

Tassie Dairy News

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March 2017

Virtual herding technology could be way of the future for dairy industry



Jemima Stagg, TIA

Research being conducted at the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) is exploring the potential for virtual herding technology to increase the productivity of dairy farms.

TIA Dairy Researchers Mark Freeman and Megan Verdon have just completed a month-long field trial at TIA's Dairy Research Facility in North-West Tasmania. The trial looked at the impacts of more regular and more tightly controlled stock movement on pasture usage and dairy cow productivity.

The trial is part of a national virtual herding project that received \$2.6 million from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit programme.

"We established a trial involving 60 lactating dairy cows and replicated virtual herding technology by manually shifting half of the group seven times

each day to give them frequent access to fresh pasture. The remainder of the cows in the trial continued to graze as normal," Mr Freeman said.

"Each day we took a variety of measurements to assess whether the frequent grazing, which would be possible with virtual herding technology, caused cows to consume more pasture or produce more milk. The data collected included milk production, weight, pasture usage and attributes of cow behaviour such as the time spent ruminating, resting and feeding.

"Having access to TIA's 220 hectare Dairy Research Facility at Elliott provides huge benefits to this project as it allows us to conduct field research in an environment that replicates the experiences of a commercial dairy farm."

"The technology could be a game changer for dairy farmers as it would allow them to move virtual fences from their computer at the click of a button rather than going out into a

paddock and doing it manually," Mr Freeman said.

"By keeping animals out of sensitive and traditionally hard to fence-off areas and by managing overgrazing, virtual herding technology would be able to help improve environmental outcomes for dairy farmers."

Data gathered during this trial is currently being analysed and the results will guide the development of subsequent virtual herding trials conducted by TIA and other project partners.

The project is a partnership between CSIRO, the University of Sydney, University of New England, the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, The University of Melbourne and Agersens Pty Ltd, with collaboration from the dairy, beef, wool and pork industries and their respective RDC's; Dairy Australia, Meat and Livestock Australia, Australian Wool Innovation and Australian Pork Limited.

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Discussion group round-up

Symon Jones, Lesley Irvine, Sam Flight and Sandra Bennett, TIA Dairy Centre

North West Discussion Group

In February, 24 enthusiastic farmers and service providers met on Gerard and Ria Mulders' property at Forest for the north west discussion group.

The group discussed the current seasonal conditions, as well as how Gerard and Ria have moved from a twice a day milking system to a once a day milking system for the 2016/17 season.

Gerard and Ria milk 280 cross bred cows on an effective area of 87 hectares, of which 60 hectares is fully irrigated. Their stocking rate is 3.2 cows per hectare, with per cow production in the order of 450 kg MS/cow, feeding 1.0 – 1.5 tonne of concentrate per cow.

This season, Gerard and Ria made the decision to milk their herd once a day from the start of calving, to allow more time out of the dairy and to spend more time off farm. While per cow production is expected to decline by around 15 – 20 per cent, in February it was holding at 13 litres per cow or 1.1 kg MS/cow/day. In addition to reducing costs, once a day milking had also resulted in an improved body condition score of the herd. The discussion group scored the cows at a BCS 5.0.

Crops are used to fill both summer and winter feed gaps. This season, 8 hectares of Barkant turnips yielding 15 t DM/ha were being fed at a rate of 5 kg DM/cow/day. This typically provides feed for 70 days through the early summer period.

Three hectares of fodder beet has been sown to provide winter dry cow feed. Fodder beet has quite a high establishment cost at around \$4000/ha. However, the cost is offset by the very high yields that can be achieved. Gerard and Ria achieved 30 t DM/ha last season with fodder beet and are expecting a yield of between 20 – 30 t DM/ha this season. With these yields, the cost of the crop will be 0.13 – 0.20 cents/kg DM, not including wastage.

Gerard aims to feed 5 kg DM/cow/day of fodder and balances the dry cow diet with hay or straw. Assuming a 25 t DM/ha yield, the crop will provide around 60 days of dry cow feed and removes the need for agistment.

Serve-Ag provided a BBQ lunch which was appreciated by all the attendees.

If you want to find out more about this discussion group, contact Symon Jones at Symon.Jones@utas.edu.au or 0418 876 089.

