

May 2017

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White Sorghum – a resilient flexible forage



Last spring, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) C4Milk team had a series of regional workshops promoting a variety of new forage options. White sorghum was one option that several farmers decided to pursue in the summer of 2017.

White sorghum can be harvested as silage or as headlage (the grain portion) and footlage (the remaining forage after the grain is harvested). This article looks at the benefits of white sorghum as a crop compared to maize and the options that can be implemented at harvesting. Our conclusion is that white sorghum can handle some tough treatment on the irrigation or rainfall front and yet still deliver a cost-effective quality feed source.

Why white sorghum headlage?

The interest in white sorghum started with headlage when Amy Barber, a Research Scientist at (DAF) Gatton, was investigating how farmers could purchase or grow cheaper alternatives of starch rather than relying solely on purchasing grains.

After several crops being grown both at Gatton Research Dairy and on regional farms, DAF are confident that white sorghum is a good option to promote to farmers across several different regions.

White sorghum headlage is price competitive. Compared to a crop harvested as grain, headlage equates to eleven times the yield at 11.5 tonnes

per hectare (or 6 tonnes dry matter per hectare). It is also a good source of nutrients for milking dairy cows. It has levels of starch, protein and fibre closer to cow nutritional requirements than a sorghum crop harvested for silage or grain. This allows for greater inclusion in milking herd diets. Please see Table 1 and Figure 1 on page 3.

Varieties and harvesting management

Liberty white sorghum is the variety that has been used for headlage to date. It performs well in dryland conditions and is capable of multiple cuts in a high rainfall or irrigated situation. When harvesting headlage, the plant must be cut below the

first leaf (flag leaf). Grain should be just past the soft dough stage and left slightly longer than regular silage (approximately 110 days depending on conditions). A draper style front (Honey Bee) should be used on the harvester with rollers closed as tightly as possible to crack a high proportion of grain. The combination of seed head with green leaf material should result in silage type material of 50% dry matter in the pit. Headlage should be inoculated at 1.5 times the rate you would inoculate regular sorghum silage due to it being a drier material and having lower leaf sugar content.

Managing post-harvest residues

After the first harvest of headlage, the



White sorghum crop pre harvesting stage.

continued page 3

Northern Horizons editorial chair SDP May 2017



Welcome to the inaugural edition of Northern Horizons, Subtropical Dairy's new newsletter.

This newsletter replaces the The Northern Dairyfarmer, our previous joint publication with Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation, and Subtropical Dairy's previous electronic newsletter, Beyond Horizons. The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries team are key contributors to our new publication with regular updates on the C4 Milk R&D project slotted in. I also welcome my co-editorialist, Frances Hayden, Chair of the Young Dairy Network Strategic Steering Group. As an ex-YDN member, there is a lot to be gained by all dairy farming generations from working more closely together.

Northern Horizons will be available in either electronic or

can be posted to you in hard copy (farmers only). Given today that we have numerous links to additional on-line resources, we recommend that where possible you receive it by email. Kylie Dennis, our Extension Coordinator for Sunshine Coast and Central Queensland, has the job of compiling Northern Horizons. If you have any articles or contributions, or if you are interested in advertising, then please contact Kylie at kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au or call her on 0456 19 19 65.

Over the last couple of months, we have seen major flooding in south-east Queensland and northern NSW. Collectively, these floods cost the industry around \$10 million dollars, with impacts to be felt over the coming months. It was great to see good attendance at our recovery dinners in late April. To complement government assistance available, Subtropical

Dairy has engaged some consultants for farm visits and technical advice. We also will be rolling out Animal Health discussion days in both regions and have Cups-On-Cups Off courses being organised for flood-affected regions plus the rest of Queensland and northern NSW. Please see the article in Northern Horizons for more details regarding these services and activities. We will also be delivering a round of Grazing Management workshops during July.

Once again, welcome to the first edition of Northern Horizons and I hope you find it of value and interest to your business.

Paul Roderick,
Chair, Sub-tropical Dairy Programme Ltd.



Young Dairy Network (YDN) – grow, network, support and inspire



As the Subtropical Dairy YDN clicks over ten years, it is important to reflect on the success of the network through its contribution to our Northern Dairy Industry and to review and move it forward into the future. Creating pathway opportunities for young people into dairying is vital for the long-term sustainability of our industry. The YDN plays an important role in this by providing a network where young people can learn new skills, develop themselves personally, network with peers, and support and inspire each other along the way.

In planning for the YDN going forward, the strategic steering committee will be looking at ways that we can continue to achieve positive outcomes for young people in the industry. To do this successfully, we require feedback from our grass root members and therefore invite members and potential new members to get

involved in their regional groups to help drive an agenda that is relevant to you and your dairying community.

The YDN welcomes our new co-ordinator for the Mid North Coast, Heath Cook. Heath has been a dairy farmer at Dorrigo for the past ten years with a previous career in the mining industry.

There are a number of activities planned over the next few months in the regions such as:

- "Getting into the Game" dinners in the Sunshine Coast and Far North Coast NSW regions;
- "Animal Health Post Flooding" sessions with Carl Hockey in South-east Queensland and Far North Coast NSW regions;
- AG Chem/Vet Course in the Darling Downs region (TBC)
- Social get togethers in the Mid North Coast NSW and Far North Queensland regions.

Keep an eye out for details about all these events either in this newsletter, on your email or social media. If you are not receiving information about these events and would like to, please check your YDN regional coordinator has your correct contact information.

Finally, we are very pleased to announce that the network has secured another round of funding from Dairy Australia through the national YDNA program for 2017/2018. While more funding for the network is required, this will be a base for the network going forward.

Frances Hayden
YDN SSC Chair



Disclaimer: Sub-tropical Dairy Programme Ltd has endeavoured to ensure that all information presented here is correct. However, we make no warranty with regard to the accuracy of the information and will not be liable if the information is inaccurate, incomplete, out of date or not suited for individual circumstances. The contents of this article should not be used as a substitute for seeking independent professional advice.

The hotlinks to other web sites are provided as a service to users. We are not responsible for and do not endorse linked sites, nor are we able to give assurances regarding their content, operation or accuracy.

Nutrients (dry matter basis)	Milking cow requirements	White sorghum headlage	White sorghum silage	Sorghum grain
Energy (ME) MJ	10.5-11.5	11-12	9-10	11-13
Protein (CP) %	16-18	11-13	11-13	12
Fibre (NDF) %	28-32	24-26	47-50	9-14
Starch %	22-24	45-48	20	68

ME: Metabolisable Energy, MJ: Megajoules, CP: Crude Protein, NDF: Neutral Detergent Fibre. Please consult your nutritionist for milk cowing cow requirements for you herd.

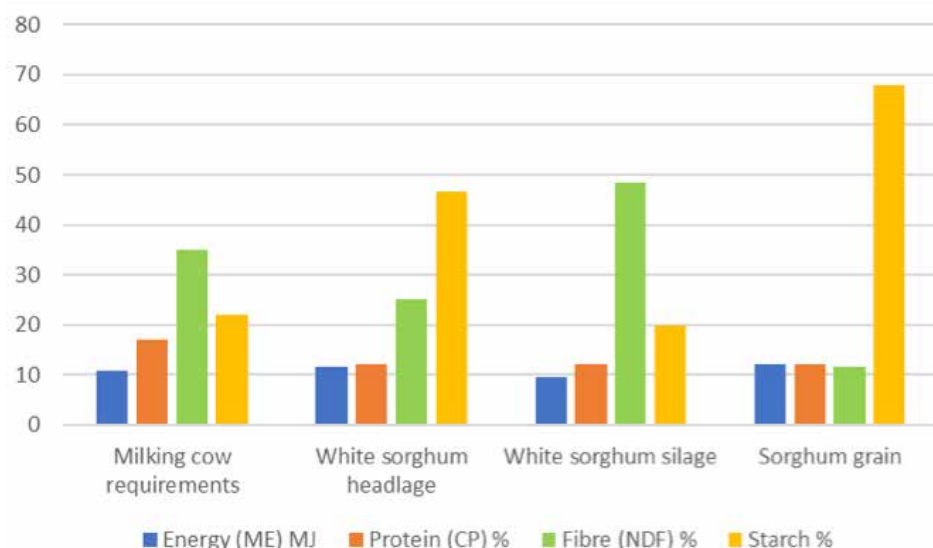


Table 1 and Figure 1 Comparison of typical milking cow requirements versus the nutrient content of white sorghum headlage, white sorghum silage and sorghum grain



