



JANUARY 2019

SOUTH WEST VIC & SA

SUPPLIER NEWS

This Issue

- > Top 25 BMCCs
- > Field Services Round-up
- > Managing relief staff
- > Soil Testing: getting the right result
- > Keep an eye on your herds in hot weather conditions
- > Antibiotic/Residue investigation
- > Contacts
- > Classifieds

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.

Bulk Milk Cell Counts

Number	Supplier Name	Region	BMCC Average
1	Peter & Joy O'Keeffe	Glenormiston	37000
2	DC Johnson Pty Ltd	Minhamite	42000
3	Powell Dairy Farms	Coorimungle	45000
3	M&L Gardiner	Tyrendarra	45000
3	Howard Partnership	Cobden	45000
4	Carrakoorte North Pty Ltd	Grasmere	46000
5	Lance & Lynette Greenwood	Learmonth	47000
6	Kieran & Raymond Campbell	Laang	48000
7	The Claine Farm Trust	Ecklin South	49000
7	Cyril & Marjo Nijskens	Ecklin South	49000
8	Trevor & Carolyn Beasley	Port Fairy	51000
8	Araluen Pastoral Holdings	Cobrico	51000
9	Ian & Colin Heatley, Rebecca Hodson	Nullawarre	52000
10	Carl Walder	Heathmere	53000
11	Glenmead Pty Ltd (I,V & N Smith)	Mepunga	54000
12	LA & SJ Dunn	Glenfyne	55000
13	Bidgemah Trust (N & E Hayes)	Nullawarre	56000
13	Mark & Karen Ryan	Toolong	56000
14	Mary & Simon Brown	Wyelangta	57000
15	Rod & Libby Swayn	Nalangil	58000
15	Ballangeich Run Pty Ltd	Ballangeigh	58000
16	D Elford & H&F Lowe	Portland	60000
17	HW & BE Elliott	Willatook	61000
17	Les & Vicky Farrer	Panmure	61000
17	Lyndon & Joyce Cleggett	Glencoe	61000

Regional Field Services Round-up

Gippsland

Conditions across west and south Gippsland continue to be favourable for milk production and fodder conservation with December rains extending the season. To the east and south-east of Gippsland however the environment continues to be tough with the Orbost region being challenged against a poor spring and below average fodder yield. Hopes remain high for summer rains from the east. The Macalister irrigation district will receive 100% high reliability water with a further 35% allocation of low reliability now that the spill allocation threshold of 15th December has passed.

Northern Victoria

Seasonal conditions in Nth Vic/Riverina are bizarrely diverse, with excellent late Spring/Summer growth conditions encountered in NE Vic, while Central North and North-west Victoria continue to be punished by harsh seasonal conditions and historic adverse grain, hay and water prices. Recent rainfall is welcome, especially for maize/sorghum/millet plantings.

NSW/Sydney Region

December saw electrical storms and power outages across the state. Over 60 Saputo suppliers were affected with some not being able to milk for several days. Field Services and milk pick up contractors appreciated the patience, timing and care from

Suppliers who not only shared generators but supported each other during the power outage. This was followed by several 40+ degree days which played havoc with production. The New Year has started better and Field Services are now busy delivering Milk Care diaries.

South-west Victoria / SA

Seasonal conditions have continued to look after us up until the festive season. Summer crops are growing well and should outgrow the bugs and weeds, but keep an eye on them. Now is a good time to plan your dry cow strategy as well as the nutritional requirements for all classes of stock when home grown feed diminishes. Keep up the good work with the high proportion of Premium milk being collected!

Tasmania

The season continues to be very favourable across the region. The biggest challenge on farms throughout December was managing pasture quality due to the sheer volume of surplus generated over the spring growing period. Silage and hay harvest quantities are well above average. Milk quality performance continues to exceed last year's numbers.

Managing relief staff

Summer and school holidays are the time of year when many dairying families look forward to a break away from the farm. The full benefit of a refreshing break is easier to achieve if there is confidence in relief staff so careful thought and preparation can reduce the risk of leaving staff to work unsupervised. Your farm food safety program offers guidance in important areas to consider and can be used as a training tool for staff at any time.

Sourcing. Family can sometimes be the best resource however you can also find good staff through word of mouth or agency. Meet applicants well before they're required to start work allowing time for reference checks and a general assessment. As an employer, you are entitled to ask for a clear drug test result – at your cost – before confirming employment. Also, ensure you have the applicant's correct contact details as it's important to know how and when they can be reached. Always confirm the dates and times and tasks to be completed with the successful applicant as soon as possible as a good worker may be in demand and have a number of employment options available to them.

Training. This could happen a few weeks before they start. If possible, take them through the jobs they will be doing and then observe them doing the jobs on their own. Determine if they are qualified with, or understand the use of machinery and motor bikes etc. Written work instructions ensure workers are clear on what to do, when to do it and where any mechanical controls are located, how they are identified, and how to operate them.

