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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.

SOUTH WEST VIC & SA SUPPLIER NEWS

Bulk Milk Cell Counts

Number	Supplier Name	Region	BMCC Average
1	Carrakoorte North Pty Ltd	Grasmere	48000
2	Glenmead Pty Ltd (I,V & N Smith)	Mepunga	55000
3	The Claine Farm Trust	Ecklin South	56000
4	Mark & Karen Ryan	Toolong	57000
5	Cyril & Marjo Nijskens	Taroon	59000
6	Ballangeich Run Pty Ltd	Ellerslie	62000
7	C & C Simpson	Coorimungle	63000
8	C & C Costin	Princetown	64000
9	Craig & Joanne Drake	Allansford	68000
10	Kangertong Farming Pty Ltd	Purnim	71000
11	Araluen Pastoral Holdings	Cobrico	74000
12	Rod & Libby Swayn	Nalangil	75000
12	Peter & Joy O'Keefe	Glenormiston	75000
14	DJ Elford & HF and FA Lowe	Portland	76000
14	Kieran & Raymond Campbell	Laang	76000
16	Powell Dairy Farms	Coorimungle	77000
17	T M Dodd Nominees Pty Ltd	Meningie	78000
17	Howard Partnership	Cobden	78000
19	Greg & Jane Anderton	Hawkesdale	79000
19	Andrew Buckley	Laang	79000
21	D Skelton	Naroghid	81000
22	Mary & Simon Brown	Wyelangta	82000
23	JW Semmler	Lyndoch	83000
24	Lance & Lynette Greenwood	Learmonth	84000
25	Balpat Pastoral	Noorat East	85000
Combined supply for South-West Victorian farms (WCB + SDA): 185,000			185000

Making the most of late lactation and dry off to manage BMCC

“All cows (including heifers) should receive Dry Cow Therapy at dry off if your BMCC has been above 250,000 cells/ml in the past six months.” Dr Stephanie Bullen

Bulk Milk Cell Count (BMCC) can become elevated towards the end of lactation resulting in product quality issues, particularly for fresh milk, cheeses and UHT. Given the dry seasonal conditions across much of our collection area, consider:

1. **Culling problem cows early.** Cows should be culled from the herd if they have had:
 - > three or more cases of mastitis in a lactation; or
 - > two or more lactations with a high cell count (>250,000 cells/ml) with a dry period in between.

These cows are unlikely to cure with Dry Cow Therapy and are a major source of infection for other cows in the herd.

2. **Drying off cows abruptly (i.e. not milked once-a-day or skip-a-day).** Reduced milking frequency (e.g. once daily or every second day) leading up to dry off is not recommended. It significantly increases BMCC and may increase the risk of mastitis during the dry period and at calving. Continue milking cows as usual at each milking until the day of drying off. High producing cows (producing more than 12L) should also be milked as usual but taken off concentrates and/or offered lower quality feed in the week prior to planned dry-off.

Practical tip: A regular Countdown Top 5% Milk Quality Award recipient in Gippsland removes all concentrates from the diet and grazes high producing cows on roadsides or in dry irrigation channels for 1-2 weeks prior to dry off.

3. **Using blanket (whole herd) vs. selective (part of the herd) Dry Cow Therapy.** All cows and heifers should receive Dry Cow Therapy at dry off if:
 - > your BMCC has been out of premium in the last six months; or,
 - > you do not have good clinical mastitis records and a herd test from the last 80 days to identify the most appropriate cows for treatment

This graph shows the improvement in BMCC of a farm that started using blanket Dry Cow Therapy in March 2015 to improve their BMCC.

This followed a number of years where only those cows that had had a case of clinical mastitis were treated and no herd recording was undertaken.

However, if you have been in premium all season, have good mastitis records and herd test data, speak to your veterinarian about selective dry cow therapy to reduce costs and the risk of antibiotic residues.