Harvest height for white sorghum headlage.

remaining plant material can be harvested and ensiled as a product called footlage. This footlage can be used as a feed for heifers and dry cows, noting that it is particularly low in crude protein, meaning it could not be the sole feed for these animals. Alternatively, heifers or dry cows may graze the remaining forage. The likely yield of the footlage is 20 tonne/ha as fed (or around 5 tonnes dry matter/ha). In some cases, particularly if irrigated and fertilised, the crop will regrow from tillers and be ready for harvest some three months later. The ratoon crop will not have as high a grain yield as the first and should be taken as a whole silage crop or harvested before flowering as a high quality forage. If the recovery is too poor for a mechanical harvest it may be successfully grazed with dry stock.

White sorghum headlage becomes more digestible over time the longer it is stored

In demonstration silages, DAF has found that the longer the headlage is left ensiled, the more digestible the starch becomes. DAF trials have demonstrated that cows fed headlage after 3 months of ensiling have a greater proportion of whole sorghum grain in their manure than those which were fed headlage that had been ensiled for 12 months. A real advantage of headlage is it can sit in the pit until it is needed becoming more digestible over time. It is also a good substitute for purchased grains.

White sorghum headlage is a cost-effective source of starch

When compared to other sorghum and maize fodder options, sorghum headlage is the most cost effective source of starch at \$0.33/kg of starch amongst the sorghum feed alternatives as shown in Table 2 (page 4).

White sorghum versus maize

White sorghum headlage compares favorably with maize or high chop maize silage as a cheap starch source particularly when compared to forage sorghum silage. Maize silage will outperform white forage sorghum silage or headlage in sheer volume per



harvest, the exception being when white sorghum is harvested twice as silage.

Sorghum is best suited to farms with limited water resources where rainfall is a major driver of yield. White sorghum is a low input crop with options that can be implemented depending on the seasonal conditions dealt. The problem often faced with growing maize for silage on your dairy platform is that it has large water requirements and this can put pressure on water used to irrigate milker feed at that time. Growing white sorghum requires less irrigated water, it's far less demanding, meaning you can

Table 2 Comparison of starch sources commonly used in milk herd diets.



juggle irrigations around your grazing rotation and still get a good crop. In situations where this crop is grown off the dairy platform, it's so much easier to manage.

Maize silage is still the "premium" dairy silage, however, white sorghum fills a very important niche. Maize is an incredibly high input crop and if there are some slight impediments to growing and harvesting phases it may become very expensive. Whilst white sorghum is generally lower in starch availability and perhaps slightly higher in NDF, the growing costs are considerably less and the crop is much more forgiving than maize if weather problems occur. White sorghum made into silage is generally marginally higher in NDF and half the starch content of maize silage but almost twice the starch content of other forage sorghum types used for silage. For those who make white sorghum silage, so long as it is fed with a lower NDF feed like ryegrass or lucerne, then overall NDF in the diet will not be an issue.

On farm results during 2017

Five farmers on the Sunshine Coast planted the white sorghum last summer. In all cases they grew one full crop and in some cases farmers harvested crops twice or grazed with dry stock very successfully. Some farmers grew these crops on ex-cane and leased land, usually within 30 kilometres from home. Others substituted white sorghum on land at home on which they previously planted maize silage. Where the crops were cut twice, the total yield was as good as a maize silage crop on the same area of land, around 18-21 tonnes dry matter per ha. Some of the crop was cut higher, about 30cm, to reduce NDF and deliver a higher quality silage on the pad.

Feed	Starch %DM	CP %	Yield t DM/ha	As fed \$/t	\$/kg DM	\$/kg Starch
Sorghum						
White Sorghum Headlage	48	15	6	82	0.16	0.33
White Sorghum Silage – 1 cut	21	12	12	49	0.14	0.68
White Sorghum silage - 2 cuts combined	21	12	19	44	0.13	0.62
Forage Sorghum Silage	12	11	16	40	0.15	1.22
Sorghum Grain	68	12	-	240	0.27	0.38
Maize						
Maize Silage	39	9	19	61	0.15	0.39
High Chop Maize Silage	42	9	17	64	0.15	0.37
Maize grain purchased	66	11	-	350	0.39	0.59



White sorghum being harvested as headlage.



White sorghum at stage ready for harvest.

Post Cyclone Debbie flood assistance Qld and NSW

The aftermath of Cyclone Debbie brought both positive and negative impacts to dairy businesses in parts of Queensland and the northern regions of NSW. Many farmers located in the Darling Downs and Central Queensland received much needed rain, however many located in South East Queensland and Northern NSW were inundated by localised flooding. The damage in both Queensland and Northern NSW is estimated at over \$10 million.

In summary, the following financial assistance is available:

Queensland

Category B Assistance:

Freight Subsidies of up to \$5000 per property (original application must be lodged within 6 months of the date of movement)

Low interest loan of up to \$250,000 to help primary producers pay for costs arising out of direct damage OR low interest loan (essential working capital) of up to \$100,000 to help primary producers that have suffered significant loss of income because of Cyclone Debbie (original application must be lodged within 6 months of the date of movement)

- Banana Regional Council, Gladstone Regional Council, Gold Coast City Council, Livingstone Shire Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Logan City Council, North Burnett Regional Council, Mackay Regional Council, Rockhampton Regional Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council

Category C Assistance: Grants of up to \$25,000 to assist with the costs of clean-up and reinstate their primary production enterprise (closing date 13th October 2017)

- Mackay Regional Council, Whitsunday Regional Council, Part of Central Highlands Regional Council, Part of Isaac Regional Council, Part of Livingstone Shire Council, Logan City Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council, Part of Gold Coast Regional Council, Part of Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council, Part of the Lockyer Valley

Disaster Recovery Allowance: A short term payment to assist individuals who can demonstrate their income has been affected as a direct result of a declared disaster. It is payable for a maximum of 13 weeks from the date at which you have, or will have, a loss of income as a direct result of Tropical Cyclone Debbie

- Gold Coast, Logan, Mackay, Scenic Rim (closing date 4th October 2017)
- Whitsunday (closing date 30th September 2017)
- Rockhampton (closing date 18th October 2017)

Disaster Recovery Payment: Provides one-off financial assistance to eligible Australians adversely affected by the North Coast floods. The rate of DRP is \$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child. DRP is available for people who have been seriously injured, who have lost their homes or whose homes have been directly damaged, or the immediate family members of a person who has been killed, as a direct result of the floods

- Gold Coast, Logan, Mackay, Scenic Rim (closing date 4th October 2017)
- Rockhampton (closing date 18th October 2017)
- Whitsunday (closing date 30th September 2017)

New South Wales

Freight Subsidy: A subsidy of up to 50% of the total freight cost to a maximum of \$15,000 per farm enterprise per financial year is available to eligible primary producers. Subsidies are only available during the six-month period following the declaration of a natural disaster area with the first movement to take place during the first 3 months of the declaration period (applications to be lodged within 6 months of the declared date of the natural disaster)

- Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Kyogle, Lismore City, Richmond Valley, Tweed Shire

Natural Disaster Relief Scheme loans: Loans of up to \$130,000 are available (subject to certain eligibility criteria), at a concessional interest rate for those in urgent need. These loans may be used to meet carry-on requirements and the replacement and repair of damage not covered by insurance (applications to be lodged within 6 months of the declared date of the natural disaster)

- Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Kyogle, Lismore City, Richmond Valley, Tweed Shire

Category C Assistance: These grants are intended as a helping hand for severely impacted producers with immediate clean up challenges such as mending fences, salvaging crops and repairing equipment (closing date 27th October 2017)

- Tweed LGA – grants up to \$15,000
- Lismore LGA – grants up to \$10,000

Disaster Recovery Allowance: A short term payment to assist individuals who can demonstrate their income has been affected as a direct result of a declared disaster. It is payable for a maximum of 13 weeks from the date at which you have, or will have, a loss of income as a direct result of Tropical Cyclone Debbie

- Lismore, Tweed (closing date 4th October 2017)

Disaster Recovery Payment: Provides one-off financial assistance to eligible Australians adversely affected by the North Coast floods. The rate of DRP is \$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child. DRP is available for people who have been seriously injured, who have lost their homes or whose homes have been directly damaged, or the immediate family members of a person who has been killed, as a direct result of the floods

- Lismore, Tweed (closing date 4th October 2017)

Other support

Graham Chambers

One-on-one flood recovery support visits throughout south-east Queensland and northern NSW until June 30 2017.

