

Subtropical Dairy Discussion Group Opportunities now available



Subtropical Dairy, with Dairy Australia, has initiated a new project in the northern Australian dairy region focussed on discussion groups. The project will provide access to resources to both maintain and enhance existing groups and establish new groups. The project has been developed to align with Subtropical Dairy's strategic priority (Overcoming barriers to practice change post-participation).

Historically the northern Australian dairying region has had many successful discussion groups which have been either self-facilitated or managed by outside facilitators. A number of these groups are still running now and have been meeting regularly for over five years.

The success of these discussion groups can be attributed to a number of factors; good facilitation, an exchange of farm practices and experiences, and having regular access to expertise and self-benchmarking. The opportunity to view a farm business through a holistic, whole farm management approach also contributes to the success of these groups. In light of the ever-increasing workload of farm business owners, discussion groups give farmers the opportunity to access new ideas, research and technical information delivered in a brief,

concise and practical session.

Opportunities exist for existing groups to access funding to maintain and enhance their group over the next 12 months. Examples include funding industry experts to work with high performing discussion groups, funding facilitators to instigate new groups, provide discretionary funding for groups to pursue priorities and cross group sharing of "wins". Resources and funding are also available to develop new groups in regions, or develop groups focussed on a technical skill or area of expertise. Groups do not necessarily need to meet face-to-face. With recent improvements in technology, sessions can now be held online via webinars. As an example of how this funding can be used, please refer to the story in this edition of NH regarding the recent tour to Central West NSW. ■■



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For more information on how to access funding or resources for groups please contact the Project Manager, Belinda Haddow 0423 00 3638 or belinda@subtropicauldairy.com.au.