



JULY 2022

Print to pasture - Employee Award winner Liz Mackley

Matt Wood, Regional Extension Officer – Workforce Planning

Liz Mackley's journey from leading a busy newsroom to a farmhand on a large-scale dairy operation is as interesting as it is unusual. A 'now or never' opportunity to travel, a global pandemic and the need to earn money whilst living 17,000 kilometres from home, all intertwined to lead Liz to her current role at Ballyduggen, one of Aurora Dairies many properties.

UK born Liz beat off strong competition to win the 2022 Employee Award – sponsored by Fonterra – at the recent Great South West Dairy Awards gala evening in Warrnambool. It was a very pleasant surprise to humble Liz.

"It was incredibly overwhelming and unexpected to win. Whilst it is very flattering personally, it is a great testament to the team I work in. Everyone has been so supportive and that has helped me so much since I have been at Ballyduggen."

Whilst growing up in regional Hampshire, England, Liz had never stepped foot on a farm until coming to Australia on a Working Holiday Maker visa in February 2020. Her rural upbringing meant Liz knew 'one end of a cow to from the other' but little more.

So, how does a former deputy editor of a successful newspaper in the UK find themselves feeding 650 calves on a rainy, windswept winter's day in western Victoria?

"I had been working as a journalist for seven years and whilst I loved the work I was getting worn out and felt I needed a change. I was running out of time to apply for the backpacker visa so took the plunge and flew into Sydney over two years ago – just before COVID hit.

"Of course, that changed my plans. I decided to travel from Sydney to live with a friend in Warrnambool prior to all the lockdowns starting. Another friend suggested dairy farm work as a way of earning money whilst we went through the various restrictions – I tried it and enjoyed it straight away," said Liz.

An opportunity to work in journalism here in Australia then took Liz to Gippsland where she worked as a reporter for WIN TV – her first role in television. Whilst journalism was classed as 'essential' during lockdown, it did not allow Liz to extend her visa and with the pandemic much worse in the UK, Liz chose to return to dairy farming in order to gain an extension to her stay in Australia.

That is when Liz began working for Aurora Dairies. The 1,100-hectare property at Hawkesdale milks 1,400 cows at peak. The mainly Holstein herd is split calving, with half calving in April/May and half in August/September. Initially Liz's role was purely milking, however, her desire to learn more and develop new skills has seen her work more with the calves and young stock. Next is machinery, with Liz keen to do more tractor driving, telehandler work and feeding out. Her eagerness to learn was picked up by the Award judges, they noted:

"Liz has been able to leap into this role with great success. The combination of already training new staff, being a Safety Committee member and active involvement in no less than three Dairy Australia courses already, Liz was a worthy finalist. Then adding her abilities to learn, process and apply new skills showed her innovation and problem-solving skills to take this award."

Along with ongoing informal training, Liz hopes to begin a Certificate IV in Dairy Farming through South West TAFE soon. This is part of Aurora Dairies commitment to developing its employees – with many staff able to study a Cert III or IV.

Although working as a journalist may not seem the obvious training ground for a dairy farmer, the two careers share some similar skill sets, including resilience and adaptability.

"I have always enjoyed variety and to some degree, unpredictability, in my work. With both jobs you may have your day planned out, but you never quite know what is round the corner. When the unexpected happens, you need to think on your feet – problem solving skills are very important!"

At a time when backpackers are returning to the country, Liz's story is a reminder that people can come to the dairy industry from many different backgrounds and countries. Whatever reasons bring new employees to our farm gate, it is essential that we as an industry show what a great career option dairy farming is. Sometimes we may overlook or take for granted the different attractions, as well as some of the barriers, those new to dairying see.

Continued next page →

In this issue

- 1 Print to pasture
- 2 Understanding Green Algae Blooms
- 3 Protect your farming business from cybercrime
- 4 Dairying Overseas
- 6 Our Farm, Our Plan Success Stories
- 7 Animal health threats moving closer to Australia
- 8 Focus Farm Reports

"As a backpacker wanting to work in agriculture, working with animals is much more appealing than picking fruit, cows have such interesting personalities – good or bad. I also enjoy the physical aspect of the role – there's no need for a gym membership!