4. Administering Dry Cow Therapy hygienically and carefully managing newly dried off cows. Hygienic administration of Dry Cow Therapy is critical for the health and welfare of cows. Cases of mastitis after drying off are not normal so consult with your veterinarian about your dry cow administration practices. A very good 4-minute video prepared by Dairy Australia can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0PrpZM50ek>. In addition, ensure cows are clearly marked with paint and preferably leg bands and/or tail tape immediately after dry off and are secured in a paddock (preferably off-farm) which prevents them breaking back into the milking herd.

Field Services

Regional Round-up

Gippsland

Dry conditions still prevail across Gippsland although a mid-March coastal system has delivered some rain to the east. This much needed moisture has triggered some autumn seeding. Milk flow continues to stay steady across the region despite the seasonal influences. Temporary water purchases at \$300/ML in the MID have sustained summer crops but with 23% of capacity in the Glenmaggie weir, it is likely that the current irrigation season will finish earlier than most.

Northern Victoria

The mixed fortunes in Northern Victoria continue. The North East corner have enjoyed an excellent start with a number of March rain events. Conditions remain punishing in the flat lands, with Cobram region reporting marginally better early conditions than Rochester and Cohuna regions.

NSW/Sydney Region

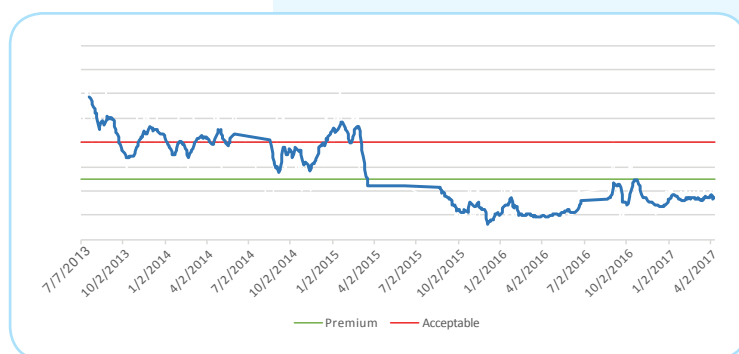
Cyclones in Northern Australia moving south have helped many places across NSW receive at last some relief from the dry. Southern region is now looking fantastic and sowing is nearly complete. In the North and West patchy breaks have occurred and suppliers are still busy feeding, sowing (where possible) and planning for winter. Field Services are here to help particularly with Supplier finance.

South-west Victoria / SA

Some areas of South-West Victoria have had sufficient rain to begin Autumn sowing while others remain dry. Calving activities are heading into full swing providing a great time for suppliers to review their ISB procedures. SDA Field Officers were glad to catch up with a number of suppliers at the Central SA Dairy Conference.

Tasmania

It has been a drier start to autumn compared to previous seasons. Dryland pastures are in need of a rainfall event. Milk production is holding well across the region, tracking very close to forecast. Milk quality has never been better for this time of the year.



Using blanket (whole herd) vs. selective (part of the herd) Dry Cow Therapy.

Spray water quality is as important as the chemical.

Over the last couple of months, we have spoken about fertiliser selection and application, selection of grass seed varieties and insect control. Now, after a long dry period and opening autumn rains, we will have weeds.

First and foremost, do not scrimp on your water quality. Rain water is the best as this has a neutral pH and is clean of foreign particles and contamination. If you use bore water or dam water, make sure you have your water checked. Alkali water will react with alkali salt-based agricultural chemicals and will reduce the efficiency of the product being applied. You can add a herbicide adjuvant to reduce the pH of your water before adding in your herbicide. Talk to your MG Trading Agronomist or FSO about what product to use.

We also get asked about how much water to apply when spraying. Many people like 80ltr per ha so they can spray more ha per tank load. The short answer is a minimum of 100ltr per ha. Why? It is a numbers game so the more you apply the more likely you will hit the target weeds. It doesn't matter if they are small or large weeds, the more chemical you can get to the target, the better the result. Some of the best results that we have seen is where the water application rate is 120-150ltr water per ha when there is a large weed burden, and the results have been outstanding.

