In 2020-21, 29 of the 30 participants (97%) recorded a positive return on total assets.

Average EBIT increased from $1.22/kg MS in 2019-20 to $1.76/kg MS in 2020-21.

Farm profitability was influenced by

- 4% decrease in average milk price to $7.02/kg MS
- 435 mm of rainfall received
- 91% of long-term average rainfall received.
- 100% HRWS in all irrigation systems by the end of the year.
- 16% increase in feed costs ($3.34/kg MS) mainly driven by 27% increase in purchased feed and agistment.
- 73% increase in water and fodder reserves as part of risk management strategies for high input costs in the future.

Future expectations 2021-22

Surveyed farmers in the North were optimistic, with 87% expecting their business returns to improve, and the balance to remain stable.

Concerns as reported by farm businesses:

- Climate/seasonal conditions
- Input costs
- Labour
- Pasture/fodder