With support of Dairy Australia, Subtropical Dairy has contracted Graham Chambers to provide some on-farm support. Graham is ex-QDPI and has extensive experience in farmer support post-natural disasters in Queensland over the last twenty years.

The purpose of his visits can include:

- Assistance with completing disaster assistance claim forms
- Supporting with developing plans going forward
- Engaging with farmers who have become socially isolated and in need of immediate assistance
- Helping identify avenues of financial and technical support such Rural Financial Counsellors.

If you know of any farmers who could benefit from a visit, please contact Graham directly on 0407 572 178 or Belinda Haddow on 0423 003 638.

One on one technical support with issues regarding animal health, feeding and herd nutrition.

Subtropical Dairy, in conjunction with Dairy Australia, have contracted a number of technical experts to provide over the phone advice regarding herd health and feed management/nutrition until June 30th, 2017.

The technical advisers and their disciplines are:

Dr Carl Hockey from Rural Vet.

Carl is a senior veterinarian with specialised expertise in mastitis, lameness and reproduction management

P 0433 345 741

E carl@ruralvet.com.au

Dr Dave Barber

Dave is a senior scientist with Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries at Gatton Qld. He has over 16 years' experience and has specialised skills in nutritional management, ration formulation, mixed ration feeding systems and feed-pad infrastructure.

P 0418 714 027

E david.barber@daf.qld.gov.au

Mr Ross Warren

Ross is a senior extension officer with Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries at Gympie Qld. He has over 16 years' experience in farm business management in pasture-based and mixed ration systems with specialised skills in forage and pasture management, irrigation management and herd nutrition.

P 0418 749 340

E Ross.Warren@daf.qld.gov.au

Please feel free to contact Carl, Dave and Ross on the numbers or email contacts provided.



Controlling mastitis in wet conditions

Some tips from Dairy Australia's Countdown program that may assist with controlling clinical mastitis or high cell counts in your dairy herd during and after periods of wet weather.

Rain and flood events like the one our region has just experienced recently with ex-tropical cyclone Debbie, bring increased risk of mastitis and increased cell counts.

Many old treatment routines may no longer work in the face of increased risks, brought about through excess water and mud, milking machine issues and missed milkings, feed issues and stressed cows.

In wet or muddy periods there are 4 key steps:

1. Wash all teats on wet or muddy days. Dry every teat with one paper towel per cow before cups go on.
2. Strip cows every day to detect, treat and isolate clinical cases.
3. When cups come off, cover all teat skin with disinfectant.
4. Keep teats clean for an hour after the cows leave the shed using feeding and other routines to prevent cows lying down.

If elevated BMCCs or clinical cases persist

Look for problems with teat condition, machine function, or opportunities for bacteria to spread between cows. Seek professional advice, your local vet or milk processor can help. Milk cultures can determine the type of bacteria involved.

At the end of lactation

Follow all the steps outlined previously. Dry cow antibiotic treatment is recommended to remove infections and reduce mastitis risk at calving. Talk to your vet about blanket or selective Dry Cow Treatment and teat sealant.

Countdown fact sheets

High cell counts and clinical mastitis won't fix themselves!

- Details the 4 key steps for reducing mastitis risk in wet and muddy periods

Countdown Resource Pack

- Mastitis Control in and after wet conditions - Resource pack introduction/contents

Clinical cases – reducing the headache

Cow parking and mastitis risk

Drying off: the key to a better run next lactation

Using teat sealant in your herd

High cell count cows – what are the options

Milking machines – wet, muddy conditions can create significant challenges for milking machine operation

www.dairyaustralia.com.au/Animal-management/Mastitis/Countdown-resources-and-tools-2/Mastitis-control-in-wet-conditions.aspx

Post flood feed quality & mycotoxins

by Jason Weare – Parmalat Australia

Flooding due to cyclone Debbie has flattened many crops intended for silage. Some crops have been salvaged with yields lower than expected due to flood damage. Since some crops were affected by flood waters for a period of time and silage contractors put on hold until the ground was dry enough for machinery to get on and harvest, the quality of the silage might be on the poor side. Contamination of the crop with dirt/silt and debris from the flood waters may also pose a risk to the quality of the fodder. Weather/flood damaged crops may also have a higher incidence of mycotoxin contamination, which when fed can lead to health implications within the herd.

It would be advised that weather/flood damaged crops that have been ensiled to feed beef or dairy cattle are tested for both the nutritive composition of the feed as well as for mycotoxin contamination of

the feed. These tests should be performed before feed out and the results interpreted by your nutritionist or service provider.

Dairy producers are advised to take a representative sample of the silage to be sent through to either Feed Central in Toowoomba or Cumberland Valley Analytical Services in Bendigo in order to obtain a nutrient composition report on the feed and once the report has been received get your nutritionist or service provider to go through the results with you as changes to the dairy diets may be necessary for optimal health and production benefits.

Dairy producers are also urged to get in contact with companies that offer mycotoxin testing for their flood affected silages. Both Alltech and Biomin provide mycotoxin testing and one of their representatives should be able to take a sample of flood affected silage to be sent

for mycotoxin screening. The results can be interpreted by the company reps or your nutritionist. These companies also provide in-feed mycotoxin binding and/or deactivation solutions that will help to minimise the negative impact mycotoxins have on herd health and production.

Feed Testing

Feed Central: 10775 Warrego Hwy, Charlton, QLD, 4350. Telephone - (07) 4630 4899

Cumberland Valley Analytical: 3 Gildea Ln, East Bendigo, VIC, 3550. Telephone - (03) 5443 9665