King Island Discussion Group

Dairy farmers on King Island enjoyed an evening meal together as they heard from TIA feedbase researcher, Pieter Raedts, about the pasture management research being undertaken in the Dairy On PAR project. There was a lot of interest in the potential to use drones to measure pasture.

The following day, the group took part in a fodder crop drive to look at the crops being grown on two of the island's 11 dairy farms.

Troy Smith spoke about trying several different fodder crops for summer feed before settling on a pea and oat crop that he found gave the greatest and most reliable summer production under rainfed conditions. The crop also suffered less from pest damage than brassicas, which had been grown previously.

The group then travelled to Gary and Helen Strickland's farm where a succession of sowing dates and crop types are used to provide supplementary feed over the whole summer. At the time of the meeting in mid-February, the cows were part-way through the pea and oat crop. This was to be followed by the leafy turnip, Pacer, and then maize, which is grazed by the cows rather than harvested and ensiled. Once grazing of the maize crop is complete, the Pacer is ready to be fed-off again. Gary highlighted

the importance of a feed budget in planning what crops to sow and when.

For more information on the King Island discussion group, contact Lesley Irvine at Lesley.Irvine@utas.edu.au or 0428 880 287.

North East Discussion Group

The north east discussion group met in February at the Holmes' farm, with share farmers Marcus and Simone Haywood.

The group had a crop tour, which this season included millet and leafy turnip. These crops had been planted in mid-December and were grown as a dryland crop to save money. A crop of Goliath forage rape had also been grown and was being fed at a rate of 4 kg DM/cow/day. It is planned to get a second grazing off each of the crops and then sow the area with a cereal for winter feed.

Marcus and Simone still have a crop of sorghum and turnips to utilise. Like many people, they have found this season challenging to manage in regards to feed quality. Good growing conditions over summer have maintained higher than average pasture growth rates and resulted in good crop yields, so trying to get everything eaten at the right time has been tricky.

In addition to the crops, the group looked at improving pastures, increasing stocking rates and the potential to renovate the dairy to increase cow numbers.

The next north east discussion group will be held on 6 April. For more information contact Sandra Bennett at Sandra.Bennett@utas.edu.au or 0435 945 605.

Devonport Discussion Group

The Devonport discussion group met in February at the Sheffield School Farm. 14 people attended, along with a very keen group of high school students.

The day involved a tour around the farm to view the facility, as well as

a discussion with farm manager David Cox about the role the school farm plays in the dairy industry.

Groups of school students attend the school farm to undertake learning in the classroom facilities, as well as hand-on activities such as handling show cattle, working with the dairy cattle, sheep and pigs as well as poultry and farm jobs such as moving irrigation and fencing.

The discussion group attendees discussed the importance of training facilities like these, and the potential for improving the facility through upgrading the dairy. The pros and cons of a conventional versus a robotic system were debated.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16 March, with the main topic being pasture management. Everyone is welcome.

Contact Sam Flight for more information on the North East discussion group on 0409 801 341 or Samantha.Flight@utas.edu.au

Central North Discussion Group

The most recent central north discussion group was held at the Sustainable Agriculture Fund 'Ashburton' farm at Dairy Plains. The farm is managed by Mick Buckley and Penny Domeney.

The discussion group focussed on the topic of staff management and some of the key points raised were:

- Know what you want and select staff that are suitable to the system
- You can provide training for people if they don't have the skills you need. It is more important to get someone with the right attitude
- Don't make promises that you can't keep

- Have documents in place to outline the position description and the expectations you have of your employees
- Training is essential
- When employing a new person, reference checks are crucial

Discussion group participants agreed that satisfied staff will pay more attention to detail and ensure cows are healthy and producing to their potential.

Contact Sam Flight for more information on the central north discussion group on 0409 801 341 or Samantha.Flight@utas.edu.au

Yolla Discussion Group

In February, the Yolla discussion group was held on Paul and Rachel Hamilton's farm at Elliott. The farm is managed by Mark Twose and Debbie Townsend.

The topic for the day was soil fertility. A Fert\$mart plan had been prepared for the farm by Bill Cotching. The plan included maps to highlight zones of different fertility levels on the farm. The nutrient budget was also discussed.

For this farm the amount of nutrients being brought in through feed was almost as high as the nutrients being exported as milk, which is an important consideration in calculating the amount of fertiliser needed. A lot of money can be saved, or used to get better returns, by applying the right amount of nutrients in the right place.

