varieties that have Perennial x Italian ryegrass parentage. See the Hybrid v Perennial section of the text below for further details.
- Metabolisable energy (ME) is presented for each cultivar as megajoules of ME per Kg of dry matter. These values currently do not contribute to the overall FVI ranking for each cultivar, but will do from from 2025 onwards. Values are provided this year to give an indication to farmers of the variation in forage quality between cultivars. The two cultivars with NA were not present in any of the trials sampled for forage quality.
- Use the Total Trials column as an indicator of the reliability of each cultivars position in the FVI. The minimum number of trial to be listed is three, varieties with high number of trials are more proven and users can have greater confidence in their position in the rankings. Most newer cultivars with just 3 or 4 trials of data will have more trial information filtering through to the FVI over the next year or two to improve their reliability and confidence in their position on the list.

Forage Quality trait now added to FVI in 2024

An exciting new feature of the FVI for 2024 is the addition of Forage Quality values for each variety in the perennial ryegrass FVI. Metabolisable energy (ME; megajoules of energy per kg of dry matter) was used as the forage quality parameter to illustrate differences between varieties and users of the FVI can access data for each cultivar on an average annual basis, as well as seasonally. At the moment, forage quality differences between cultivars are not accounted for in the overall FVI ranking for each cultivar (which is still based on seasonal dry matter yield only) but it is planned to incorporate this into the FVI next year.

In the meantime, farmers and agronomists can check out the average metabolisable energy of each perennial ryegrass variety on an overall yearly basis, as well as seasonally. The greatest differences between varieties in ME are evident in Late spring and Summer so it is worth checking out the seasonal ME values for each variety in those two seasons in particular.

The ME data for each cultivar showed that forage quality of all perennial ryegrass varieties collectively is greatest in Winter (June & July) and Early Spring (August & Sept) before declining in Late Spring (Oct-Nov) and into Summer (Dec-Feb). However, there were notable differences observed between cultivars of up to 0.6 MJ/kg DM, particularly in late spring and summer, which may not sound like much

but actually can have a quite substantial effect on the milk production potential of each cultivar. Published data from Agriculture Victoria indicated a difference of 1 MJ of ME between cultivars of perennial ryegrass could be worth up to \$400 extra per hectare in extra profit each year (on top of the predicted benefit due to yield differences).

Additionally, farmers and their advisors can now use the seasonal ME value for perennial ryegrass cultivars to assist with ration formulation at various stages of the year. More precise ration formulation should lead to better balanced diets and improved production and performance.

Gippsland trials in the FVI

There are several trials from Gippsland that contribute to the FVI. This year, new annual and Italian ryegrass trials from Bairnsdale (conducted at the Gippsland AgGroup site in the 2022/23 growing season) were added to the FVI. There was also a perennial ryegrass trial sown under flood irrigation at Nambrok that is one year into its three-year timeframe, while trials at Ellinbank and Fish Creek will be sown in 2024, and last year, trials were sown at Lardner park and Ellinbank. All of these datasets will eventually form part of the FVI in future years.

PTN individual trial results

Individual trial results from across the region can also be accessed at the PTN website via the Etool. Just google "PTN MLA e-tool" and click on any trial of interest to see seasonal yield results from that individual trial.

By AgSTAR Projects

The need for a targeted breeding approach for an identified market in dairy beef animals was one of the key messages delivered at the recent Growing Beef from Dairy Field Day in Gippsland, Victoria.

Dairy farmers and industry representatives heard from experts across genetics, markets, animal health and nutrition through a day of presentations and panel discussions on the everything dairy beef.

Organised by GippsDairy, Dairy Australia, Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and AgSTAR Projects, the event was hosted by local dairy farmers Will and Sarah Jelbart who explained the integration of dairy beef into their operation and said the day had provided interesting insight into the beef industry.

"We need to target what we are doing with our beef calves coming out to better meet the needs further along the supply chain," Mr Jelbart said.

"We want to add more value to our product by making it more desirable to the end user."