Mycotoxin Testing

Alltech: Toby Doak 0408 304 914 or Suzanne Roth 0400 617 671

Biomin: Nathan Lister 0499 171 010

New soils project for FNQ

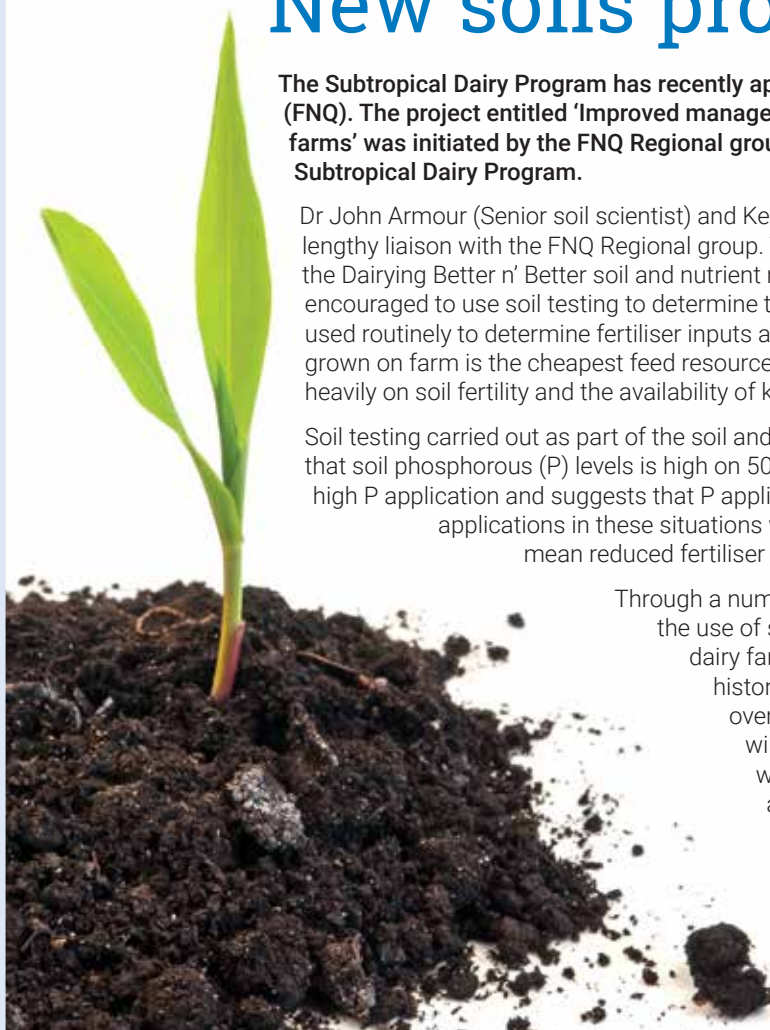
The Subtropical Dairy Program has recently approved a new soils project for Far North Queensland (FNQ). The project entitled 'Improved management of phosphorous on Atherton Tableland dairy farms' was initiated by the FNQ Regional group, chaired by Bill Tranter. The project is funded by the Subtropical Dairy Program.

Dr John Armour (Senior soil scientist) and Kev Shaw (NQ agronomist) compiled the project after lengthy liaison with the FNQ Regional group. The project aims to build on the work done as part of the Dairying Better n' Better soil and nutrient management planning program in which farmers were encouraged to use soil testing to determine their fertiliser inputs. Unfortunately soil testing is not used routinely to determine fertiliser inputs across the FNQ dairy industry, despite the fact that feed grown on farm is the cheapest feed resource. The quantity and quality of feed grown on farm relies heavily on soil fertility and the availability of key nutrients in the right amounts.

Soil testing carried out as part of the soil and nutrient management planning program indicated that soil phosphorous (P) levels is high on 50% of existing dairy farms. This is due to many years of high P application and suggests that P applications can be reduced in many cases. A reduction in P applications in these situations would not reduce pasture production, however it would mean reduced fertiliser costs to the farmer.

Through a number of project activities, the project aims to promote the use of soil test results to determine fertiliser applications on dairy farms. Initially, data will be collected from six farms with a history of soil testing to determine trends in soil nutrient status over time. The Dairying Better 'n' Better soil testing database will also be reviewed as part of the project. A workshop will be held to present the results of the data collection and review process. At the workshop, participants will learn about the key aspects of an effective soil testing program which includes; sampling, laboratory selection, interpretation of results, and development of an effective fertiliser/concentrate program.

It is hoped that the results from this project can be used to develop future projects which will further benefit the FNQ dairy industry.



Basic nutrition workshops delivered in Subtropical Dairy

Farmers revisited the basics of dairy herd nutrition recently in workshops delivered throughout Subtropical Dairy.

Ross Warren, Senior Extension Officer, Department Agriculture and Fisheries and Dr. Susanne Roth, Account Manager Dairy, Alltech Australia facilitated the March workshops in Gympie, Boonah, Nanango, Toowoomba in Queensland and Casino and Dorrigo in NSW. A workshop in Malanda has been scheduled for Thursday July 20 2017.

74 people in total attended the one-day workshops covering theory on rumen function, feeding rumen bugs, digestion and absorption, nutrition of different feeds, and ration fundamentals.

But without seeing into the rumen what do we know? Three types of cow signals can provide an indication of what's going on regarding a herds' nutritional status – rumination, milk composition, and manure.

Visual indicators for healthy rumen function include cud chewing, a visual appraisal of rumen fill, milk composition levels, and manure.

The workshops contained a practical component involving analysis of farm manure samples using a sieve separator to see what signals dung can give about the herds' nutrition and digestion.

The basic nutrition workshops were a great refresher or lead in for Dairy Australia's new advanced nutrition program being piloted by Subtropical Dairy in May and June.

For information on herd nutrition visit:

dairyaustralia.com.au/Pastures-and-Feeding/Nutrition
dairyinfo.biz/technical-information/feedbase-nutrition/



Ross Warren, DAF, demonstrates the effects of different feed types in the rumen 'simulator'.



Participants at the Casino workshop look on as Dr. Susanne Roth analyses a farm manure sample in the sieve separator.

On farm innovation



The \$100 levelling bar

This section of Northern Horizons profiles some ingenious innovations that are invented by farmers. This edition we revisit innovations from this year's Far North Coast Wine and Dine dinner.

Each year competition heats up for the far north coast's farm innovation competition at the 'Wine Dine & Unwind' dairy dinner. Farmer's are asked to enter an innovative idea that makes farm life easier, is either a little different or quirky, or is a way of re-using something.

This year's winner was a home made levelling bar by Dennis Rose, Goolmangar NSW.

Made using about \$100 in steel, the bar is towed by a quad to spread and level areas around the dairy where the cows make a mess. Not only does it smooth the ground out, it also spreads the manure out, meaning it's soft when dry. The result? Cleaner cows and less mastitis.

Fleur Tonge was runner-up for her 'Eye Spy' drone used to help check what's happening on the farm – including checking the silage stacks, herd, creek, irrigator, mowing, and mustering the heifers.



Before and after the levelling bar, at the Rose's farm, Goolmangar

Talking succession with Lyn Sykes at the South Burnett dinner

The South Burnett dairy region hosted Lyn Sykes at their annual dairy dinner on 22nd March 2017. Lyn is well known across Australia for her depth of experience in farm family succession planning and facilitating family communication. She has worked in the area of succession planning for over 30 years.

Lyn discussed some of the issues farming families face in succession planning and some of the things experience has taught her around family communication. Farmers often struggle with the succession issue simply because it combines two complicated and treasured things – family and business. The topic of succession is often avoided and usually raises ‘it’s ugly head’ in the peak of a family crisis or a tragedy, when it can no longer be put to the side. At this point, family emotions are peaking and no-one is thinking clearly or has the ability to make sustainable decisions around the future of the farm business.

Lyn’s experience working with farming families has taught her that if a family is finding succession difficult and has avoided it for a long time, it will only get more difficult the longer that they leave it. Putting off starting the process or the conversation because they are not sure what to do will only make the process more difficult the longer time goes on. The hardest step is making a start!

Lyn was recently asked to present at a Conference regarding the “Winning Formula” for Succession. Her immediate response was that there is no ‘winning formula’. Every family and situation is very different and they have to

work through a process and find their own way. However, she could summarise the following points that may contribute to ‘Succession Success’;

- The single biggest contributor to a successful succession process was having a functioning family unit where people communicate well with each other. In this case, the succession process is likely to be much less traumatic. If a dysfunctional family is involved in the process then the best method is to get in and get the job done, no matter how painful it is. Get lots of help to assist the process and it is likely that once the plan is in place, the family will begin to heal again.
- Consider how the existing farming generational owners came by the farm. What was the fallout of that process? Lyn believes that the biggest influencer of what happens in the current generations plan will be what happened in the previous generations plan. Most don’t even realise that their past experience is influencing how they think.
- How does the existing owner feel about themselves in their own thoughts? For many individuals, their self-esteem, or worth, is tied up in what they do, e.g. They are a dairy farmer in Nanango. If what they do is their identity, then the succession process will be more difficult. It’s hard to give away, or move away, from who you are. Often this issue can be mistaken for a “control” problem, or the farm owner not being willing to relinquish control.
- Consider the generation that the owner and family members are from. Each generation will have their own beliefs about what is right & wrong, fair and equitable depending on how they came to be, and this will have a dramatic effect on their expected outcome from the plan.