Funding to get a Fert\$mart plan for your own farm is still available by contacting Rachel Brown at DairyTas on 0409 333 381.

Contact Sam Flight for more information about the Yolla discussion group on 0409 801 341 or Samantha.Flight@utas.edu.au



Not your typical dairy farmer

Lesley Irvine, TIA Dairy Centre

Simon Elphinstone was recently elected as the new chair of the DairyTas Board. While not your 'typical' dairy farmer (if there is such a thing), Simon certainly has extensive experience within the dairy industry.

Simon grew-up on the family dairy farm at Flowerdale in north west Tasmania with his two brothers, Cameron and Travis. Following deregulation, Simon's parents changed the farming operation from dairy to beef. Simon, whilst planning on studying engineering, took a gap year and started working at Fonterra. This led to a 15-year career in the dairy processing sector.

herd when they started milking in 2013.

From doing their research to undertake the dairy re-conversion, Simon and Cameron decided a robotic milking system would best suit their needs. They installed four Lely box units and are currently milking 225 cows on 70 hectares of the property, calving in both spring and autumn. Last year they produced 468 kg MS/cow feeding approximately 1 tonne of concentrates per cow.

During the conversion process Simon has also been undertaking his own

"I thought it was a really good organisation, doing good work and running a lot of good programs," Simon said.

As a consequence, when a DairyTas Board position was advertised in 2015, Simon applied and was elected as a board member, and more recently in November 2016 as the chairperson.

For Simon, the long-term sustainability of the dairy industry is vital and dairy farms need to be profitable. Simon also believes in the value of working with the broader community to promote good practices within the dairy industry and to stay informed of societal concerns. This ties in well with his responsibilities as a DairyTas Board member on both the Into Dairy Committee and the Dairy Industry Animal Health and Welfare Action Group.

The Into Dairy project was established to support growth within the Tasmanian dairy industry. Industry growth is sometimes a contentious issue, but for Simon, growth is a key feature of a healthy industry "We all need to be growing, whether that is in cow numbers, milk production or skills – we all need to be getting better at what we do. The alternative to that is standing still or going backwards," Simon said.

As the local Regional Development Program for Dairy Australia, Simon believes the DairyTas board needs to consider the whole package – people, environment, animals and finances as well as engaging with all members of the industry, from the newest generation to those that have worked in the industry for a long time. How DairyTas can achieve these goals is discussed at the bi-monthly board meetings, when they review

“We have a lot of good outcomes from the board meetings because people are part of this board for the right reasons,” Simon said.

Almost 10 years ago, the Elphinstone family began a succession plan for the family farm. Simon's parents wanted to retire and Simon and Cameron wanted to begin milking on the farm again. Before the re-conversion process took place, Simon and Cameron purchased some heifer calves to rear. These heifers formed the main part of their dairy

transition, from his job at Fonterra back to being a full-time dairy farmer. As part of this, Simon participated in different industry training programs such as Fert\$mart and transition cow feeding co-ordinated by DairyTas. He found these programs really useful and it gave him an appreciation for the work that DairyTas does within the local dairy industry.



and plan the different activities that DairyTas co-ordinates.

Simon has at least another two years on the DairyTas board (each term is for three years with the option to apply for re-election for a second term) and loves to hear from other farmers about challenges or opportunities that can be discussed and promoted at board meetings.

“We have a lot of good outcomes from the board meetings because people are part of this board for the right reasons,” Simon said.

With a drive to excel at what he does, Simon is continuing to look for opportunities to improve sustainability and profitability on the home farm.

Fifteen months ago, Simon and Cameron started the transition from a conventional farming system to an organic farming system. While being good custodians of their farm is certainly an aspect to this, the decision to become an organic dairy farm was largely based on the potential to value-add to their milk.

While there can be a lot of mystique associated with organic dairy farming, Simon is taking a science-based approach to ensure they will be sustainable.

If you have any questions or feedback for DairyTas, they can be contacted at admin@dairytas.net.au or phone 6432 2233.

***You can catch-up
with Simon and
the other DairyTas
board members at
the Tasmanian Dairy
Conference
on March 29, 2017.***

DairyTas update

For more information contact DairyTas Executive Officer Mark Smith, phone 6432 2233, email admin@dairytas.net.au or view the website at www.dairytas.com.au.



Your Levy at Work

What is happening at DairyTas?