"When I first started milking cows it was quite scary and intimidating, cows are big! You are up close to them and there is also a lot of moving parts and lots happening. Being given time to adjust and learn gently was very important to me at that stage.

"As I continue to learn, the support of the farm team here – led by manager Phil Weller – is amazing. There is a fun, energetic culture where everyone is there

to help and achieve the same goal. If you bog a bike or the cows get out, you'll be helped, not blamed. We are encouraged to test our boundaries, without being pressured. There is a great sense of achievement to be gained from taking on new challenges and succeeding," said Liz.

Although international borders are now getting back to normal, Liz has no intentions of leaving Australia or the dairy industry. Aurora Dairies is in the process of sponsoring Liz to remain in the country and enable her to continue her new career.

"Right now I'm very happy doing what I am, working in a great team doing a job I love. Looking forward I'd like to take

on more responsibility, with a view to managing a farm in time. The long-term goal is to run my own dairy farm business – possibly share farming.

"Dairy farming offers a great lifestyle and flexibility. Having responsibility for animals, watching them grow and working with them each day is fantastic, I wouldn't want to be doing anything else," concluded Liz.



Understanding Green Algae Blooms

Libby Swain, Lead – Regional Extension Officer

In recent times blue green algal blooms have hit the headlines with significant consequences in the lower Curdies River, on some reaches of the Barwon River and in some of our inland lakes.

A blue-green algal bloom occurs when there is an accumulation of algal cells to a point where they discolour the water, form scums, produce unpleasant tastes and odours, affect fish populations and reduce the water quality. Fish kills can occur as a result of the decomposing algae, which leads to a depletion of oxygen in the water.

Species of blue green algae (Cyanobacteria) are a common seasonal occurrence in Victoria and a natural component of most aquatic systems, including streams, lakes, estuaries and the sea. Blooms can be triggered by high nutrient levels, low inflows, low storage volumes and warmer weather conditions. Algal blooms often persist for several weeks, sometimes months, depending on the weather or flow conditions.

If the bloom contains species that produce toxins, as the bloom dies the toxins will be released into the surrounding water. These toxins can persist for more than three months before they degrade. The toxins can result in health problems for people, domestic animals and stock that have contact with the algae.

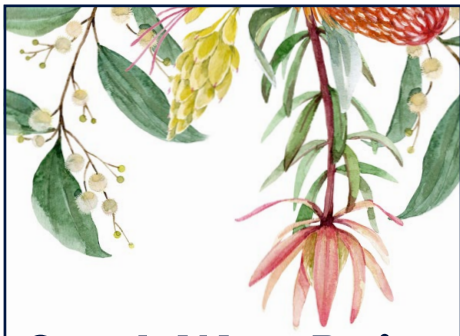
As dairy farmers we all live within a 'catchment' and it is important that we are aware of our farm's footprint downstream. There are areas on dairy farms with an oversupply of nutrients. To improve the efficiency at which nutrients are converted to feed the following Fert\$mart guidelines are key principles:

- **Understand nutrients** – know about the nutrient cycles, where nutrients come from, the transformations they undergo and pathways they follow.

- **Plan to retain nutrients on-farm** – plan for optimal productive efficiency and to contain nutrient losses.
- **Optimise production** – focus on the 4R principle of nutrient application (the right sources of nutrients, in the right place, at the right rate and the right time).
- **Minimise losses** – take special care to avoid direct losses, especially in areas prone to environmental loss.

Farms that have boundaries with waterways are strongly encouraged to fence riparian buffer zones to stop stock and nutrient contamination. Best practice principles are to revegetate these zones to act as a filter, 'mopping up' excess nutrients and preventing them from entering the waterway.

Fert\$mart programs will be rolled out across WestVic Dairy starting in late November/early December. If you are interested in these courses, please contact **Libby Swain** on **0459 612 681**.



South West Dairy Ladies Luncheon

17 August, 10.30am – 2.30pm
Deakin University, Warrnambool

Get your tickets now!
Scan here:



This year's guest speaker is **Pip Courtney**, proudly sponsored by Westpac



The daughter of well known print journalist and editor Michael Courtney, Pip grew up in Tasmania. At school, Pip tossed up between two careers – wool classing and journalism. With assorted aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins on the land, her interest in agriculture led her to study ag science, but when it came to choosing a career journalism won out, so she studied politics and English at University.