The Dagan family from Maidenwell enjoying a night out at the South Burnett dinner



Lyn Sykes discussing farm family communication at the South Burnett dinner event.

The hardest step is making a start!

Of course, these are just a few pointers in the process and it is a whole lot more complicated in practice. Lyn has a fantastic publication written around farm family communication which can be downloaded here <https://grdc.com.au/.../GRDC-A-Guide-To-Communication-For-Farming-Familiespdf>

The South Burnett dinner event was also livestreamed and is available to view on the Subtropical Dairy Facebook page or the website www.dairyinfo.biz.



THINK DIGITAL in Subtropical Dairy

Tim Gentle is the founder of a company called Think Digital and is a dynamic presenter, passionate educator and regional living advocate. Originally from a dairy farm, he has over 23 years' experience in Marketing and the Digital world. His aim is to help regional and remote communities understand the digital world and not be frustrated by it!

What is the Think Digital Coach?

Think Digital has a purpose-built 14 metre hi-tech mobile classroom (bus) driving digital education and experiences into Regional Rural and Remote Australia. Their mission is to help prepare people to get the most out of the "digital world" by highlighting the benefits, building confidence and improving their skills.

The Think Digital Coach will be in Central Queensland and the Burnett during the month of June and Subtropical Dairy will be setting up some sessions on farms in the region with Tim during this time. The sessions will focus on "what the digital world can offer you to learn, connect, do business and make day to day life a little easier".

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions please contact Vivienne McCollum on 0428 718620 or email vivienne@subtropicaldairy.com.au

The digital coach is supported by funding received from the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs.



Farm safety starter kit

Developed by dairy farmers for dairy farmers, the Kit provides practical, easy to use resources to enable you to get your farm safety system started or improve the existing system.

Resources

Download the Farm Safety Starter kit or order your hard copy online

You can also download individual sections of the Kit, as you need them to use on your farm:

Getting Started

Complete the safety checklist, follow with the induction process before moving to the 3 key parts of the Kit

Safety System Snapshot: use the snapshot with your farm team to check your farm safety system against the current Work Health and Safety Legislation & create an action plan.

Earlier Safety Improvements: use this tool to think back over the last

2-3 years and make a list of safety improvements you have made - some may not have been done just for safety reasons, but have improved the workplace from a safety perspective.

Quick Safety Scans (15 scans): a set of 30 minute scans on the key hazard areas, designed to assist you in identifying and fixing hazards identified. The safety scans are designed to be used when setting up your safety system and then for ongoing reviews.

Your feedback - let us know how you've used the safety starter kit on your farm, what you like, what could be improved and what else might be included.

Note: the Farm Safety Starter Kit compliments the Employment Starter Kit initiative (ESKi) which contains more information regarding induction.



Darling Downs Focus Farm

Subtropical Dairy has received funding from Dairy Australia to run a Focus Farm on the Darling Downs for the next two years. Selection is currently underway for a farm in the region to take part in the project.

The Focus Farm model aims to provide local visibility around key on-farm decisions and farm performance over time. The tracking of decisions on farms over a two-year period provides visibility and insight into the impact of those decisions on the bottom line. In addition, Focus Farms allow consideration and discussion about the factors impacting decisions at any point in time, including seasonal and market conditions.

The recently completed Northern Rivers Focus Farm project had some great outcomes. Run between 2014 and 2016 on Andrew Wilson & Kelly Boyd 'Woodlawn' farm near Lismore, the story of their progress was followed and shared by the region's dairy farming community.

The Wilsons are fourth generation dairy



November Open Day

farmers who at the start of the project were milking 250 cows in a pasture-based system. They had just purchased a neighbouring property and their focus was to improve their home grown feed supply and increase the milking herd to 300.

Through facilitated discussions with the support group and the input of a farm consultant over the two years, a significant increase in farm profit was achieved with return on capital going from 0.7% to 5.1%. With milk price remaining relatively stable over this two year period, the main influences were deemed to be an increase in amount and quality of home-grown feed harvested, an increase in production per cow, an increase in herd size, and a decrease in the cost of production achieved through tighter cost control.

The Darling Downs Focus Farm selected will be supported over two years by a farm consultant and a support group made up of other farmers and service providers selected by the focus farmer. This support group will provide guidance, advice and suggestions to assist the farmer in meeting their business goals.

Focus Farm field days will also be run during the project where the wider dairy farming community will be invited to visit the farm and look at the impact that changes are having on the business's bottom line.

For further information about the Focus Farm please contact Vivienne McCollum on 0428 718620 or email vivienne@subtropicaldairy.com.au



Dairybiz+100 – Resources to help you unlock potential profit

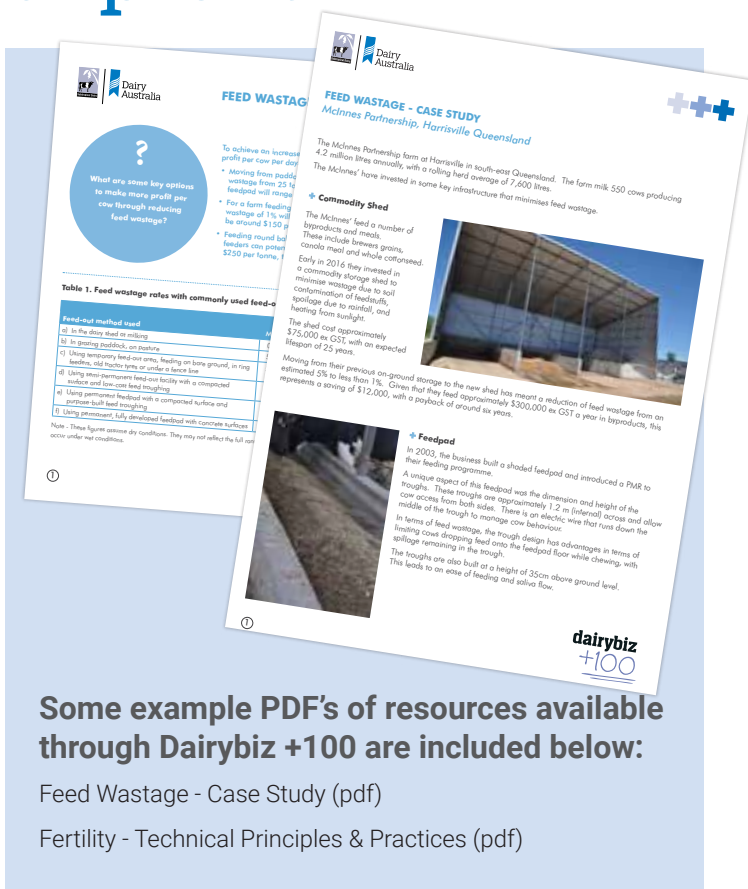
As a pilot programme, Subtropical Dairy has developed a series of resources and tools to help northern Australian dairy businesses estimate the potential profit from making a change to their business. These can be found at www.dairyinfo.biz/dairybiz-100/

The resources are called DairyBiz+100 and have the common theme of calculating what change is needed to make an additional \$100 dairy operating profit (or EBIT - earnings before interest and tax) per cow per year, regardless of where a business is at.

Initially we have chosen three key management areas that can have a significant impact on a farm's bottom line: Grazing Management, Reproductive Management and Feed Wastage. Within each of these disciplines there are several resources:

- A calculator to estimate the potential financial benefit
- Case studies
- A summary of best and key practices
- A checklist to see how a business is tracking and help decide if these changes are right for a particular situation

Please bear in mind that these tools and resources are just the first step in understanding the potential of making a change. The tools are basic calculators that may not capture the unique aspects of a business, or tell what other impacts the change may have on another part of a business. Further advice should be sought.