Tasmanian Dairy Conference and Awards Dinner

DairyTas is hosting its 10th annual dairy conference on 29 March 2017 at the Launceston Country Club.

A great program has been prepared with a wealth of Tasmanian, mainland and New Zealand farmer experiences on offer, the latest in dairy innovations and a big forum around investing in dairy.

The conference program theme is "Managing the Challenge of Change", which reflects the challenging year faced by most dairy farmers across the state. We are now moving out of this trough as the seasonal conditions have improved and global commodity prices pick up.

The conference is free for all dairy farmers. Some of the key sessions planned are:

- Tasmania and New Zealand dairy farmer panels looking at farm management challenges

- Dairy investors forum with David Williams, Nigel Pannett, Sean Shwe and John Hewitt
- Ron Pellow and the Lincoln University Demo Farm
- Steve Spencer from Fresh Agenda on dairy markets and pricing models
- Farmers and processors on organic dairying and its future in Tasmania
- Farm innovations from Dairy Bio, Data Gene and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture

The Dairy Awards dinner in the evening will celebrate our farmer successes. You can nominate yourself, or someone you know for one of these awards:

- Mondelez Young Farmer of the Year Award
- Moon Lake Safety Award
- Veolia Environmental Award

The Pre-Conference Tour is on Tuesday 28 March and features the picturesque Tamar Valley, dairy farms at Liffey and Legana and a visit to Goaty Hill Winery and Van Diemen Aquaculture.

You can register on line at <https://www.regonline.com.au/tasdairyconf2017> or you can scan the QR reader with your smart phone. If you have trouble call DairyTas on 6432 2233.



Business Governance and Investment Workshop

DairyTas is planning a two day workshop on 26 -27 April in Devonport to help improve your strategic, risk management and investment prospects. This is a new Dairy Australia farm business program and is the first three workshop is being held in Tasmania. Contact DairyTAS for details.

2015/16 Dairy Farm Monitor Report for Tasmania

The report is now available on the DairyTas website. Hard copies are available on request. The report has a wealth of financial and physical information on farm performance.

Heathy Hooves Roadshow

The roadshow will run from 21-23 March from 9.45 am to 2.15 pm each day on farm and in the local hall. The event is supported by our local vets and Dairy Australia:

Tasmanian dairy conference and awards dinner
28-29 March 2017
Launceston Country Club Casino

Roberts ANZ
REJAMIES THE AUSTRALIAN DAIRY FARMER

- 21 March, Branxholm Hotel
- 22 March, Meander Hall
- 23 March, Edith Creek School Hall

Legendary Capital

Nominations are now open for towns wanting to become Australia's Legendary Capital. One finalist town from Tasmania will receive a \$2,500 grant to invest in a community project.

One town from the eight regions will then go on to secure the coveted title of Australia's Legendary Capital 2017 and receive a further grant of \$7,500 for its nominated community project. Get your local planning group together. Nominations close 10 April.
<http://www.legendairy.com.au/capital>

Small Project Grants for Dairy

DairyTas Board invites applications for the funding of projects that support dairy farmers in local regions or across Tasmania. Projects undertaken by organisations and groups are eligible for grants of up to \$10,000. Projects need to be completed in 2017/18.

Applications for projects should address priorities identified in the Dairy Industry Strategic Plan and have direct value to the industry or to farmers in their locality.

Priority areas could include:

- Assisting dairy farmers to manage change
- Animal health and welfare
- Improving farm productivity and profitability
- Improving business skills
- Sustaining our natural resources
- Feed and nutrition
- Training and education

An application form and guidelines can be downloaded from www.dairytas.com.au or contact DairyTas on 6432 2233 or admin@dairytas.net.au for a copy to be sent to you.

Applications close 31 March 2017.



The in calf challenge

Grant Rogers BVSc, Dairy Systems

It's autumn and the time is right to turn our thoughts to next season; how our cows and heifers will be calving, and how we get them through in the best shape possible.

Achieving targets at calving, for the herd and farm, involves making a solid plan for winter using the herd's average body condition score (BCS), expected calving date, and the farm's feed budgeting information.

More scores

One of the key drivers of next season's production and reproductive performance is BCS at calving. For cows to achieve the target of BCS 5 by calving, plans need acting on now. We must regularly score cows through the autumn period and treat cows as individuals. This means targeting feed to the lower BCS animals.