Extension Advisor with GippsDairy Kristen Davis said around 120 people attended the day with overwhelmingly positive feedback.

"Dairy Beef is an area of growing importance for our producers and the dairy industry generally both in Australia and internationally," Ms Davis said

"Dairy Australia and MLA have invested in the Growing Beef from Dairy Project to gather resources for dairy and beef producers on how to breed, feed and manage surplus dairy calves for an identified target market.

"The Growing Beef from Dairy Field Day is part of the Pilot Growing Beef from Dairy Producer Demonstration sites.

"The event was organised to stimulate discussion, build knowledge and contacts across the supply chain and help people understand opportunities in this space."

Genomic testing to track the rate of genetic gain within herds was one of the main tools available to dairy farmers as discussed in the genetics session.

Gippsland farmers Trevor Saunders and Anthea Day were on the panel of speakers for the genetics session and shared how they have been able to include dairy beef in their operation by using sexed semen on their heifers. Their aim is to eliminate bobby calves on their Shady Creek and Yarragon farms.

Feedworks Ruminant Nutritionist Ian Sawyer presented on nutrition of dairy beef calves and the importance on considering three stages of calf nutrition.

"There are three phases – the first is up to 100 kilograms, the second is 100 kilograms to 350 kilograms and the third is 350 to that finishing weight."

Mr Sawyer said the key difference was changing the protein type to produce the desired animal frame – with stockier heavier frames needed for dairy beef animals compared to straight dairy animals.

From a market perspective, attendees heard the clear need for partnerships between dairy farmers and the rest of the supply chain.





Leigh Bradbury from Beefcorp spoke about the importance of healthy calves that will grow out and produce a quality product that is then sold to the consumer.

"Beefcorp has been working with dairy farmers for over 32 years," Mr Bradbury said.

"It's about open relationships, acknowledging what the dairy farmer needs and what we require at the other end.

"We are producing a brand that is high end and we expect the dairy farmer to jump on board with that."

Attendees were able to sample the results of quality dairy beef rearing with beef processor, Greenham, providing dairy beef steaks for lunch.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Growing Beef from Dairy Project visit: https://tinyurl.com/ycv4ycac



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How to pass on the family farm... fair is not always equal!



By Kim Price, GippsDairy

There is no doubt dairy farmers are keen to learn more about succession planning as demonstrated by the number of farmers who attended our recent Succession Planning workshop at RACV Inverloch Resort on the 28th February.

The need for Succession Planning days to be part of the GippsDairy event calendar became obvious to me throughout the process of delivering Our Farm Our Plan in Gippsland.

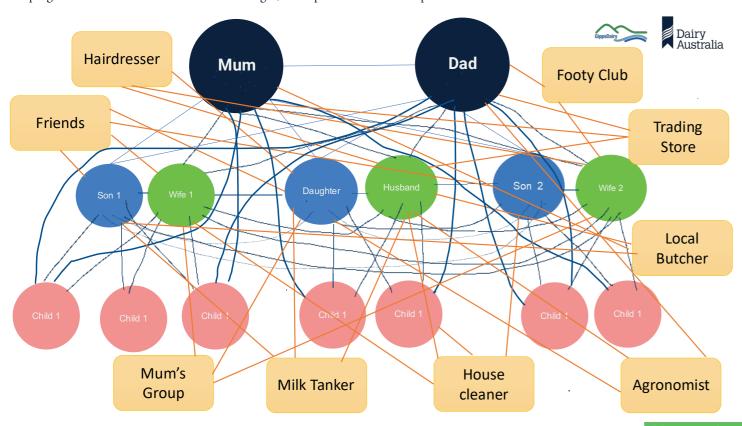
So many plans were involving succession, but farmers were unsure how to start the process and then how to keep it progressing. It would often seem like too big of a task to even to encounter, when all the other farm jobs would seem more 'urgent'. The day saw 45 progressive dairy farmers engaging in an open forum.