OHS. This is always important on farm. Consider all possible risks in the areas of lighting, power, machinery, chemicals and animals. Staff must know how to interact safely and minimise risks when engaged in their jobs. However, the ultimate responsibility for worker safety resides with the property/business owner.

PPE. (Personal Protective Equipment). Ensure all staff know what to wear and when to wear it. It may also be appropriate to discuss the care and cleaning of equipment after use.

Quality records. All staff should know how to create and maintain consistent and accurate records. These help trace activities on a farm and are a vital part of managing a dairy business. As all staff should be competent in recording required data, it's an important area to cover when introducing a new staff member to the farm. Records can be invaluable when issues arise. Refer to your farm food safety program for the records required.

Communication. Use a diary, phone, text messages, books, computer or other method to make daily tasks clear. Encourage messages or calls to an agreed phone number to confirm jobs have been completed and provide a phone number for emergencies. This will reassure staff they can refer important matters and provide reassurance for those on holiday.

Soil Testing: getting the right result.

Fertiliser is one of the key financial investments dairy farms can make. As a key input and major cost, it is essential that decisions surrounding fertiliser are well measured and well informed. While soil testing is an investment in maximising productivity, soil testing generally only makes up less than 2% of the farms overall fertiliser spend. With some fertilisers being double or even triple the cost of others, soil testing and informative advice is a wise investment indeed.

Given the tough times endured on most dairy farms in the recent years, many fertiliser regimes have been significantly reduced or altered to ensure fertiliser applications fitted into a tight budget. In most cases, capital applications of Phosphorous (P), Potassium (K) and Lime were removed from the program altogether, while Nitrogen (N) was the focal point of many applications to drive production which will all have affected overall soil reserves of nutrients P, K and Sulphur (S).

Laboratories. Not all laboratories are equal. The Nutrient Advantage Lab in Werribee is owned by Incitec Pivot providing results which are completely independent and of the highest standard and repeatability. The Lab is a member of the two organisations below, ensuring it maintains a high quality of soil and plant analysis in Australia.

1. National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) – assess equipment calibration, audit processors and ensure standard of quality control.
2. The Australasian Soil and Plant Analysis council (ASPAC) - certifies laboratories for particular soil tests and maintains standards.

Interpretation of soil test results. Fertiliser is a key input on farms to improve productivity, however it may not always lead to increased profitability and may even cause damage to the environment. This is why understanding nutrient status across the farm is so critical and allows an informed decision on allocating nutrient resources. More often than not, thorough soil testing and developing a nutrient plan doesn't result in more fertiliser, rather better allocation of fertiliser onto the areas which need it the most.

Paddocks close to the dairy will most likely be higher in phosphorus and potassium compared with the out paddocks. Allocation of nitrogen close to the dairy and phosphorus and potassium to the out paddocks might be the right decision – at what rate, what time of year and what product can be determined by using a Fertcare accredited advisor, your local MG Trading Agronomist or your local FSO. Other nutrients, lime and gypsum requirements all round out the recommendation in conjunction with pasture species, irrigation, season, stocking rate and financial constraints.

The bottom line is take care in sampling, use an accredited lab and an accredited adviser to interpret the soil analysis and you will be able to make good management decisions on nutrient allocations across your farm. Your local MGT agronomist is fully equipped to guide you in making the right informed decisions, or talk to your local FSO.

MG TRADING AGRONOMISTS & NUTRITIONISTS IN SOUTH WEST VIC & SA		
Colac	Harold Hanlon	0488 009 286
Koroit Fertiliser Depot	Kelvin Monigetti	03 5565 8611
Koroit	Melinda Haberfield	0428 406 378
Timboon Fertiliser Depot	Tim Keogh	03 5598 3725 0429 653 278

Keep a good eye on your herd in hot weather conditions

Given we are now into summer, heat stress will impact on your dairy herd at some stage. Although great advances have been made with cooling cows, including sprinklers, shaded areas, and cool clean water, we know that reduced feed intake and reduced milk yield still occur in hot weather.

The effects of high environmental temperatures are magnified by high relative humidity. High yielding cows are more affected by heat stress than low producers because high producers consume more nutrients and produce more metabolic heat. Environmental modifications to minimise heat stress, coupled with good nutrition are necessary to maintain dry matter intake and milk yield during the summer months.

