



AUGUST 2019

SOUTH WEST VIC & SA

SUPPLIER NEWS

This Issue

- > Top 25 BMCCs
- > Field Services Round-up
- > Better Dairy Hygiene Part 2: Water Quality
- > Spring is just around the corner so start planning!
- > Drop in milkfat % - what's going on?
- > 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	Howard Partnership	Cobden	30,000
2	RF & NP Bourk	Wool Wool	41,000
2	Trevor & Carolyn Beasley	Port Fairy	41,000
2	TDW Farming Pty Ltd	Panmure	41,000
3	Powell Dairy Farms	Cooriemungle	43,000
3	Graeme, Dianne & Steven Hooker	Cooriemungle	43,000
4	C & C Simpson	Cooriemungle	45,000
5	Andrew Buckley	Laang	46,000
6	Matt & Larissa Gardiner	Tyrendarra	47,000
6	Peter & Joy O'Keeffe	Glenormiston	47,000
6	Cyril & Marjo Nijskens	Taroon	47,000
7	HW & BE Elliott	Willatook	52,000
8	New Life Dairies Pty Ltd	Princetown	53,000
8	Glenmead Pty Ltd (I,V & N Smith)	Mepunga	53,000
9	Ballangeich Run Pty Ltd	Ellerslie	54,000
10	Les & Lois Daff	Simpson	55,000
10	J,S&T Brown	Princetown	55,000
10	Nolane Investments	Scotsmans Lead	55,000
11	D C Johnson Pty Ltd	Minhamite	56,000
12	Keiran & Annette Lee	Boorcan	57,000
13	Kangertong Farming Pty Ltd	Purnim	59,000
14	S & P Rea	Panmure	60,000
15	AR & LW Beard and AJ & SL Bidmade	Purnim	61,000
16	K. Callow	Macarthur	62,000
16	Mark & Karen Ryan	Toolong	62,000
SDA Southwest BMCC average			153,000

Regional Field Services Round-up

Gippsland

South Gippsland has enjoyed good late autumn and early winter rains, while parts of East Gippsland still continue to miss out with year to date rainfall figures under the average. Glenmaggie is currently at 48% capacity (30/07/2019). Macalister Irrigation District irrigators have been allocated 70% against high reliability water shares, giving them some confidence to plan for the coming season. Calving is in full swing across the region, and with one month of winter to go, farmers are hoping for a favourable spring.

Tasmania

July has proven to be quite wet across our collection regions with farms looking for a little bit of respite from the rain. Milk flows into the factory are at their lowest which is expected as spring calving commences. We're excited to have welcomed a number of new suppliers to the business over the past few weeks.

Northern Victoria

The north-east corner of the state continues to enjoy excellent winter conditions. The Central North and North-West regions are likewise enjoying good growing conditions currently, however we are in need of a 'wetter than average' Spring in order to provide strong ongoing irrigation opportunities this year. The majority of the region seems to have escaped the damaging frosts that were evident last winter. Most crops are looking terrific at this stage and should provide excellent opportunity for growers to consider their options for grain or hay harvest. A reminder to all suppliers – it's not too late to start door-knocking your grain and hay growers and the SDA Feeds crew to discuss your requirements for the coming season.

SW Victoria / SA

Strong cold fronts in recent weeks have delivered solid rain to most of the region with soil profiles now approaching capacity. Minds are now turning to

maximizing spring growth and the ensuing harvest in order to limit exposure to grain and hay markets. Milk quality continues to improve on a year-on-year basis.

NSW/Sydney Region

The continued drought across Northern and Central NSW is making for a very difficult winter for 70% of our NSW suppliers. For those affected, the Rural Assistance Authority has extended its drought programs so we encourage you to have a look at the updated Transport Subsidy and Water Infrastructure rebates on www.raa.nsw.gov.au The South Coast is fairing well and looks magnificent which is giving us hope and reminding us it can rain. We look forward to welcoming a new Milk Quality specialist to our team shortly.

Better Dairy Hygiene Part 2: Water Quality

Water quality is one of the biggest challenges to dairy hygiene on Australian dairy farms.

Poor water quality affects the performance of detergents and can directly contribute to microbial contamination of milk, particularly on farms where hot water (which is sterilised by the heating process) availability is limited.

Almost all wash programs (for both vats and milking machines) have three cycles – pre-rinse, wash and final rinse. The best quality water available on-farm should always be used at least for the wash and final rinse.

Measures of water quality include hardness, iron, bacterial levels, suspended solids and organic matter.

Hardness

Water that is hard (greater than 150 mg/L of calcium carbonate) and has high levels of iron (greater than 0.3 ppm) usually requires higher dose rates of alkali detergents and in some cases more advanced chemicals. Farms with very hard water (greater than 700 mg/L

of calcium carbonate) or high iron concentrations (greater than 3ppm) that cannot use an alternative water source will need an acid dominant wash program (e.g. where 12 of the 14 washes per week are acid-based).

Bacterial levels and water availability

The purpose of the final rinse is to remove any residues from the previous cycle (the wash) and to sanitise the surfaces. This may be achieved by hot water (thermal sanitisation) or where hot water availability is limited, using a chemical sanitiser. Wherever an alkali detergent cycle is followed by an acid sanitiser, an intermediate rinse is required. Always read the label.

Suspended solids and organic matter

Suspended solids and organic matter (e.g. from channels, dams and rivers) dramatically reduces cleaning performance and often deactivates chlorinated detergents (and sanitisers). If an alternative water source cannot be

used, detergents with greater dissolving, emulsifying and dispersing capabilities are required to counteract the impact of dirty water.