On graduating she joined ABC news in Hobart and in 1993 she combined her two interests when she joined Landline. With a number of prestigious awards in journalism under her belt, Pip was appointed host of Landline in 2012.

Protect your farming business from cybercrime

Damian Harrison, IT Manager, Dairy Australia

The issue

- Australians lost over \$205 million to scams between 1 January and 1 May this year, a 166 per cent increase compared to the same period last year, according to new data from the Australian Government Scamwatch service.
- The true losses to scams are likely to be much higher, as Scamwatch research shows that only around 13 per cent of people report their losses to the service.

What sort of cybercrime should you be concerned about?

- All types! Whether that be via email, text or phone calls, it's important you are aware of how to spot a scam or fake email/text and protect yourself, both in your business and personal use of technology.
- Specifically, text message scams are up 54 per cent between 1 January and 1 May this year.
- Another very common issue faced by businesses is when a scammer pretends to be one of your suppliers and asks you to change the bank account details that you pay invoices to.

What resources are available to help you?

- Both the cyber.gov.au and scamwatch.gov.au websites are great places to start increasing your knowledge. You can also test your knowledge by taking the Australia Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) quizzes – search for 'quiz' on the cyber.gov.au site and see how you go.
- Subscribe to the email alert services on the cyber.gov.au and scamwatch.gov.au websites. Both are run by the Australian government and excellent sources of information on how to protect yourself.
- If you are on Twitter, follow [@scamwatch_gov](https://twitter.com/scamwatch_gov) for tips on scams and how to stay safe.

What can you do to avoid cybercrime?

- If you run a business, ensure you have appropriate financial controls and checks in place, such as always following up verbally with a supplier/person when you receive an email asking for payment details to be changed. To find out more search for 'invoice scams' on the cyber.gov.au and scamwatch.gov.au websites.

- Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (also called Two-Factor Authentication) on all websites you use that are capable of it. Most major internet services now have this, including Microsoft, Google and Facebook. To find out more search for 'MFA' on the cyber.gov.au website or do an internet search for the system you use and the words '2FA' or 'MFA'.
- Keep your computer and devices up to date by enabling automatic updates and install them as soon as they become available. More detailed information can be found on the cyber.gov.au website. In addition, if your computer runs Windows, look up the 'Stay protected with Windows Security' support article from Microsoft and enable all the security settings you can within Windows.
- If someone calls you out of the blue to try and get you to do something on your computer, or pay a debt you were not aware of, verify that the call is legitimate. It can be as simple as calling them back on the publicly listed number on the business website. To find out more search for 'remote access scams' or 'phone scams' on the cyber.gov.au website.
- Be careful who you give your personal information to and limit the publicly visible information that you share online. It's very easy for someone to quickly learn a lot of detail about you and use that information to trick you or steal your identity. To find out more search for 'Security Tips for Social Media' on the cyber.gov.au website.
- Use a different password for every system/service you have and store them in a password manager. To find out more search for 'Quick Wins for your Password Manager' on the cyber.gov.au website.
- Double check a website link before you click on or open it to make sure it is what you think it is. Search for 'flubot' on the scamwatch.gov.au website for more information on one specific type of scam related to this and tips on how to spot a fake message.
- And, lastly but most importantly – always be alert. Most hacking or cyber security/fraud incidents are a result of human error. If you didn't expect it, don't open it or click on it.



Dairying Overseas

Jim Burrell, Career Development Coordinator



Hi, I am the Career Development Coordinator with WestVic Dairy and I came to this role more than two years ago. This was after having worked in dairy and dairy education, which included having the opportunity to work overseas for several years. I, along with my wife Denise, have worked in Pakistan (2 ½ years), Sri Lanka (2 years) and Indonesia for (2 ½ years).

In this edition I would like to talk about my work in Pakistan. Denise and I had similar but different roles there. We moved from our farm in Glenormiston North to our new home in Lahore in 2008. We found the opportunity, working with Pakistan Dairy Development Company (PDDC), a Pakistan Government entity, advertised in the Weekly Times. We went to Pakistan for our interviews, which were imperative as they needed to see how we interacted with the team over there, and with the wider population. It also helped us to get a clear vision of the on-ground work and what it would be to live in a country in a developing economy.