The program ran in collaboration with Colin Wright, Principal and

Agri team leader with Phillipsons Accounting, and Matt Harms from ONFARM Consulting. Together we planned a workshop that would help farmers along the succession journey that included time for farmers to ask questions and delve into some of the trickier topics.

We began the day by outlining the number of conversations that can occur within a family business, and that's even before you ask the tanker driver for his opinion! In the graphic below, each line illustrates a possible conversation.

People can interpret messages differently and it is not uncommon for two people to have a conversation and their individual summary of the conversation to be quite different. On top of that, gaining feedback or opinions from the 'listener' can distort the direction and then have you questioning your own thoughts. Having your trusted advisors on board and being able to regularly communicate clear, concise messages within your own farming business is key to success in this process.





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How to pass on the family farm... fair is not always equal!

Matt laid some ground rules for succession planning. "First rule - there are no rules! Every situation, every family, every set of assets and every family's circumstances are unique, so what works well for one may not for another," he said.

"Have your trusted team, and work with them to find the options or pathways that work best for you and your family. Keep the communication lines open and respectful."

Matt spoke about the keys to a successful transition of role changes being regular communication, clear roles and responsibilities, letting them make mistakes (just like you did), and remember it may not be done the same way. Different is ok, and outside expertise can be helpful to both parties.

Role changes can be daunting through the succession planning process, but it gives the farm owners a chance to think about the jobs they do want to do, and what they might no longer want to do.

For example, farm owners Rod and Josie may be happy to milk twice a week (reduction from 14 milkings), and look after the heifers on the turnout block, be there to help with the silage/hay harvest, but not to continue making those daily decisions. This may work well, if they have children or suitable staff that are keen and capable to take on more responsibility to give Rod and Josie the chance to step back.

When communicating across different generations there is some important points to consider. The ways things are viewed or acted upon are often noticed, but not explained. Sharing your reasoning brings a little more perspective on how each generation views the world.

Different generations have:

- Differing work ethics,
- · Different perspectives on work,
- · Distinct and preferred ways of managing,
- Unique ways of viewing quality,
- Different priorities that effect how and when they show up for work.

GENERATION	ATTITUDE
Veterans: Pre 1946	Work First!
Baby Boomers: 1946 - 1964	Live to work!
Gen X: 1965 - 1977	Work to Live!
Gen Y: 1978 – 1994	Live, then Work!

Colin spoke about the first steps being important to understand "what is owned and how it is owned. Not just the farm, but shares, life insurance and superannuation. It is difficult to work out where you want to go, if you don't have a clear picture of what you own now."

Colin also went through the different business structures that farms can operate under and the pros and cons for each, from sole traders, partnerships, companies, and trusts. There are tax implications that need to be considered, including Livestock, Capital Gains Tax, Stamp Duty, Structures, GST, Gifting and Superannuation.

An important reminder is to make sure wills and power of attorneys are up to date, and reviewed. The workshop featured a farmer discussion panel with Benn Thexton and the Loughridge family, including Bill, Faye, Jodi, and Brett.

The Loughridge's spoke about their progress with their own succession plan, illustrating how respectful and well-communicated plans can move the family forward in a shared vision.

Benn spoke about the opportunities he and his wife Peta had been provided by his parents. Being given the reigns in his early 20's allowed him to capitalise and create even more opportunities that have helped them achieve where they are today. Both are remarkable stories of family farm success into future generations.



MORE INFORMATION

For information on how to start your succession planning contact Matt Harms on **info@onfarmconsulting.com.au** or Colin Wright on **colin.wright@phillipsons.com.au**

If you would like more information on the Succession Planning workshop, contact **Kim Price** on **kimberley@gippsdairy.com.au**



Farmgate Milk Price

With the 2023/24 season into its final quarter, attention is turning to early speculation about the 2024/25 season and what remains a top indicator of sentiment: farmgate milk price.