Some example PDF's of resources available through Dairybiz +100 are included below:

Feed Wastage - Case Study (pdf)

Fertility - Technical Principles & Practices (pdf)

The resources are called DairyBiz+100 and have the common theme of calculating what change is needed to make an additional \$100 dairy operating profit per cow per year

FERTILITY IMPROVEMENT CALCULATOR		
Proposed change: IMPROVE HERD FERTILITY		
By how much?		
Current 100-day in-calf rate	44%	
Proposed 100-day in-calf rate	49%	
Improvement:	5.0%	
Expected results:		
CHANGE IN NET INCOME:	\$29,841	per year
	\$93	per cow per year
	1.3	cents per litre
IMPROVEMENT IN 100-DAY IN-CALF RATE NEEDED TO IMPROVE EBIT BY \$100 PER COW PER YEAR:	5.3%	
Breakdown: Change in net income per cow per year		
	Reduced artificial insemination costs	\$4.32
	Increased milk income due to less prolonged lactations	\$31.23
	Reduced dry period feed costs	\$0.53
	Effects of voluntary culling	\$57.39
	Reduced purchased cow costs	\$0.90
	Total	\$95.47
Inputs		
	Now	Proposed
General		
Herd size (number cows)	300	300
Marginal milk price (cents/litre)	59	59
Marginal supplementary feed cost (\$/tonne as fed)	\$300	\$300
Insemination cost (semen plus labour) (\$/semen)	\$25	\$25
Conception rate	40%	45%
Milk production		
Average milk production (L per cow per 305 days)	7,500	7,500
Litres of production per cow on first day of lactation	22	22
Days to peak production	45	45
Litres of production per cow on 305th day of lactation	14	14
Lowest allowed daily litres per cow - if lower, dried off	11	11
Production difference between lowest and average cow (L per cow per 305 days)	2,400	2,400
Stock sales and purchases		
Sale price - Pregnant cull cow	\$1,100	\$1,100
Sale price - Non-pregnant cull cow	\$1,100	\$1,100
Purchase price - Replacement cow (point of culling)	\$1,300	\$1,300

DairyBiz +100 calculators
- Estimating potential improvements from changes to reproduction management and focusing on fertility

As noted in the previous article, there are a range of calculators available online at <http://dairyinfo.biz/dairybiz-100/> that can be used to estimate the potential benefit of making a change.

In the example shown, the calculator estimates the savings for a 300 cow farm of improving conception and 100 day calf rates by 5% units. In this example, the improvement was estimated at around \$30,000 per year.

www.dairyinfo.biz/dairybiz-100/

Mid-career farmers pilot Business Dairy Network (BDN)

Mid-Career farmers on the Sunshine Coast have been participating in a pilot program for the past two years called the Business Dairy Network (BDN). This pilot project is managed by Subtropical Dairy with funding from the Australia Government Department of Social Services. It has looked at the feasibility of setting up a mid-career network that farmers could move onto after graduating from the Young Dairy Network. The farmers participating in the pilot decided that the purpose of the group would be about "Mooving dairy businesses to prosperity" with the target to plan, evaluate, change and grow their businesses through people, profit and practice.

Two hubs were formed on the Sunshine Coast with four to six dairy businesses involved in each. The Gympie Hub decided to focus on building a tool to analyse income over feed costs (IOFC), whereas the Kenilworth Hub has focused on Human Resources.

The IOFC tool was developed in conjunction with Dr Brad Granzin. The IOFC tool enables farmers to undertake some short-term business analysis (e.g. a month by month basis) focused on nutritional management and herd

performance. The tool analyses revenue, feed costs, diet performance and overhead costs. The group has used the results from the IOFC tool to review profitability and key indicators between farms during different seasons, plus how their own farms vary in profitability during the year. The IOFC tool also has an output comparing the IOFC for individual feedstuffs based on their cost, total nutrient content and herd nutrient requirements.

The Kenilworth Hub has been focused on the Human Resources (HR) side to their businesses and in particular building procedure manuals for use on-farm. They have been working with Di Gresham to work through various aspects of managing staff and looking towards building a HR

manual for their farms. The Kenilworth Hub also recently analysed their February 2017 farm performance through the IOFC tool that the Gympie Hub developed.

One of the great outcomes from the BDN has been being able to capitalise on the relationships and trust developed between members of the Young Dairy Network (YDN). As farmers move to the next stage of their dairy career from YDN and look to discuss more sensitive topics such as financial business performance and staff, this trust allows them to have open conversations in confidence.

The pilot project will finish at the end of June 2017. Subject to evaluation and funding, Subtropical Dairy will look to continue the model going forward.



Australian Government
Department of Social Services



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More profit from nitrogen

Increasing nitrogen use efficiency in dairy pastures

This project aims to increase nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) in dairy pasture systems where direct loss of nitrogen (N) has been assessed at levels as high as 40%. Previous farm scale work has suggested that small improvements in NUE can provide substantial productivity and profit gains for farm businesses. Recent dairy research in N cycling and loss processes have identified a number of options to increase NUE. Further testing and validation of these opportunities will be undertaken by this project. Led by Queensland University of Technology and assisted by the NSW Department of Primary Industries, the project will demonstrate ways in which increased NUE, together with greater water use efficiency (WUE), can provide win-win opportunities for farmers in both environmental and business sustainability improvements.



The research aims

The project aims to test and validate practices to improve NUE and WUE whilst reducing the carbon footprint and increasing the productivity and profitability of Australian dairy farms. Research will:

- Investigate the interactions between nitrogen, mineralisation and irrigation management and develop best management practices (BMP).
- Increase industry understanding of N losses, particularly from denitrification, and the potential for precision irrigation management to optimise NUE and WUE.
- Develop efficient strategies for reducing denitrification and total soil N losses and optimise synthetic fertiliser inputs.
- Produce recommendations for farmers detailing the optimal application timing and rates of enhanced efficiency fertilisers (EEFs) based on prevailing and predicted climatic conditions.

Methodology

The project is conducting two key activities:

1. Establishment of two core replicated trial sites – one each in the subtropical and hot/dry dairy regions and several satellite farmer based demonstration and research sites:

- The core sites will utilise existing research infrastructure currently operating at Casino (QUT) and Camden (NSW DPI) including variable rate irrigation, intensive soil moisture monitoring equipment and automated chambers.
- They will provide a testbed for BMPs and accurate quantification of N loss pathways under a suite of different nitrogen, irrigation and EEF management practices.
- Determine the key processes of N cycling (mineralisation,

denitrification and total N recoveries) using ^{15}N labelled fertilisers, soil and plant recoveries and field based mass spectrometer and pasture productivity under different treatments.

- Quantify total denitrification losses (N_2O and N_2) using highly enriched (99%) ^{15}N fertiliser and total GHG's using automated chamber technology.

2. Use data and process understanding from activity 1 to test potential BMPs and develop industry benchmarks for NUE:

- Measure N cycling and efficiency over 2 years
- Measure agronomic efficiency with outputs in units of pasture DM/kg N/ L water

Extending the outcomes

Findings will be disseminated to the research, industry and agronomy communities through scientific papers and conference presentations. Outcomes will be presented to farmers at on-farm field days at Casino and Camden as well as through Dairy Australia's programs and resources.



For more information contact: Dr David Rowlings, Queensland University of Technology
T: +61 7 3138 9508 E: d.rowlings@qut.edu.au

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit programme, Queensland University of Technology, Dairy Australia and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.



Effluent field days in May

When thinking about how I can improve my farm, effluent management normally isn't on the top of the list. Improved irrigation systems, nutrition management, herd health and the like are all areas that farmers tend to focus on. However, did you know that utilising your farm's effluent really could help your business's bottom line?

Is it a waste product or is it a valuable resource? If managed properly, effluent can be a fantastic source of nutrients for plants and a great soil conditioner. But it is important that these nutrients are applied where and when they can be of benefit whilst minimising potential risks. So how can we have a system that ticks all the boxes?