When we moved to Pakistan, it had a population of about 160 million people (now about 220 million) and it is the second largest Muslim country in the world. At the time, it was acknowledged as the 3rd largest milk producing country in the world, with only India and the USA producing more milk. These figures include both cow and buffalo milk.

My role was Manager of Community Farms. I had a "whole of country brief" meaning that dairy farms were spread across the length and breadth of the country and I, in theory, had small community-based farms in all

the provinces. To get your mind around the role, it is important to understand that the Feudal system of land tenure is still current in much of Pakistan. The Feudal system, as described by Wikipedia is "Broadly defined, it was a way of structuring society around relationships that were derived from the holding of land in exchange for service or labour."

So much of the land is owned by very wealth landholders, often closely aligned with Provincial or National parliaments and with high levels of influence with the judiciary or the military. So, the land is then farmed on a share basis by peasant labourers who live in powerless, impoverished communities of several hundred people. To put poverty into context, the last time I purchased a Big Mac it cost me \$ 6.45. Almost 40% of Pakistanis need to work for 2 days to be able to buy one of these! And these were the people with whom I was working with in communities.

Dairying in Pakistan is substantially a subsistence industry with most people owning 3 – 8 cows. There were of course a few outliers owning 1,000 + cows or buffalos. In the large cities, such as Karachi and Lahore, there were large "Buffalo Colonies" with up to 5,000 animals tethered 24/7.

While dairies were found across the country, they were more concentrated along the Indus Valley, a central part of Pakistan with intense flood irrigation infrastructure, a hangover from the days of the British colonialism. The cows were always tethered in the open, on small areas adjacent to the house of the owners or frequently in small but extended family conglomerates. The milk is a "cash crop" unrelated to the titlings of labour due to the Feudal owner.

The cows were very poorly fed, wheat straw being the common diet, and only given water once or twice per day and in limited amounts. This was despite the cows living in summer climates where daily temperatures were frequently well into the 40°C for weeks on end. Cows were mostly of Sahiwal breeding or Sahiwal X with some infusion of Friesian and occasionally Jersey genetics.

It is not surprising that the cows produced about 3 – 5 litres of milk per day, often with a 450+ day lactation, an inter-calving interval of more than 3 years and heifers (more likely cows) having their first calf at 3 or more years of age. Milk that was not used by the family was sold to local milk collector who usually shandied it with channel water and sold it in larger local towns or local cake and confectionary shops.

PDDC employed mostly vets as their field staff and these, (in the majority) young men, were technically highly educated, inexperienced in the practical application of their skills and all were at least bi-lingual but mostly spoke multiple languages. So, it was with these staff that I was able to communicate with the farmers.

So, we developed a strategy for the farmers of first giving more water to the cows. This immediately resulted in the cows producing more milk – often by 1 or 2 litres, depending on the stage of lactation. Thus a 4 litre cow giving 1 extra litre meant an increase in production of 25%.

Next step was to negotiate with the local milk collector and reason that he had to travel less to collect the same amount of milk so therefore he should be paying the farmer an extra 25%. Thus, a farmer prior to our intervention was selling 4 litres of milk at 20 rupee/litre and earning 80 rupee/day was now selling 5 litres at 25 rupee/litre and was now getting 125 rupee/day. This equated to a massive increase of more than 56%.

All of a sudden on our Pakistani "Focus Farms" we were gaining farm creditability. Neighbours talked to neighbours, and we started to see wider adoption. It was not a linear adoption, as giving the cows more water, with a goal of free access to water 24/7, was not a simple matter of turning on a tap into a trough. Water was hand pumped into buckets and carted from the closest bore in the village square, to the cow yard. A highly labour-intensive task and difficult in the hotter months.

Incrementally, we pushed the farmers to increase the quality of the feed so that the cows increased in BCS, produced more milk per day in their lactation and were more likely to return to heat earlier after calving. While most of the PDDC expat staff were from NZ or Australia, we used the NZ scoring system for BCS. Cows were almost always less than 2.5, even those in long inter-calving intervals, and were a focus with the message, "if it is not producing milk it is costing you money". But that was also a "western" way of thinking. Their concept was that it was like money in the bank, if they needed cash for a wedding or a new bike, etc. they could sell that cow. Additionally, that cow added to their status within the village or community, more cows = more status.

