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The top 25 Bulk Milk Cell Counts recognise suppliers whose milk has an outstanding cell count reading and was in the premium band for Thermodorics, Bactoscan and inhibitory substances.

# NOVEMBER 2019 SOUTH WEST VIC & SA SUPPLIER NEWS

## Bulk Milk Cell Counts

Number	Supplier Name	Region	BMCC Average
1	Howard Partnership	Cobden	35,000
2	RF & NP Bourk	Wool Wool	42,000
3	Trevor & Carolyn Beasley	Port Fairy	43,000
4	Araluen Pastoral Holdings	Cobrico	43,000
5	Carrakoorte North Pty Ltd	Grassmere	45,000
6	Cyril & Marjo Nijskens	Taroon	48,000
7	Kangertong Farming Pty Ltd	Purnim	49,000
8	TDW Farming Pty Ltd	Panmure	52,000
9	Trevor & Alison Wright	Laang	52,000
10	Matthew Ross	Heywood	53,000
11	New Life Dairies Pty Ltd	Princetown	53,000
12	Lowe & Elford	Portland	53,000
13	Kieran & Raymond Campbell	Laang	54,000
14	I & R Nunn	Tyrendarra	57,000
15	Matt & Larissa Gardiner	Tyrendarra	57,000
16	J, S & T Brown	Princetown	57,000
17	Nolane Investments	Scotsmans Lead	58,000
18	Ballangeich Run Pty Ltd	Ellerslie	59,000
19	Glenmead Pty Ltd (I,V & N Smith)	Mepunga	60,000
20	Scott Hunter	Penola	61,000
21	Des, Belinda & Simon Roche	Purnim	62,000
22	Keiran & Annette Lee	Boorcan	63,000
23	Will & Pauline Whiteley	Cobrico	64,000
24	S & P Rea	Panmure	64,000
25	Michael, Cheryle & Greg Conheady	Camperdown	66,000
<b>SDA Southwest BMCC average</b>			<b>153,000</b>

# Regional Field Services Round-up

## Gippsland

Mid-spring continues to deliver in South and West Gippsland with farmers reporting average or slightly above average silage harvests. Orbost and greater East Gippsland's seasons are marginally better than last year, however all farmers are looking to the forecast for much more rain. Summer cropping plans are being discussed across Gippsland.

## Northern Victoria

Northern Victoria continues to be a contrast between the north-east corner and the rest of the region. Central Northern and North-West Victorian suppliers continue to be punished with lower than forecast rainfall totals and unprecedented water pricing. Thankfully, strong silage and hay production from canola and cereal areas have provided some opportunity for most. For those who haven't tried canola silage yet, many users are reporting favourable results. The recent downward revision of the GMW inflow forecast to 'dry-very dry' has placed further pressure on many.

The north-east corner continues to enjoy much better conditions, although a soaking rain between fodder conservation days would be appreciated by all.

## Tasmania

Seasonal conditions are mixed across the state with most areas receiving below average rainfall for this time of year. On farm, the irrigation season has well and truly started, fodder conservation continues and AI is in full swing. Factory milk intake has peaked, which was slightly lower than forecast. Thanks to everyone who attended our supplier functions and well done to the Premium Milk Quality Award winners! Lastly, we welcome all new suppliers from the Lion Specialty Cheese acquisition to the Saputo family.

## NSW/Sydney Region

As the dry weather continues, suppliers are working on tight feed and water budgets across the state. The South Coast has fared a little better and some are cutting silage. Most of the Central-West,

Hunter and Mid-North Coast are still working SDA Feeds on sourcing hay and by-product alternatives. Our new Milk Quality Manager Rob Moyle has begun visiting farms with the Field Services team to assist anyone with milk quality concerns.

## SW Victoria / SA

Cooler temperatures have continued over the past month with many areas receiving consistent rainfall to keep soil profiles moist. The Allansford site reached its seasonal peak in late October with volumes holding on as a result of the good seasonal conditions. Silage activities are well and truly underway across the region with most suppliers looking at a healthy surplus. As your conserved fodder volumes become apparent, it is a great time to get in contact with the Field Services team to map out the rest of your feed requirements.

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## Dry summers and part-season once-a-day milking

Before considering transitioning to once-a-day milking, BMCC needs to be at or below 125,000 cells/ml during twice-a-day milking.

Once-a-day (OAD) milking for part of the season (for example post-Christmas) is currently practiced in a number of seasonally calving herds. While the effects of changing to OAD milking part way through the season will vary substantially between farms, the potential benefits may include reduced stress, improved body condition score (BCS) and less pressure on cows in terms of energy demands (especially if walking long distances or on hilly farms).

However, when not well planned, mid-lactation transition to OAD milking is commonly associated with significant increases in BMCC. This can adversely affect the quality of products being manufactured and may result in milk quality discounts.