Armed with information

Aged pregnancy tests give us conception dates and therefore more accurate expected calving dates (ECD). ECD should be used alongside recent BCS results to determine individual cow

dry off dates that gives your girls enough time to reach calving BCS targets (5.0 for 4+yos and 5.5 for 2 and 3yos).

Good things take time

Check the daily feed requirement figures for your cows. As an example, a 450 kg cow 12 weeks before calving needs an additional 36 MJ ME per day, at a minimum, to gain a condition score in 60 days. That's over 3 kg extra dry matter per day above the pregnancy and maintenance requirements. Knowing this sort of information, along with how much feed is available, on farm or purchased, for the cows over the next 4–6 months will help determine possible dry off dates.

Dry for how long?

It is recommended that cows have at least six, but preferably eight, weeks dry, prior to calving. They need this time for udder tissue to be repaired and rejuvenated.

Dry off right

Depending on cow condition, age, available feed supplies, and somatic cell count, dry off time may just be around the corner for some cows. Start making your list now.

Business BiTES

Symon Jones, TIA Dairy Centre

The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture recently held a series of dairy business meetings called Business BiTES. These bite size sessions offered advice on profitable dairy farming and the programs currently in use to monitor and evaluate dairy business performance.

Sessions were held in Smithton, Burnie, Branxholm and Deloraine. The guest speaker at the sessions was Gary Strickland, a dairy farmer from King Island.

Gary and Helen Strickland have been participating in dairy benchmarking for over 30 years and have found it an exceptionally useful tool for their business. Gary and Helen have been finalists in the Tasmanian Dairy Business of the Year Award many times (including this year) and have won the Award twice.

In speaking to the attendees at the Business BiTES sessions, Gary highlighted five key factors he believes are important in running a profitable dairy farm:

- **Love what you do.** If you love dairy farming, it keeps you interested and motivated, which encourages life-long learning. If you don't keep learning, you



stand still. Move out of your comfort zone and get advice from trusted advisors whether they be neighbours, consultants or employees.

- **Manage spending.** Pasture should be the focus for feeding our dairy cows. Sometimes we lose sight of how important pasture is in keeping our cost of production low. Make sure other feeds you add to the diet are giving you a good return. Use benchmarking to look at your business costs and identify potential areas of saving, and continue to focus on cost management, even in high milk price years.
- **Use budgets.** Plan for each season with both physical and financial budgets.
- **Look after your people.** Your team is your most important asset.
- **Look for opportunity to invest or build wealth.** Milk price fluctuates. If you plan for investment, you can potentially find opportunities in lower milk price years to buy cattle or land at cheaper prices.

The Business BiTES sessions also covered the opportunities available for dairy businesses to measure and monitor their own business performance, by entering their financial information into some of the following programs:

- Dairy Farm Monitor Project
- Dairy Business of the Year Award
- DairyBase

The Dairy Farm Monitor Project

Funded by Dairy Australia, this project is an annual collection of financial and physical information from 30 dairy farms in Tasmania. The program is also conducted in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia. A summary of some of the

data is provided in the Table on the opposite page and the whole report is available at www.utas.edu.au/tia/dairy-benchmarking. Keep in mind, the data in the Dairy Farm Monitor Project is not the Tasmanian average, as farms are not randomly selected and an effort is made to include farms that represent different aspects of the Tasmanian dairy industry.

Dairy Business of the Year Awards

Each year staff at the TIA Dairy Centre collect and collate the physical and financial information from 30-40 dairy businesses for judging the Dairy Business of the Year and the Share Dairy Farmer of the Year awards.

The awards recognise the outstanding achievement in dairy business performance and provide valuable information to all farms. The 2017 winners will be announced at the awards dinner on 29 March at the Launceston Country Club.

DairyBase

DairyBase is an online benchmarking tool available at www.dairybase.com.au. Anyone can enter their farm's financial and physical information to generate a report on their business performance. It is also possible to compare your farm against the Dairy Farm Monitor Project farms in Tasmania and/or other states.

Interested in being part of a dairy business discussion group?

How to use some of these business tools is one of the potential topics for the business discussions groups, due to start as part of the Dairy On PAR project. Business discussion groups are an effective way of learning how to make good day-to-day decisions and longer-term strategic decisions. If you are interested in knowing more or joining a business discussion group, contact TIA's Symon Jones at Symon.Jones@utas.edu.au or 0418 876 089.