Significant deterioration in global markets since the announcement of 2023/24 prices and the resulting gap between Australian and overseas equivalents have supported expectations that new season announcements will come in lower than current farmgate values. A slight increase in milk production and growing import presence have added to the pressure for Australia to remain competitive globally. However, strong returns in the domestic market have helped fund this year's premium over global indicators, and cost pressures on farm underscore the need for caution when passing on market signals. Against this backdrop, it's likely there will be few early announcements in the lead up to June 1st.









By Stacey Alfred, GippsDairy

Over 200 dairy farmers and industry experts gathered on farm in Trafalgar for the third GippsDairy Muster.

This year's theme was Pastures, Pathways and Performance. Emceed by West Gippsland dairy farmer Trish Hammond, attendees heard from a range of industry experts and Gippsland farmers on ways to optimise pastures, business succession plans, and overall performance.

Farm hosts Graeme and Louise Paul, Belinda Egan, and Simon Reid shared their dairying stories and highlighted their current farm system as sharefarmers.

The keynote speaker was DairyNZ senior scientist in the farm systems research team, Dawn Dalley. She discussed national and international drivers behind environmental regulations for water quality and greenhouse gas emissions in New Zealand.

Having spent eight years in the Feedbase and Nutrition team at Ellinbank Smart Farm, Dawn has a sound understanding of Victorian dairy systems and their similarities and differences to New Zealand's systems.

There were four breakout sessions for attendees to choose from. These included Productive Pastures, Pathways and Progression, Stepping Back: Planning for the future of your farm, and Performance in a Changing Environment. Each session featured a panel of dairy farmers and industry specialists, who shared their knowledge and on-farm experiences.

Among the attendees were a group of eight agriculture students from Foster Secondary College. The students had the opportunity to network with local dairy employers and members of the Gippsland Young Dairy Network and join the career pathways and progression breakout session.



These students are also participating in this year's Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund (SSAF) – Dairy Learn Pathways Program.

The GippsDairy Muster, now in its third year, aims to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among dairy farmers across the

In addition to sharing vital information, the event also serves as a platform for farmers to socialise and connect beyond their farms, underscoring the importance of community and camaraderie in the dairy industry.

GippsDairy would like to thank everyone that contributed to the success of the day. We look forward to seeing you all at the next Muster event.



By Sarah O'Brien, GippsDairy Board Chair

GippsDairy wants to acknowledge two Gippsland greats who are no longer with us, Bruce Manintveld and Shiona Berry.

While I never met Bruce face to face, I knew his name. Sitting in our tractor bringing in bales I got listening to an inspirational DairyPod podcast. Fiona and Bruce were talking about their journey. I was gobsmacked of their goal to purchase a farm and pay it off within 10

They did it in eight!!! Bruce's father describes Bruce as always in a hurry to complete things. I tend to agree, I'm sure we all do! Bruce sowed himself into this industry and was a GippsDairy Focus Farm from 2014-2016 after purchasing their first farm. He loved our young people, loved his herd and especially loved growing grass. Fiona introduced Bruce to Twitter (now X) and he took to it like a duck to water and found his online voice delivering many humorous and witty statements.

Bruce was taken too soon during horrendous weather conditions. As an industry, and more so as a community of like-minded dairy farmers, we wanted to extend our condolences to Fiona and recognise the contribution made, and the inspiring man that was Bruce Manintveld.

Unfortunately, a second Gippsland Great was lost this year, Shiona Berry. The first time I met Shiona was around the board table at GippsDairy. She was not backwards in coming forwards. She had a generous heart, but that certainly didn't extinguish how courageous and fierce she was. She pushed her

way through the 'old boys club' mentalities of years gone by and was the first female agronomist hired by Wesfarmers Dalgety. In her own right, Shiona worked hard delivering for farmers and was well respected. She continued to make her mark on Gippsland, both onfarm with husband Caleb and daughters Ella, Freya and Olivia, and also at an industry level.