As we know, no two farms are the same, and what works on one farm may not necessarily work on another. Specific

factors that need to be considered include herd size (and any future increases), proximity to creeks, gullies and underground aquifers, climate, soil type and availability of labour.

The Dairying Better 'n Better program is running field days in late May with Mick O'Keefe, a Dairy Extension Officer with specialist skills in effluent management and design, in Southeast Queensland and on the Darling Downs. These workshops will examine the host farm's system in detail and will provide attendees with a greater understanding of the cost-benefit of improved effluent management, options available, and tricks of the trade in terms of rectifying or preventing management issues. Details of the field days will be sent to all farms in May.

These workshops are delivered through funding from Dairy Australia's Land, Water and Carbon program by the Dairying Better 'n Better program which is a joint initiative of Subtropical Dairy and the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation.

If managed properly, effluent can be a fantastic source of nutrients for plants and a great soil conditioner.

Effluent Assessments Available

Did you know that the Dairy & Fodder Water for Profit program offers subsidised On Farm System Assessments for Effluent Management and Reuse?

To find out more visit www.dairypage.com.au/dairy-fodder-water-for-profit/

The Dairy & Fodder Water for Profit program is funded by the Queensland Government Department of Natural Resource and Mines and supported by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

DataGene: driving dairy herd improvement

DataGene is an independent and industry-owned organisation responsible for driving herd improvement for the Australian dairy industry.

Formed in 2016, DataGene's first two functions have been genetic evaluation (the role previously performed by the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme) and managing the software which runs most herd test centres (DataGene Centre). One of the first deliverables will be the much-awaited central data repository (CDR), with the first stage due for release later in 2017.

Combining these three functions will create a critical mass of scientific and computing power on a scale the industry has not previously been able to access. This will enable vastly more data to be accessed and will generate opportunities to deliver modern tools and resources that will transform dairy herd improvement in Australia. There's a lot at stake; the Lacey and Coats report from 2013 estimated that better herd improvement decisions could deliver an extra \$25m in profit on farm.

Dairy farmers can expect to benefit from DataGene through: easier decisions, smarter systems, faster access to data, better tools and more profit. DataGene is developing modern, user-friendly tools and software programs designed specifically for dairy farmers and their service providers. These tools will draw upon data made accessible through the central data repository. The CDR will allow seamless access to herd records from multiple sources, for example records held on farm computers, at vets and breed societies. Smarter systems will allow for easier data entry by farmers and others in the industry. Having access to vastly more data will enable scientists to provide more reliable Australian Breeding Values and indices; as well as opportunities for world leading research and the development of breeding values for new traits. Combined, these things will make it easier and faster for dairy farmers to make better herd improvement decisions, based on relevant data.

Two new tools have been released recently: the Herd Test Dashboard and a new App for entering herd health and other data

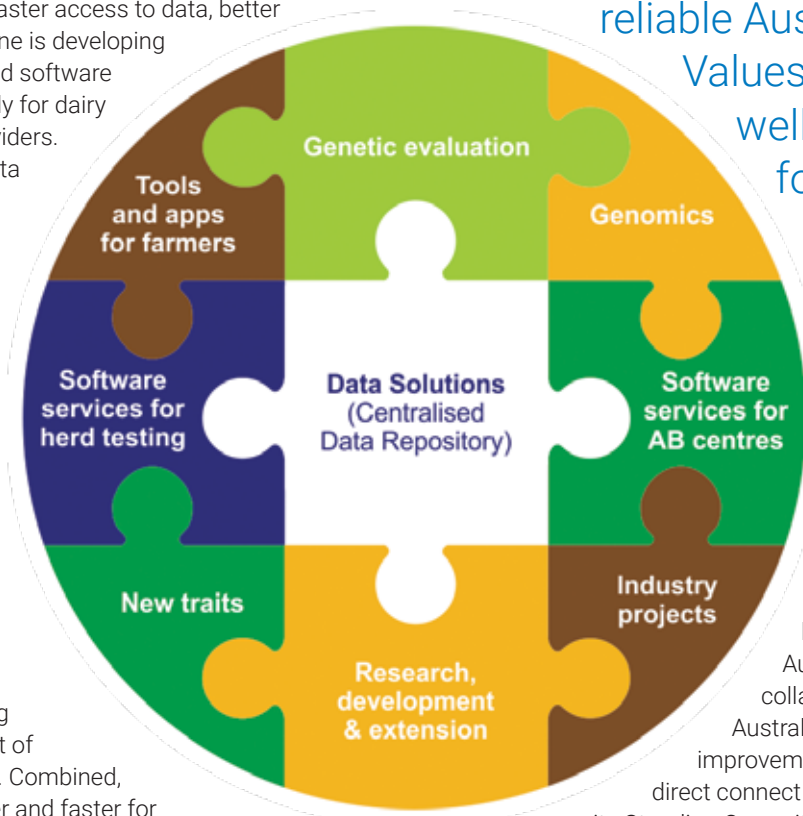
on a smart phone or tablet.

Xhead: Collaboration

Collectively, Australian Dairy Farmers and Dairy Australia have 50% membership rights in DataGene and NHIA has a 15% stake. However, DataGene's success will rely on a highly collaborative approach so it has been set up to allow for the remaining 35% of membership to be made up by industry organisations. In recent months, 19 industry organisations have taken up membership in DataGene. Membership involves both a financial investment and a commitment to collaborate. Members come from all sectors of the HI industry including herd test companies, AB companies, breed societies and other organisations.

DataGene CEO Dr Matt Shaffer said the response from the HI industry signalled strong support for a collaborative approach

Having access to vastly more data will enable scientists to provide more reliable Australian Breeding Values and indices; as well as opportunities for world leading research and the development of breeding values for new traits.



to herd improvement through DataGene.

"DataGene is a major investment by Australian levy payers through Dairy Australia. In addition to the collaboration between Dairy Australia, ADF and the herd improvement industry, DataGene has a direct connect to farmers through its Board, its Standing Committees and its user groups," he

said.

The centralised data repository, set to be delivered mid-year will enable DataGene to deliver innovative tools and service to drive genetic improvement in Australian dairy herds.



Taking dairy to the classroom - AgConnect

The 28th April 2017 saw a group of agricultural industries and businesses descend on Brisbane Boys College in Toowong to participate in AgForce's AgConnect Junior event.

The AgConnect Brisbane event runs throughout the day, with presentations of 30 minutes per industry aimed at primary school aged children.

Subtropical Dairy attended the event and talked 'dairy' to over 100 primary school kids and their parents and teachers.

Kylie Dennis and Belinda Haddow, Subtropical Dairy Extension Co-ordinators, discussed how cows turn grass into milk. The sessions were deliberately designed to be interactive and exciting for the kids with lots of things to see and touch. The conversation started with why cows make milk and journeys through a day in the life of a dairy farmer right through to turning cream into butter in a jar!

Cold flavoured milks donated by the team at Parmalat were a great hit with the kids and much appreciated. Legendairy and Dairy Australia also supplied a number of classroom resources which provided an opportunity to get the kids to think more about dairy when they returned to school, and also continue a conversation about the dairy industry with their families when they got home.

The MooBaaMunch and AgConnect days always provide an excellent opportunity to instil some knowledge and a little bit of 'passion' about the dairy industry in young people, who may otherwise never get the chance to learn about where their food comes from.....



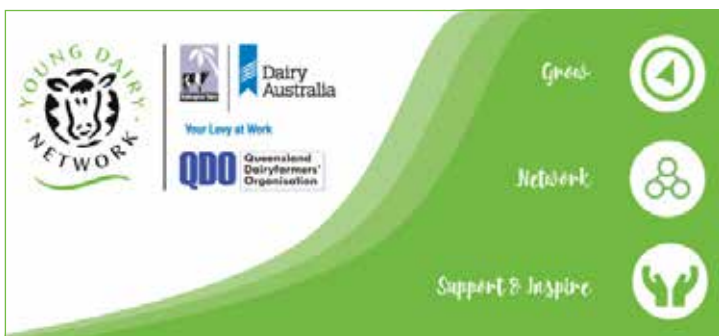
Cold flavoured milks donated by the team at Parmalat were a great hit with the kids and much appreciated.