Unlike many international aid agencies, we measured our success on adoption and not the number of people who attended our meetings. To measure adoption, we needed to return frequently and build respectful relationships with the village. Gradually these messages were shared. Like everywhere, change is a slow process.

We loved our time in Pakistan and we were able to make generational change, both at the farm and community level, as well as with our staff. We went to villages where we were occasionally the first white people to visit. We were welcomed so warmly and were humbled by their generosity.

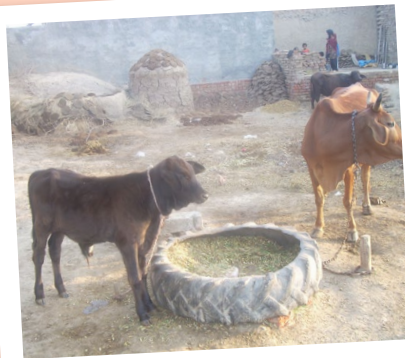
We finished up in July 2010, but I have been lucky enough to return several times, working with Nestle on an International Finance Corporation project. If you get the chance to go, take it. Pakistan is a wonderful experience, as endorsed by the Australian Cricket Team and the press who accompanied them on the recent series.



Buffalo untied so they can get water 24/7 but still restraining in box thorn type brush fences in Sindh, southern Pakistan.



Cattle (Buffalo) tethered to pegs and outside



Village cow and calf, no water but some green sorghum stalk for feed



Hand milking into the "dodh" or milk pot



This is what we were aiming for.



Or even this, as it had free access to water.



A womens extension programme on the value of water, conducted by my wife Denise.



It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Our Farm, Our Plan Success Stories

Luke Harris & Maddy LeBlanc

Luke Harris and Maddy LeBlanc, a young couple who farm in Mirboo North in Victoria's Gippsland region, recently enrolled in Dairy Australia's Our Farm, Our Plan program.

The couple, who became engaged after Luke wrote a marriage proposal on the side of one of their cows, have just started out share farming and quickly realised how important it is to set clear goals in order to be successful.

"It was a really big thing for us to have goals, and to both be on the same page of what we want to achieve," Ms LeBlanc explained. "So, Our Farm, Our Plan was brilliant for that."

Mr Harris said the flexibility of being able to do the program virtually really suited the busy couple.

"With Our Farm, Our Plan, we did it all online," he said. "It only probably took an hour and a half once a week. We just came in at lunchtime, sat down, started up the laptop and sat there on Zoom. That suited us really well."

After attending virtual group sessions conducted by their local GippsDairy team, the couple were guided through a planning process that helped them clearly identify their goals and plan for their future. The end result is a Plan-on-a-Page that helps them remain focused on the big picture of where they want to go.

"So, we've got our game plan," said Ms LeBlanc, proudly displaying the couple's Plan-on-a-Page. "It's on a page. It's got where we want to work towards, and where we want to be. And how we want to get there."

The couple are now proud advocates for the Our Farm, Our Plan program and

encourage their fellow dairy farmers to sign up.

"I'd really recommend doing Our Farm, Our Plan for any age group, because everyone's got goals, and everyone needs something that can be put down on a page, and you can go back to and refer to," Ms LeBlanc said. "Even when you're stuck doing the day-to-day things, the big picture is always going to be there, so it is really well worth doing Our Farm, Our Plan."

The Our Farm, Our Plan program is provided at no cost to all Australian dairy farmers as one of the service benefits delivered through the Dairy Australia's dairy levy funding. The program is delivered with the support of the Gardiner Foundation and the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, through AgVic, NSW DPI, Tasmania's DENR and PIRSA in South Australia.

**Young Dairy Network Intensive
Our Farm, Our Plan program
coming to Warrnambool
Wednesday 31st August and
Thursday 1st September!**



**Scan the QR
Code to secure
your spot!**

To find out more about how Our Farm, Our Plan can help your farm, call **WestVic Dairy on 5557 1000.**

Welcome to the following staff:



Melissa Humphries – Administration Coordinator

Melissa supports our office, our team and Board in a range of administration tasks to keep WestVic Dairy functioning in both current and new ways. She brings significant corporate administration experience from a range of jobs and most recently from the community banking sector in northeast Melbourne.