COMMUNITY

In memoriam

Shiona was a panellist speaker during our first on-farm Muster held in 2022. She was seen as an employer of choice and willingly shared her thoughts to us all. She offered her time to many panels with GippsDairy and was a great supporter of the Spore Count Monitoring Program Gippsland needs, and our Young Dairy Network. She was leader through and through.

Shiona didn't mince her words, she said it how it was. Caleb has shared that she was never afraid to put people under pressure to get the results that the people she was representing needed. This was also strongly evident in her role as Board member with GippsDairy from 2017-

Shiona fought a strong battle that eventually took her from her family and our industry. Even in her personal fight Shiona took on another selfless goal. To raise much needed funds to research brain cancer. Shiona and her team raised a large sum of money in the name of Brain Cancer Research. Today, Caleb and their girls are continuing to bring awareness to this cause. You can donate in honour of Shiona via the QR code.

To the families of Shiona and Bruce, you've both spoken about the amazing community support you've received through these trying times. Thank you for accepting support, it's not always easy to do.







AGRIBUSINESS

Tax tips for dairy farmers

By Australian Taxation Office

With tax time around the corner, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) wants to help you get your tax and super obligations right. Here are some tips to help you navigate tax time.

In the dairy industry, it's important to know if you're carrying on a primary production business, as there are special provisions to help you manage your tax affairs. A primary producer is an individual, trust or company running a primary production business, either alone or in a partnership. In the dairy industry, if you're manufacturing produce from raw material that you produced, you're a primary producer.

As a primary producer, your income may vary substantially from year to year. Tax averaging allows you to even out your income and tax payable, up to a maximum of five years, to take good and bad income years into account. This ensures you don't pay more tax over time than taxpayers on similar, but steady, incomes. You can find more information by visiting, ato.gov.au/taxaveraging

Another option for primary producers with an uneven income flow is a farm management deposit (FMD) account. FMD accounts allow you to make tax deductible deposits during years of good cash flow if you meet certain eligibility criteria. During bad years you can withdraw these deposits, but you must include them in your assessable income. Visit ato.gov.au/fmd for more information.

When it comes to what you can claim, you can claim deductions for most expenses you incur in carrying on your business. But it's important to only claim what you're entitled to. There are three golden rules to keep in mind:

- 1. The expense must have been for your business, not for private use.
- 2. If the expense is for a mix of business and private use, you can only claim the portion that is used for your business.
- **3.** You must have records to prove the expense and show how you worked out the business-related portion.

You can't claim the GST component of your expenses as a deduction if you can claim it as a GST credit on your business activity statement.

You can find out more by visiting ato.gov.au/SBdeductions

If you have depreciating assets, it's worth finding out whether you're eligible for small business concessions, such as simplified depreciation rules, the small business income tax offset or immediate deductions for pre-paid expenses. Take advantage of these concessions and see if they can help reduce your tax bill and some may also save you time.

Check out: ato.gov.au/concessionsataglance

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on primary producers, visit: ato.gov.au/primaryproducers

Hoofing around Gippy town

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION		
Friday 5 April 2024	11:00am-2:00pm	YDN South Gippsland – Winter Crops	Moyarra		
Tuesday 23 April 2024	10:00am-2:00pm	Our Farm, Our Plan with Brian Gannon	Toora		
Tuesday 30 April 2024	10:30am-2:00pm	Morwell			
OTHER GIPPSLAND EVENTS					
Monday 15 April 2024	Time TBC	Central Gippsland Jersey Breeders Club Autumn Fair	Warragul		
Thursday 9 May 2024	8:30am-3:00pm	DairyFeedbase Open Day	Ellinbank SmartFarm		



Upcoming events

To view and register for any of our upcoming events, visit the GippsDairy events calendar:

https://bit.ly/GippsDairyEventsCalendar or scan the QR Code.



Hay and Grain reports

Scan the QR codes or visit the Industry Statistics page of the Dairy Australia website to view the most recent hay and grain figures. Hay Report



Grain Report





General enquiries: info@gippsdairy.com.au P: (03) 5624 3900



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What's on?

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