In a January 2013 New Zealand research trial, spring-calving, cross-bred cows were transitioned from twice-a-day to OAD milking. Results from this trial showed:

- a reduction of 10% in production per cow (4% over the whole season)
- minimal effect on feed intake per cow (3% reduction)
- improved BCS at dry off (0.25 of a score out of 10)
- no change in days in milk when dried off according to milk production and BCS.

To avoid any adverse effects, the New Zealand researchers recommended that BMCC should be half of the premium threshold (i.e. 125,000 cells/ml) or less during twice-a-day milking before considering a transition to OAD mid-lactation. In addition, as cows with mastitis or high cell counts cope poorly with OAD milking, these should be identified (e.g. with a spot test) and dried off early, or if practical, continue to be milked twice-a-day.

If you are experiencing a high BMCC or considering part-year OAD milking, our Field Services and Milk Quality teams in all regions are trained in investigating mastitis and milk quality problems. To access our Quality Solutions assistance program, please contact your Field Services Advisor. You can also find information on controlling mastitis in 'Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control' which is available on the Dairy Australia website <https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/farm/animal-management/mastitis/countdown-resources>.

# Controlling summer crop insects

With your summer crops planted and growing, they're potentially the only green plant in the paddock. That means insects will be heading your way! So what are your best options for controlling summer crop insects?

## Forage brassicas and turnips

**Snails and slugs:** If you direct drill your forage brassicas, turnips or millet into paddocks that have just been cut for silage or heavily grazed with animals, it can leave residual feed and cover for snails and slugs to breed and lay their eggs. The best option is to always sow with slug and snail bait or broadcast after sowing to protect new plants from being eaten.

**Insects:** RLEMs (Red-legged earth mite) and flea are attracted to seedlings. The diamondback moth or cabbage moth is the most destructive insect pest of brassica crops and can become rampant in a crop, damaging the leaves. We've also seen a surge of Green peach aphids over the past couple of years which can cause indirect damage by spreading plant viruses.

Before applying a control option, make sure you know what insect you're controlling. Early identification ensures you use the most effective insect control method and can save time, money and effort and D/M production to the crop. The alternative is that you could spray multiple times and have no effect.

## Forage sorghum

Wireworm and cutworm attack forage sorghum, however if identified early, you can avoid replantings and dry matter production. Unfortunately, you can't see wireworm and cutworm above the ground. So, the best approach is to use the correct insecticide (that is, one that's registered to control these particular insects) when spraying out the paddock. This can reduce the damage inflicted upon plant germination.

To find out more about the best options for controlling summer crop insects, talk to your local MG Trading Store, Agronomist or Field Services team.

## Which feed is best for you?

It's that time of year when you have to decide what extra feed you need to purchase. Feed can have a huge impact on milk production responses, so knowing what type of feed best suits your needs from a production and economic perspective is critical.

Before a litre of milk is produced, the cow 'partitions' energy to maintenance, grazing time, pregnancy and milk production. To estimate the value of a particular feed, you therefore need to understand its metabolisable energy (ME). This is the difference between digestible energy and the loss of energy in the form of urine and methane gas; crude protein (CP) - the amount of protein in animal feed; and neutral detergent fibre (NDF) - a measure of the slowly digested fibrous components of the feed. Understanding these numbers will help drive milk production in the cow.

Hay is a good example to explore. The NDF percentage of the total ration determines the maximum intake a cow can eat. By looking at the NDF percentage value of the hay (which is generally thought of after ME and CP), you can determine how much the cow can eat to get the best feed conversion

efficiency from the ration on offer. If you feed the cow good quality, low NDF hay, you can potentially achieve greater feed conversion efficiency. With low NDF, ME and CP will be higher. Given hay could be two-thirds of the ration, this summer, low NDF hay is important.

### What this means in practice

A 580kg live weight dairy cow could eat a ration of:

- > Cereal hay only at 45% NDF - potentially has a dry matter intake of 15.47 kg,
- > Vetch hay only at 39% NDF - potentially has a dry matter intake of 17.85 kg,
- > Combination of 6 kg wheat and 16.45 kg vetch at 31% NDF - potentially has a dry matter intake of 22.45 kg.

A lower NDF means the cow has more energy to drive milk production. During spring, with the ryegrass/pasture starting to mature and milk production falling per cow, grazing your cows on recently cut silage paddocks will result in vat volumes increasing due to the pasture quality and NDF percentage.

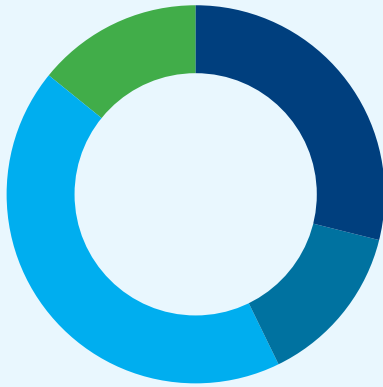
Once you understand how much of a particular feed a cow can eat, you can then calculate, from a nutrient point of view, your costs in ¢/mj and \$/kg CP. Based on current prices and feed test results (as at 23/10/19) of hay delivered in north-east Victoria:

Feed	Vetch hay	Wheaten hay	Canola hay
Metabolisable Energy (ME) %	11.5	10.8	10.1
Crude protein (CP) %	25	11.9	16.1
Neutral Detergent Fibre (NDF) %	39	45	41
\$/per ton delivered	360	280	260
¢/mj	3.4	2.8	2
\$/kg CP	1.60	2.61	1.79

Based on the figures above, canola hay is a good option on price even though all three lines are of excellent quality.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Field Services team.