	Tas Average 2014-15	Tas Average 2015-16	Tas Top 25% 2015-16	Victoria Average 2015-16	Gippsland Average 2015-16	South Australia Average 2015-16
Herd size	545	580	532	345	291	355
Annual rainfall (mm)	924	1044	1051	640	773	577
Water used (irrigation+rainfall) (mm/ha)	1084	1250	1219	836	894	777
Total usable area (ha)	280	302	258	252	201	447
Milking area (ha)	191	198	179	162	122	131
Stocking rate (cows/Mha)	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.2	2.4	2.7
Milk sold (kg MS/cow)	447	444	464	511	482	586
Pasture consumed (t DM/Mha)	10.0	10.7	12.1	7.0	7.9	7.8
Home grown feed as % of ME consumed	69%	69%	71%	53%	59%	48%
Labour efficiency (milking cows/FTE)	140	141	162	109	114	88
Labour efficiency (kg MS/FTE)	61,600	62,053	74,369	55,943	55,382	50,701
Milk income (net) (\$/kg MS)	\$6.19	\$5.55	\$5.95	\$5.40	\$5.28	\$6.15
Total variable costs (\$/kg MS)	\$3.13	\$3.27	\$3.02	\$3.62	\$3.24	\$3.71
Total overhead costs (\$/kg MS)	\$1.94	\$1.91	\$1.65	\$2.10	\$2.22	\$2.60
Earnings before interest and tax (\$/kg MS)	\$1.84	\$0.92	\$1.90	\$0.18	\$0.33	\$0.79
Return on Assets	7.8%	3.9%	8.9%	0.6%	1.3%	3.1%



Forage value index

Many farms suffered pugging damage earlier this season and an assessment of pasture should be made to determine if renovation is needed. Autumn is often an ideal time to undertake pasture renovation, if the autumn break occurs early enough.

A new tool to assist in the decision of which ryegrass cultivar to sow is the Forage Value Index (FVI), which was recently released by Dairy Australia.

Developed by Dairy Australia, in partnership with Agriculture Victoria, Meat and Livestock Australia and the Australian Seed Federation, the FVI is an independently-analysed economic index based on seasonal dry matter production.

The FVI is easy to use. It ranks the performance of 20 of Australia's most popular perennial ryegrass varieties relative to the typical climactic conditions within each dairy region. (Table 1).

To be included in the FVI, each cultivar must have seasonal yield data from at least three, three-year trials using strict experimental protocols.

The highest yielding cultivars are indicated by the green bar. If you are targeting growth at a particular time, there are also tables available for spring, summer, winter and autumn.

David Squibb from PGG Wrightson Seeds said the FVI provides valuable information for farmers to assist with their pasture management decisions.

Table 1. Tasmania Forage Value Index

Cultivar				FVI Tas	Autumn	Winter	Early Spring	Late Spring	Summer	Endophyte	Ploidy	He Da
Base AR37	Green			159	115	115	100	96	110	AR37	Tetraploid	Lat
Bealey NEA2	Green	Blue		149	112	115	100	96	113	NEA2	Tetraploid	Ve
One50 SE	Green	Blue	Yellow	136	113	116	99	95	110	SE	Diploid	Lat
Fitzroy SE	Green	Blue	Yellow	117	107	110	104	96	106	SE	Diploid	Ea
Kidman	Green	Blue	Yellow	110	108	113	101	96	106	AR1	Diploid	Ea
Kingston SE	Green	Blue	Yellow	104	110	113	98	97	107	SE	Diploid	Mic
Matrix	Green	Blue	Yellow	103	107	115	98	96	110	Nil	Diploid	Lat
Ansa	Green	Blue	Yellow	103	107	115	99	95	107	AR1	Diploid	Mic
Extreme AR37	Green	Blue	Yellow	103	111	114	98	95	105	AR37	Diploid	Mic
Halo AR37	Green	Blue	Yellow	101	113	113	95	93	112	AR37	Tetraploid	Lat
Banquet II Endo5	Green	Blue	Yellow	89	109	111	98	95	109	Endo5	Tetraploid	Lat
Endure SE	Green	Blue	Yellow	87	107	111	100	97	105	SE	Tetraploid	Mic
Arrow AR1	Green	Blue	Yellow	69	103	107	101	98	107	AR1	Diploid	Mic
Barberia	Green	Blue	Yellow	66	101	109	102	97	104	Nil	Diploid	Ea
One50 AR1	Green	Blue	Yellow	65	105	104	98	96	107	AR1	Diploid	Lat
Avalon AR1	Green	Blue	Yellow	55	105	110	97	98	106	AR1	Diploid	Mic
Revolution AR1	Green	Blue	Yellow	36	103	109	97	95	106	AR1	Diploid	Lat
Ohau AR37	Green	Blue	Yellow	35	105	104	98	96	107	AR37	Tetraploid	Mic
Impact 2 NEA2			Yellow	28	105	103	97	97	108	NEA2	Diploid	Lat
Helix AR1			Yellow	8	101	106	97	95	103	AR1	Diploid	Mic
Victorian SE			Red	0	100	100	100	100	100	SE	Diploid	Ea

