Understanding bobby calf utilisation in Tasmania

SURVEY INFORMATION SHEET

Invitation
We invite you to participate in a social research project that aims to increase our understanding of current bobby calf management practices and value adding opportunities. You are being asked to complete a 15 minute survey. The study is being conducted through the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) Dairy, Grains and Grazing Centre and involves Thomas Snare (Project Officer), Lesley Irvine (Industry Extension and Development Officer), Lydia Turner (Researcher) and Alison Hall (Researcher).

What is the purpose of this research?
The purpose of this study is to build a better understanding of bobby calf management on Tasmanian dairy farms and identify opportunities to add value to this component of the dairy system. At a broader level we will examine the genetic makeup of the Tasmanian herd and state-wide calving spread, then focus on individual farms to identify key constraints for both the industry and individual producers. Using this information, we hope to determine what actions can be taken now to support dairy farmers in adding value to their systems through bobby calves, and what key issues require further investigation.

Why have I been invited to participate in this survey?
All Tasmanian dairy farmers in the TIA Dairy, Grains and Grazing Centre Development and Extension Team Farm Database and TFGA database have been invited to participate in this study.

What will I be asked to do?
Participating in this survey will involve completing the online survey (https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/dD2jxM). The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and it will be appreciated if it could be completed by 30th June 2019.

Are there any possible benefits from participation in this research?
Your involvement, and the participation of other dairy producers, will help ensure future TIA research and extension projects relating to bobby calves and dairy beef, will directly benefit industry.

Are there any possible risks from participation in this study?
While the information you provide does not pose any risk to you, it is important for potential participants to know that all information will be treated in a confidential manner, and your name will not be used in any documentation arising out of the research.

What if I change my mind during or after the survey?
While we would be pleased to have you participate, this is a voluntary study and we respect your right to decline. There will be no consequences if you decide not to participate. If you do not wish to participate in this survey do not complete this online survey. If you submit your
completed survey, but change your mind after participating, it will be difficult to identify and withdraw your data given your name and contact details are not included in the response.

**What will happen to the information when this study is over?**
All hardcopy research documentation will be kept in a locked cabinet and all electronic research documentation will be stored in a password protected confidential folder on the UTAS server for a duration of five years, after which the data will be destroyed. Findings from the survey data (not including any names) will inform discussion group formation and further research priorities.

**What if I have questions about this pilot study?**
If you would like to discuss any aspect of this study, please contact Thomas Snare, by phone or email (0429 940 063; Thomas.Snare@utas.edu.au) at any time.

This study has been approved by the Tasmanian Social Science Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study you should contact the Executive Officer of the HREC (Tasmania) Network on (03) 6226 7479 or email human.ethics@utas.edu.au. The Executive Officer is the person nominated to receive complaints from research participants and you will need to quote H0018006.

**Thank you for taking the time to consider participating in this survey.**

Kind Regards,
Thomas Snare