Danielle Nipe – Dairy Australia's Farm Plastics Recycling Trial Coordinator

Danielle has a background in environmental management and community education. Most recently she worked as the Waste Officer for Warrnambool City Council, and in the State Park system in Colorado USA.



Michelle Seabrook (nee Muir) – Regional Extension Officer (Workforce)

Michelle has returned from maternity leave and will resume her role as a Regional Extension Officer in Workforce Planning part time. Matt Wood will also continue his role in Workforce Planning, while also supporting some of our Focus Farmers and Discussion Groups.

Animal health threats moving closer to Australia in 2022

Debbie Twiss, Regional Extension Officer – Animal Health and performance

The Australian agricultural industry is currently facing serious risk to biosecurity from Foot and Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) emerging in Indonesia.

In March 2022, Indonesia reported the appearance of Lumpy Skin Disease on the island of Sumatra. LSD is an exotic disease which has never been present in Australia. The LSD virus is mostly transmitted to cattle (including buffalo) by biting insects. Other methods of infection spread include transmission via injection needles or other contaminated equipment from infected animals. Infection rates are about 10–20% with death rates in infected cattle usually around 1–5% but have been reported to be as high as 75%.

Infection with LSD virus causes skin sores, reduced milk production, fever, and abortion. Monsoon winds present the most likely method by which infected insects may be blown into Northern Australia from Indonesia. Australia's meat processing sector would be severely impacted by an incursion of LSD into Australia. If LSD infection were to become established in herds of wild buffalo in Northern Australia, eradication of LSD from Australia would become extremely difficult.

In May 2022, Sumatra and Java announced the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), a highly contagious viral disease of cloven (divided/two toed) hooved animals (for example, cattle, sheep, goats and pigs). The virus can spread rapidly in cool, damp conditions where animals are in close contact/housing.

Signs of FMD infection include blisters on the mouth and drooling or limping animals. Animals with mouth lesions may be reluctant to eat. The last time Australia recorded a possible outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease was 1872. Strict border controls have prevented FMD infection establishing in Australia since that time. In 2019, FMD virus was detected in pork jerky, sausages and other pork products intercepted at Australian border. FMD cases continue to emerge across Indonesia, with the most recent cases at the time of writing being detected in Bali. This is the closest an FMD outbreak has come to the Australian border in recent times. FMD virus could be carried into Australia on clothing, footwear, vehicles or contaminated animal products.

The 2013 Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) FMD impact report estimated the direct cost of FMD infection over a 10-year period at \$5 billion if one state was involved, increasing to \$50 billion if multiple states were involved in an outbreak. In 2022, this model was revised, with the estimated direct cost of FMD being \$80 billion for a multistate incursion. Ninety-nine percent of the cost

would be the resultant loss of export trade and 1% the cost of disease control.

The immune systems of cattle in Australia are naïve to these threats and they are likely to be severely affected with high rates of infection if either of these diseases enters our borders. Prevention of the spread of infection relies on early reporting of suspect lesions to enable rapid identification and mobilisation of the national emergency disease response plan. Early vaccination as part of the national response plan is likely to play a vital role in limiting the spread of infection and minimising the cost of disease. If signs are not reported early, and disease spreads more widely before the detection of disease, the ability of vaccination to reduce spread will be severely reduced.

To find out more, scan the QR code:



If you see something, say something

(even if you are not sure)

If you suspect an exotic disease in your livestock, immediately call the **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888** (free call within Australia, monitored 24 hours a day)



Figure 1 Skin lesions and sores in mild to moderate infection of LSD



Figure 2 Ulcer from foot and mouth infections on hard palate of goat



Figure 3 Drooling and ulcers due to Foot and Mouth infection in cow. Ref: AUSVETPLAN_Disease strategy - Foot and mouth disease_v3.4_2014

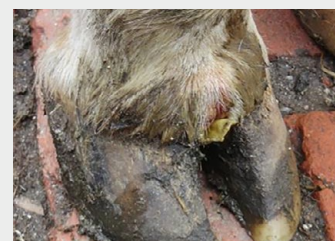


Figure 4 Blister on foot from foot and mouth infection.