“A new pasture can be a costly exercise, so ensure that you have the best “package” of high quality ryegrass cultivar and viable endophyte combination,” David said.

“If you are at all unsure of the seed that you are purchasing ask for a seed certificate from your relevant seed company.

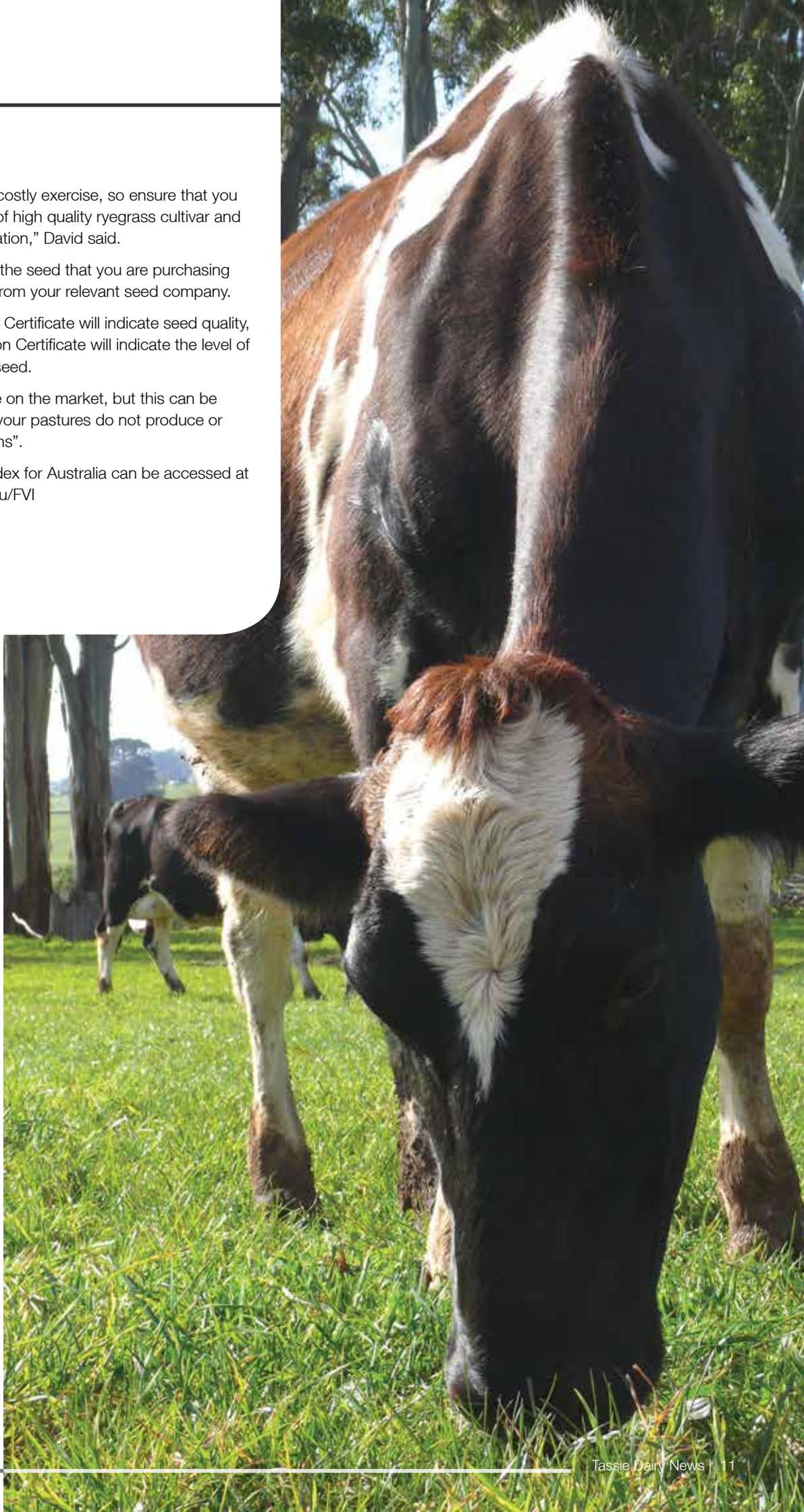
“A Purity and Germination Certificate will indicate seed quality, and an Endophyte Infection Certificate will indicate the level of viable endophyte in your seed.

