



Building successful business foundations



Did you know that Subtropical Dairy in conjunction with Dairy Australia now offer a Farm Business Fundamentals Course Online?

The program sets a foundation for farmers interested in becoming more involved in the financial side of their business and is useful for those who want to explore ways to improve their current systems. This includes farm business records, finances, budgets, and tax and legal requirements.

Jarrod Zeimer is one of over thirty participants who successfully completed the Business Fundamentals course online. He finished the course while working. "Everything I learned in the course I was able to do straight away," he said.

The course is a blended delivery of self-paced online learning using Dairy Australia's Enlight online learning platform and weekly Zoom workshops with a consultant and a Subtropical Dairy Regional Extension Officer. "The ability to bounce ideas off people and ask questions was one of the best parts about the course," Jarrod said. It is also a perfect starting point for farmers who are looking to build their skills and confidence to manage a dairy farm business in the future. "It offers a wide range of topics and is good for people who start out in the industry and to get ideas, and develop good habits," Jarrod said.

The program runs over five weeks and consists of five facilitated online group sessions (each approximately 1-2 hours) which are hosted on web-based conferencing software, Zoom.

"I really liked the online format, because we had more time to process and apply the information," Jade Tout, another successful participant said. "Having it broken down into smaller chunks was much easier to digest than squeezing the content into two five-hour sessions. And people don't have to spend so much time travelling if it's online."

Between sessions participants will put the learnings into place with the guidance of short online modules that are available on Enlight, which everyone can complete in their own time. Rebecca Brown, who recently finished the online course, said, "The content was really engaging. Everything the presenters did supported me to participate in the discussions. The links for more information were really helpful." This course is open to all dairy farmers at no cost.

Through the program, you will develop the skills to:

- Set up effective record keeping systems for farm financial and physical information
- Manage farm business information and taxation information
- Use the Dairy Standard Chart of

Accounts to record farm business income and expenditure

- Understand business obligations tax, banks, people and the law
- Identify, collect and organise information to be included in an annual farm budget
- Review budgeted income and expenditure, and compare to actuals
- Prepare and interpret a balance sheet
- Navigate your accounting software to ensure quicker and more efficient use

Who is the program for?

The program sets a foundation for farmers interested in becoming more involved in the financial side of their business and is useful for those who want to explore ways to improve their current systems. It is also a perfect starting point for farmers who are looking to build their skills and confidence to manage a dairy farm business in the future.

If you have family or staff on your farm who share in the decision making, complete the course together to get the most benefit from the program.

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