Practical feeding tips

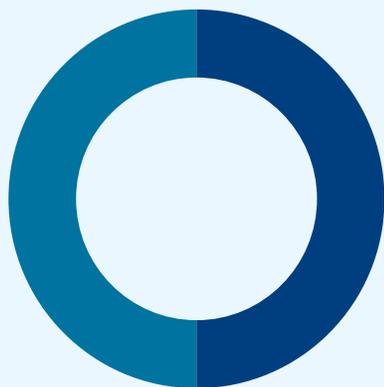
- › Allow 200-250 litres of water per cow per day in hot weather
- › Make sure enough trough space is available for the whole herd, and that water pressures keep up with the demands in hot weather
- › Generally, feed more grain in the hot periods another kg or so

- › Make sure that you have good quality hay available to maintain rumen stability
- › High energy hays work best as they don't contribute as much metabolic heat compared to high NDF hays, but also provide increased nutrient density of the ration
- › Heat stress cows have a greater need for glucose
- › Make sure rumen buffers are being used especially in hot weather as cows will pant and slobber excessively this results in losing their natural buffering system.

Most of all, the most crucial factor that needs to be monitored and considered in hot weather events is that your herd. You may notice falls in milk production when cows get hot. However, some of the long-term financial losses could be reduced in calf rates, low protein and fat tests, live weight losses and higher than normal BMCC.

If you can develop an effective heat stress management plan there are substantial benefits to be made, which is even more important in higher feed prices seasons.

Antibiotic / Residue Investigation - December 2018



Key Learnings

- > Using test buckets to manage antibiotic treated cows is high risk because:
 - > Treated cows may be missed, especially if not marked clearly
 - > Small test buckets, high producing cows, or failing to empty buckets after every cow, may lead to overflow
- > Test buckets may be connected incorrectly or to the wrong cow or not at all
- > Residual milk volume in clusters and milk lines can be enough to cause a residue detection
- > Therefore, wherever possible, treated cows should be separated from the milking herd and milked last, with the vat hose disconnected.

■ 50% Treated cow(s) not separated from milking herd and accidentally milked

■ 50% Test bucket(s) not emptied after every cow leading to overflow

Contacts

Field Services

Allansford Office (WCB & SDA)	03 5565 3200
Mt Gambier Office (WCB & SDA)	08 8724 7660

Transport

WCB Allansford/Ballararat	0438 405 883	03 5565 3115
WCB Mt Gambier	0408 974 158	
SDA Transport		13 Milk (136455)

Feeds

SDA Feeds Koroit	0427 494 776	1800 643 333
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Dairy Services

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

Classifieds

FOR SALE

Packo Milk Vat for sale

- 8,000 ltrs, built 2004 Good condition
- Phone Darryl: 0429 351 393

150 medium framed AI Holstein

Retiring farmer has 150 medium framed AI Holstein whole herd for sale. 2nd to 6th calvers 25 years AI
500 plus Kg MS calving 01/05/19 to 07/08/18 minimal bale feeding. Latest BMCC 52000 Herd test figures available.
Phone Bob Atwell: 0438 271 602

Princetown area

- 10700 Lt Frigrite vat chilled water system with plate cooler. \$25k ono.
- Delaval complete milking plant with cup removers. \$10k ono

- Volvo 140 KVA Generator. \$10k ono
 - Jantec auto draft system \$10k ono
- Phone Martin on: 0419 885 172

Vats

- Delaval 9000 Ltr vat
- Laser Vat

Phone: 0400 068 665

Bonlac Roller Mill

- Bonlac Roll Mill
- Phone John: 0429 171 214

Cablevey for feed system

Quantity of Cablevey for feed system
Phone John: 0429 171 214

GEA T-Cool 12000 Lt Milk Vat

- 20 months old, Current model
- \$65,000 plus GST

Contact Dave: 0400 587 699

Email: telfies@hotmail.com

100 Spring calving Jersey cows

AI Bred Herd tested \$1400-\$1500 for pick of

30+ dry cow treated

Including spring calving jersey heifers from above herd POA. For 30+ South Australia based

Contact Lisa: 0417 814 468

Various Items for Sale

- 7800 Lt Alfa vat complete with compressors
- 10000 Lt Picton Muck Runner
- Mobile Pond stirrer

Contact Phil: Mobile 0417 814 468

Westfalia combi (automatic calf feeding system)

Four stations, 2009 model, recently serviced.

Phone Scott: 0412 422 411

Two hay feeders

Round bale feeder & square bale feeder with roof. Both in good condition.

Contact Matt Gardiner: 0427 022 907

Westfalia milking machine & 14000 ltr milk vat

- 24 unit double up Westfalia milking machine & 14000 ltr milk vat
- Farm currently not milking

Phone Brian Durcan: 0400 585 536

Complete feed system including

- Disc mill (12months old)
- 4 x 3 inch feed augers 5 trs up to 9 mtrs with motors
- Controls system to suit single or 3 phase
- Cost: \$13,000
- Farm sold no longer required

Phone Wayne: 0428 646 101

LEASE

Lease/purchase/sharefarm

250-400 cow dairy farm
Have cow machinery x2 labor units.
Current farm selling

Phone Graeme on: 0428 369 115

Want to place a Classified Ad?

Contact Kym Mathew E: kym.mathew@mgc.com.au M: 0478 455 525. Send in by the third Friday of the month to ensure your Classified appears in the following month's edition.