““Cheap” seed is available on the market, but this can be costly to your business if your pastures do not produce or persist to your expectations”.

The New Forage Value Index for Australia can be accessed at www.dairyaustralia.com.au/FVI



Marketing Period	Marketer	No. of trials
Early	PGW Seeds	7
Early-Late	Heritage Seeds	8
Late	Agricom	4
Early	PGW Seeds	5
Early	Heritage Seeds	3
Mid	Agricom	3
Late	Cropmark	3
Mid-Late	Seed Distributors	3
Mid	PGW Seeds	5
Late	Agricom	7
Late	PGW Seeds	8
Mid	Vic Seeds	4
Mid	Heritage Seeds	8
Early	Heritage Seeds	3
Late	Agricom	5
Mid	Vic Seeds	4
Late	Seedforce	5
Mid-Late	Agricom	3
Late	Heritage Seeds	7
Mid	Cropmark	5
Early	Many	7



Calendar of events 2017



March

15 & 16 March: Manage Staff, Deloraine (TasTAFE)

16 March: Devonport Discussion Group, John Kelly's at 191 West Nook Road, Sheffield, 11.00am – 2.00pm. BBQ lunch provided by Elders – RSVP to Sam on 0409 801 341 (TIA)

20 & 21 March: 8 Steps to Increasing Team Productivity, Deloraine (No8HR)

21 & 22 March: Chainsaws, Launceston (TasTAFE)

20 - 23 March: Grasslands Robotics Conference, Launceston (DeLaval)

21 March: Heathy Hooves Roadshow 9.45am – 2.15pm, Branxholm Hotel (DairyTas)

22 March: Provide First Aid (Agritas)

22 March: Heathy Hooves Roadshow 9.45am – 2.15pm, Meander Hall (DairyTas)

22 & 23 March: Quad Bike Training, Hagley (2 courses) (TasTAFE)

22 & 23 March: Herd17 Conference, Bendigo

23 March: Heathy Hooves Roadshow 9.45am – 2.15pm, Edith Creek School Hall (DairyTas)

24 March: Quad Bikes (Agritas)

28 March: Tasmanian Pre-Conference Tour, Launceston (DairyTas)

29 March: Tasmanian Dairy Conference and Dairy Awards, Country Club Launceston (DairyTas)

28 & 29 March: ChemCert, Launceston (TasTAFE)

29 & 30 March: ChemCert, Smithton (TasTAFE)

April

April: DBOY and Sharefarmer of the Year Award Winner Field Days, Date and Location TBA (TIA)

6 April: NE Discussion Group (TIA)

10 April: Stepping Up, Stepping Back with John Mulvany, North East (DairyTas)

11 April: Using DairyBase to understand your farm business with John Mulvany, Devonport (Day 1 of 2) (Dairy Tas)

12 April: Stepping Up, Stepping Back with John Mulvany, Deloraine (DairyTas)

11 & 12 April: Chainsaws, Launceston (TasTAFE)

12 & 13 April: Pasture management, Deloraine (TasTAFE)

20 April: Precision Agriculture Expo, Deloraine Community Centre. 9am start please RSVP to terry.brient@gmail.com (TAPG)

20 & 21 April: Auschem (Agritas)

27 April: Chainsaws (Agritas)

26 & 27 April: Business Governance and Investment in Dairy Farming with David Heinjus, Gateway Inn, Devonport (DairyTas)

Contact us

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For more information, please contact a TIA Dairy Centre adviser, phone 6430 4953 or email tas.dairynews@utas.edu.au.

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