WestVic Dairy Focus Farm reports

| | Bostocks Creek | Jancourt East |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| Date | 10/06/22 | 16/06/22 |
| Milking area | 182 ha | 216 ha |
| Production | | |
| Cow numbers | 272 | 323 |
| kg milk solids/cow/day | 1.76 | 1.94 |
| Litres/cow/day | 23 | 25.5 |
| Fat % | 4.33 | 4.05 |
| Protein % | 3.30 | 3.55 |
| Grazing and supplement feeding kg DM/cow/day | | |
| Pellets @ \$0.60/kgDM | | 5.85 |
| Barley @ 53c/kg DM (\$475/t) | 5 | |
| Profeed costing 77c/kg DM (\$689/t) | 2 | |
| Vetch 41c/kg DM (kg DM) (\$350/t) | 1.6 | |
| Silage @ 15c/kg DM | 5 | |
| Silage @ 12c/kgDM | | 0 |
| Pasture (kg DM) | 5 | 13 |
| Oaten Hay @ 19c/kg DM | | 1.75 |
| Summer Crop | | 0 |
| Area in rotation (ha) | 178 | 216 |
| Rotation length (days) | 60 | 45 |
| Grazing area (ha/24 hrs) | 3 | 4.5 |
| Daily income over supplementary feed costs (IOSFC) \$ | | |
| June 2022 milk price (\$/kg MS) | 7.97 | 7.40 |
| Income/cow | 14.00 | 14.34 |
| Supplementary feed cost/cow | 5.41 | 3.80 |
| IOSFC/cow | 8.59 | 10.53 |
| IOSFC/ha | 12.84 | 15.82 |

Bostocks Creek

Green urea has been applied at 70 kg/ha over most of the milking area now and will continue to be applied regularly after grazing. None has been applied to the out paddocks. The herd started calving 1st of May, the heifers in mid-April. Autumn calving will finish in early July, another 40 cows will calve in spring. There are 180 freshly calved cows and another 70 cows to calve.

The milking herd is being offered 5 bales of silage per day and 1 bale of vetch.

At this stage the grazing rotation is being maintained at 60 days. There is enough vetch on hand to feed until the end of June, then more pasture will be offered, and the grazing rotation will be around 45 days.

Cows are getting lead feed and cereal hay prior to calving.

70 young calves are on milk.

Jancourt East

Herd & dry cows

- 160 autumn cows calved since 1st March (158 Spring calved cows in herd)
- Sold 16 milkers (culls), bought 21 milkers (autumn calving)
- 55 heifer calves & 60 bull calves being reared (from Autumn drop)
- 13 spring calving heifers at home, 51 rising 1 year old heifers on agistment (joined for Autumn joining)
- 69 cows PTIC for Spring calving due for dry off mid-July
- 84 cows joined for calving in late Jan, and joining for autumn calving 2023 has begun

Pastures

- Urea: Sulphate of Ammonia being spread once a week (behind the cows) 38 N: 9 S
- Gibberellic Acid applied to 30 ha of property (not the newer pasture) @ 40g/ha
- 70 ha sprayed for broadleaf weeds
- Grain mill almost ready for operation

Contact us

Michelle Leech – Editor
 E michellel@westvicdairy.com.au
 T (03) 5557 1000
 E media@westvicdairy.com.au

WestVic Dairy staff contacts

Lindsay Ferguson 0418 545 580
 Regional Manager

Libby Swayn 0459 612 681
 Lead Extension Officer

Peter Gaffy 0438 345 712
 Extension Officer

Debbie Twiss 0427 755 453
 Extension Officer

Michelle Seabrook 0428 675 477
 Extension Officer

Matt Wood 0417 669 597
 Extension Officer

Liza Fahey 0408 141 820
 Project Officer

Jim Burrell 0404 404 554
 Career Development Coordinator

Danielle Nipe 0476 666 376
 Farm Plastics Recycling Trial
 Coordinator

WestVic Dairy Directors

Jacqueline Suares Chairperson

Brendan Rea Vice Chairperson

Rhonda Henry Treasurer

Daniel Parkinson Farmer

Mike Huth Non farmer

Brad Collins Farmer

Will McDonald Farmer

Bryan Dickson Farmer

Lucy Collins Associate



Like us on
 Facebook

Let's be friends and stay in touch. Head to Facebook and 'like' us to be kept in the loop with real-time information.

facebook.com/westvicdairy
instagram.com/westvicdairy