How to get help

Your Field Services Advisor or chemical representative can arrange for your water quality to be tested usually free of charge. It is important that the test includes as a minimum: hardness, iron levels, pH, *E.coli* count and Total Plate Count (measures of bacterial contamination). Water should be sampled out of the hot water service. Cold water should be sampled if the final rinse is not hot. Always have water tested prior to changing water sources. Water quality from the same source can vary so testing regularly is advisable.

Spring is just around the corner so start planning!

Richmond supporters are talking AFL Finals so spring must be just around the corner. That means you have to start planning your harvest, silage and/or hay to set you up for summer and autumn 2020.

1. It doesn't matter where you farm, Nitrogen (N) is 'king' to drive your production forward. Combined with water, N will give you the best 'bang for your buck' (as long as there are no lacking elements). Allow at least four weeks growth after application until cutting.

Rates of N should be applied at a minimum of 30kgN/ha (65 kg/ha Urea) to a maximum of 60kgN/ha (130kg/ha Urea). Responses to applied N are generally greatest in spring or when the weather is warming up. Understanding the seasonal growth habits of pasture species and cultivars will improve decisions on nitrogen rates and timings. Remember, every kilogram of N can give you a response of up to 80kg/dm per day.

Nothing comes for free and supplementing nutrients that will be removed in fodder conservation is a necessity. An easy to remember 'rule of thumb' for 1t/ha DM removal for hay or silage is 25, 2, 25, 2. That is, **N – 25kg/ha,**

P – 2kg/ha, K – 25kg/ha and S – 2kg/ha. Rates of Boosta products will be firstly determined by N. Set the rate of N to be applied (typically 30-60kgN/ha), then determine other nutrients required and what will be removed in silage and/or hay. Multiple cuts mean multiple fertiliser applications to continue growth and offset removal.

2. Weather conditions. Urea is prone to volatilisation losses and in pasture systems these losses can be as high as 30%. Little vegetative cover, warm windy conditions, light rain and morning dews (spring conditions) all conspire to cause losses. A rain event >6mm within 2-4 days after Urea application is required on most soil types to move the Urea safely into the soil. Urea (and the Boosta products) can be treated to protect up to 70% of losses in a volatilisation event. Green Urea (and Green Boostas) products essentially provide an insurance policy on gaseous losses from Urea.

To find out more and determine what works best for you, talk to your Local MGT Agronomist, Fertiliser Depot or Field Service Advisor.

Drop in milkfat % - what's going on?

You may have noticed recently when viewing text messages that your milk fat percentage (%) may have been on the decline.

Over the last four weeks or so there has been considerable attention focused on diagnosing and identifying milk fat depression on farms. Why? Because historically, milk fat has been used as a measure of rumen health and a low fat test is often thought to be associated with rumen acidosis. While this can be true, a low milk fat test (less than 3.5%) has often been blamed for on a diet with excessive amounts of highly fermentable carbohydrates.

Fats that pass through the rumen are normally vegetable based and comprised of two fatty acids – linoleic acid (grains, oilseeds, maize silage) and linolenic acid (pastures). These two fatty acids are processed in the rumen and converted from vegetable oils to animal fat in a process called biohydrogenation. This process takes time in the rumen to be completed. When we are fully feeding cows, the dwell time of the feed in the rumen is greatly shortened. As the process is only partially completed we get an intermediate product called *Conjugated Linoleic Acids (CLAs)* instead of being converted to animal fat. When there are more vegetable fats going into the rumen, it's even harder for the rumen to process and results in more CLAs. Combined with low rumen pH, this has a massive impact on the mammary gland and will stop the mammary gland producing milk fat at normal levels. This is why low rumen pH produces a low milk fat test.

All this relates back to our new grass species. These have fat levels of around 6-8%, compared to 2-3% from older variety pastures, resulting in heaps of fat going into the rumen which is one of the preconditions to CLA production. The impact is that grass is eaten in bigger intakes per/cow/day; they are low in effective fibre; low cud chewing; and have low rumen pH as well.

This will naturally pass over a period of 2-3 weeks generally, but in the meantime:

- > keep effective fibre present to aid salivation and reduce passage flow rates
- > be aware of how we offer and feed fast fermenting grains
- > avoid large silage dumps/split with good quality cereal hay

Yeast is also proving to play an important role.

For more detail about milk fat depression, talk to your local Field Service Advisor or check out the next issue of the Devondaler.

Antibiotic / Residue Investigation - July 2019



Key Learnings

- > Dry Cows treated with dry cow antibiotics MUST be clearly marked and kept away from the milking herd
- > 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
 - Always check that you are administering the correct veterinary medicine
 - Keep other veterinary medicines, such as dry cow antibiotic, away from the milking area and no-where near the lactating cow treatments
- 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 and milked last, with the vat hose disconnected
- For additional advice regarding your mastitis treatment regimes contact your veterinarian

■ 50%	Dry cow(s) not separated from milking herd and accidentally milked	■ 16%	Treated cow(s) received off-label treatment
■ 17%	Treated cow accidentally milked	■ 17%	Incorrect withholding period applied

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:

Delaval Milk Vat for sale. 9,700 ltrs.

Serviced yearly. HWS included.

Phone: Neville 0417 541 436

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

WANTED TO LEASE:

Out-paddock

100-200 acres for Dairy Heifers and dry cows in the Simpson-Timboon area.

Contact Colin: 0429 206 180

Herd Manager

Required for a modern 700 cow farm.

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

Contact John: 0409 665 258

Wanting to Lease

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

Please contact Luke: 0438 693 839

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.