Subtropical Dairy

You are invited to take part in a research study about the awareness amongst Australian dairy and beef cattle farmers about the knowledge, attitudes and practices of Australian dairy and beef cattle farmers regarding Q fever. The findings from this study will help identify areas for further research and assist in developing supplementary material for dairy and beef cattle producers.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SubTropicalDairyQF>





Getting in the Game' dinners

The YDN invite you to attend their upcoming "Getting into the Game" dinners being held during June in the Sunshine Coast and Far North Coast regions.

Making the move from dairy farm employee to dairy business owner can be intimidating and seem impossible. Whilst intergenerational succession planning is one pathway to owning a dairy farm, there are other pathways available to transition into owning a dairy farm business.

Each dinner will include a panel discussion with some local dairy farm operators that have made the transition successfully. Each of them has their own journey to share and story to tell about the successes and challenges along the way. Barb Bishop will lead the discussion with the panellists to ensure we have a night filled with lots of great information and some fun too!

We encourage dairy farm owners to attend the events and to bring along their employees.

SC YDN Dinner @ Gympie

WHEN: Thurs, 1 June 2017
TIME: 6.30pm for 7pm
WHERE: Gympie RSL
RSVP: Thurs, 25 May 2017
 to Viv McCollum 0428 718 620

FNC YDN Dinner @ Casino

WHEN: Thurs, 22 June 2017
TIME: 6.30pm for 7pm
WHERE: Casino RSM (TBC)
RSVP: Thurs, 15 June 2017
 to Katina Trout 0427 916 650

**** No cost to YDN members and dairy farmers**

These events are supported by funding received from the Young Dairy Network Australia and the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs.



GETTING CONNECTED

Have you ever wondered

- how to get connected to the internet?
- if you are getting the right internet connection?
- on the right plan?
- or just plain confused about all the tech talk?

We now live in a world of 'being connected' and increasing our businesses are being impacted by our ability to be ONLINE! Subtropical Dairy is setting up a hotline for dairy farmers in the region to ring and discuss their individual issues relating to getting or being connected.

Days & Hours Operation

5th to 9th June 2017 – 9.30am to 2.30pm
13th to 16th June 2017 – 9.30am to 2.30pm

Call 0428 718 620

Outside these hours, you can leave a message and we will get back to you. Alternatively give your local Extension Officer a call and they will pass your message onto our hotline operator.

FNQ	FNC & MNC	SEQ & DD	SC & CQ
Jo Srhoj 0458 065 695	Katina Trout 0427 916 650	Belinda Haddow 0423 003 638	Kylie Dennis 0456 191 965

This hotline is supported by funding received from the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs.



Your Levy at Work



2017 Event Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	VENUE	CONTACT PERSON		
May 2017						
30	Effluent Field Day	Carneys Creek, Boonah	Steven & Leanne Wieland	Ruth Chalk	0400 669 994	ruth@dairypage.com.au
31	Effluent Field Day	Pilton	Brendan & Corrie Hayden Farm	Ruth Chalk	0400 669 994	ruth@dairypage.com.au
June 2017						
1	Getting into the Game Dinner	Gympie	Gympie RSL	Viv McCollum	0428 718 620	vivienne@subtropicaldairy.com.au
5-6	Cups On Cups Off	Malanda	TBA	Joanna Srhoj	0458 065 695	jo@subtropicaldairy.com.au
5	Central Queensland Visit	Biggenden (Lunch)	TBA	Kylie Dennis	0456 191 965	kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au
5	Central Queensland Visit	Monto (Dinner)	TBA	Kylie Dennis	0456 191 965	kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au
5-16	Getting Connected Hotline			Viv McCollum	0428 718 620	vivienne@subtropicaldairy.com.au
6	Central Queensland Visit	Jambin (Lunch)	TBA	Kylie Dennis	0456 191 965	kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au
6	Central Queensland Visit	Rockhampton (Dinner)	TBA	Kylie Dennis	0456 191 965	kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au
7	Beaudesert Discussion Group (First Meeting)	Beaudesert	TBA	Belinda Haddow	0423 003 638	belinda@subtopicaldairy.com.au
7	Central Queensland Visit	Miriam Vale (Lunch)	TBA	Kylie Dennis	0456 191 965	kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au
7	Central Queensland Visit	GinGin (Dinner)	TBA	Kylie Dennis	0456 191 965	kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au
9	Digital Coach	Bellingen	TBA	Katina Trout	0427 916 650	katina@subtropicaldairy.com.au
12	Digital Coach	Rockhampton	TBA	Kylie Dennis	0456 191 965	kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au
12-13	Cups On Cups Off	Sunshine Coast	TBA	Kylie Dennis	0456 191 965	kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au
16	DairySage Lunch	Toowoomba	Spotted Cow	Viv McCollum	0428 718 620	vivienne@subtropicaldairy.com.au
17	Digital Coach	Jambin	TBA	Kylie Dennis	0456 191 965	kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au
18	Digital Coach	Monto	TBA	Kylie Dennis	0456 191 965	kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au
19-20	Cups On Cups Off	Toowoomba	TBA	Belinda Haddow	0423 003 638	belinda@subtopicaldairy.com.au
21	Grazing Management Workshop	Malanda	Lion Office	Joanna Srhoj	0458 065 695	jo@subtropicaldairy.com.au
22	Getting into the Game Dinner	Casino	Casino RSM	Katina Trout	0427 916 650	katina@subtropicaldairy.com.au
24	Digital Coach	Nanango	TBA	Viv McCollum	0428 718 620	vivienne@subtropicaldairy.com.au
26-27	Cups On Cups Off	Boonah	TBA	Belinda Haddow	0423 003 638	belinda@subtopicaldairy.com.au
27-28	Cups On Cups Off	Dorrigo	TBA	Katina Trout	0427 916 650	katina@subtropicaldairy.com.au
29-30	Cups On Cups Off	Casino	TBA	Katina Trout	0427 916 650	katina@subtropicaldairy.com.au
July 2017						
11	Grazing Management Workshop	Woodford	TBA	Kylie Dennis	0456 191 965	kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au
12	Grazing Management Workshop	Downs	TBA	Belinda Haddow	0423 003 638	belinda@subtopicaldairy.com.au
13	Grazing Management Workshop	Rockhampton	TBA	Kylie Dennis	0456 191 965	kylie@subtropicaldairy.com.au
18	Grazing Management Workshop	Gatton/Moreton	TBA	Belinda Haddow	0423 003 638	belinda@subtopicaldairy.com.au
19	Grazing Management Workshop	Dorrigo	TBA	Katina Trout	0427 916 650	katina@subtropicaldairy.com.au
20	Grazing Management Workshop	Kyogle	TBA	Katina Trout	0427 916 650	katina@subtropicaldairy.com.au
20	Introduction to Nutrition	Malanda	TBA	Joanna Srhoj	0458 065 695	jo@subtropicaldairy.com.au
TBA	Quad bike safety day	Malanda	TBA	Joanna Srhoj	0458 065 695	jo@subtropicaldairy.com.au

The Dairy Research Foundation's 2017 Symposium

25-27 July 2017
Port Macquarie NSW

MILC....More Income Led
by Cows



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To register your interest



SUBTROPICAL DAIRY

CHAIRMAN

Paul Roderick
0417 779 525

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dr Brad Granzin
0431 197 479

YOUNG DAIRY NETWORK and PROJECT MANAGER

Viv McCollum
0428 718 620

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

SEQ/DD/Burnett/CQ

Belinda Haddow
0423 003 638
or
Kylie Dennis
0456 191 965

Northern NSW

Katina Trout
0427 916 650

Far North QLD

Joanna Srhoj
0428 065 695