



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. ■■

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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.