# Antibiotic / Residue Investigation - October 2019



## Key Learnings

- > When treating cows for clinical mastitis:
  - Always follow the label instructions in regard to the number of doses, the interval between doses and the withholding period
  - Check that the information in the farm records (white boards, computers, diary etc) is correct, especially withholding periods
  - Treated cows should be separated from the milking herd, clearly marked and milked last, with the vat hose disconnected
  - For additional advice regarding your mastitis treatment regimes contact your veterinarian
- > If you use a waste milk diversion system, check that it works correctly and regularly service the diversion valves and taps. As little as 100 ml of milk from a cow being treated is sufficient to contaminate the vat.

■ 29% Incorrect treatment regime and withholding period applied      ■ 43% Treatment cows not marked and milked  
 ■ 14% Milk diversion system failed      ■ 14% Treatment cows not segregated and accidentally milked

## Contacts

Field Services		
Allansford Office (WCB & SDA)	03 5565 3200	
Mt Gambier Office (WCB & SDA)	08 8724 7661	
Transport		
WCB Allansford/Ballararat	0438 405 883	03 5565 3115
WCB Mt Gambier	0408 974 158	
SDA Transport	0427 494 776	13 Milk (136455)
Feeds		
SDA Feeds	1800 643 333	

Dairy Services		
Simpson 24/7	03 5594 3006	
Tim Rolling	0488 008 915	
Peter Bignell	0488 010 428	
Phillip Weller	0419 431 839	
Koroit 24/7	03 5565 8738	
Glen Wright	0447 537 614	
Jason Knight	0447 662 223	

## Classifieds

### FOR SALE:

#### 50 medium framed Holstein cows and heifers

- Freshly calved and calving in May/June
- 35 years of AI breeding. Lovely even line of cattle, bred not only for production. Great temperament, type and snug udders
- Herd has been in top 100 BMCC in Australia for the last 5 years, with last year average being 40,000
- All cattle have been dry cow treated and pregnancy tested. Calved and due to calve to AI sires. TLG Spokesman, Chilipepper and ALTA Steel
- POA

Contact Peter: 0429 943 559

#### 9,000L Westfalia Milk Vat

- Bitzer open drive compressor,
- Excellent condition, \$44,000 inc gst

Phone: 0439 924 008, Located Mt Gambier, SA

#### ADF milking clusters and all associated equipment

44 unit ADF milking clusters and all associated equipment Fully serviced includes 5 units of spares. \$22k

Phone Ben: 0410 604 304

#### De Laval clusters and claws

40 De Laval clusters & claws complete with inflations

- 40 Alfa Laval jet washers
- \$40 per unit

Phone: 0429 685 265

### Various Items

- 30,000 L Milk Vat, 22 KW Soft Start Compressor
- Falling Film Chiller

All high capacity and low maintenance, suit large herringbone or rotary dairy \$ 45,000 ONO

#### De Laval Cell Counter

- 7 months old, Original Cost \$7,000 sell for \$4,000
- Giltrap 7500 L Vacuum Slurry Tanker \$4,000

Located in Gloucester NSW

Phone: Daniel 0400 220 712

### MANAGER WANTED:

#### Herd Manager

Required for a modern 700 cow farm.

House provided, 50 unit rotary. Curdievale/Timboon area.

Phone John: 0409 665 258

### 7,000 L Westfalia vat with auto wash system

7,000 L Westfalia vat with auto wash system, compressor and hot water service.

\$7,000 + GST.

Phone: Heath 0439 005 378.

### WANTED TO LEASE:

#### Wanting to Lease

- 50-100 acres Suitable for dairy heifers
- Koroit-MacArthur

Phone Luke: 0438 693 839

### WANTED:

#### Standing grass to make either silage or hay.

Happy to negotiate purchase or share arrangement. Simpson-Timboon area.

Phone Colin: 0429 206 180

## HEYTESBURY SETTLEMENT 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Date: Saturday 30 November 2019

### Program:

- 11.30am: Welcome, Jaycees Park, Simpson
- 12noon: Settlement Long Lunch, Ball and Chain Hotel (bookings essential, 03 5594 3448)
- 1pm - 4pm: Memorabilia displays around Simpson
- 6.00pm: BBQ dinner and entertainment, Jaycees Park, Simpson
- 9.00pm: Screening of 'The clearing of the Heytesbury Settlement and official opening 1959'

### Want to place a Classified Ad?

Contact Stuart Hose E: stuart.hose@saputo.com M: 0409 728 541. Send in by the third Friday of the month to ensure your Classified appears in the following month's edition.