After a long dry period coming out of summer, you may have gaps in your ryegrass pasture where broadleaf weeds will appear after the opening autumn rains. They appear very quickly, and as we have seen, will get out of the ground early with warm soil temperatures. So do you spray before you over sow your paddocks or do you sow then wait until you have had the first grazing then spray out the broad leaf weed? If in doubt contact your local MG Trading Agronomist, MG Trading Store or your local FSO. There is nothing worse than doing the job twice!

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

Fertility issues

Key things to consider before calving

Nutrition has a direct influence on reproduction. It's generally agreed that high producing cows under nutritional stress, can have decreased reproductive performance. Studies also support the farmers' belief that the best cows are generally hardest to get in calf.

Getting cows in calf is always a hot topic, Why? Because it's a real challenge for today's dairy farmers. The dry cow period is the time during which the cow typically develops the follicle (egg) that will be released at each cycle after calving. As a consequence, the nutritional status of the cow during the dry cow period will have big impacts on the manner in which the follicle develops.

The size of the follicle will greatly impact how much oestrogen it releases, and as a result, the strength of the heat that is exhibited. In turn, the size of the follicle is driven greatly on how much glucose (energy) it is exposed to during its development. A low energy and glucose status means the cow grows a smaller egg, gets a weaker heat signal and it's harder to have a good chance of even seeing the cow on heat, let alone getting in calf.

Remember, the egg we hope to fertilise has been growing for weeks before we hope to get conception. So the nutrition of our dry cows is important.

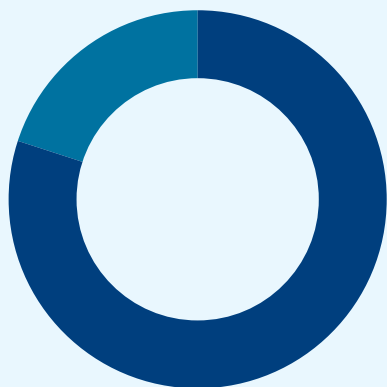
Nutritional considerations:

- Make sure at least 10kg dry matter intake/cow daily during the dry period, and that energy delivery to produce glucose is available. Some starch from grain in small amounts through the dry period is beneficial (1-2 kg).
- Make sure your protein delivery is not compromised in the dry period, as that can limit dry matter intake (canola meal could be mixed with the grain).
- Make sure mineral nutrition is not limiting.
- Dry cow blocks or loose lick minerals work really well as they contain small amounts of canola as well as the minerals.

The point is, at the very time that we breathe a sigh of relief and turn the cows out into the dry paddock or run off block and forget them for a bit, we are significantly impacting how we grow a follicle on the ovary, and therefore our reproductive success post calving.

The impacts on reproduction start long before the cow has even calved. Good nutrition in the dry period and early lactation will ensure you have done your bit to get calves on the ground the following season.

Antibiotic / Residue Investigation - March 2019



Key Learnings

- > Always read drug labels. Off-label use (e.g. increased treatment frequency or additional treatments) can significantly increase the risk of residues
- > Never use drugs off-label without written advice (including adjusted withholding periods) from your prescribing veterinarian
- > Never use dry cow therapy in lactating cows
- > All permanent and temporary milking staff (including relief milkers and family members) should clearly understand how to manage the milk from cows under treatment.

- 80% Off-label use
- 20% Inadequate training

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 Koroit	0427 494 776	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:

Packo Milk Vat for sale

- 8,000 ltrs, built 2004 Good condition

Phone Darryl: 0429 351 393

Vats

- Delaval 9000 Ltr vat, Laser Vat

Phone: 0400 068 665

Vat wanted

20,000 litres or similar.

Phone Stuart Hose: 0409 728 541

Various

- Complete Flynn three head diaphragm milk pump with 1.5 hp single phase electric motor - \$300
- Massport vane vacuum pump, includes muffler, oiler and 5.5 hp single phase electric motor to suit 20 units - \$500
- Complete 18 unit swingover milking plant. Electronic pulsation - \$2,000

Contact David: 0458 929 024

Prinetown area

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

Phone Martin on: 0419 885 172

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

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

Wesfalia combi (automatic calf feeding system)

Four stations, 2009 model, recently serviced.

Phone Scott: 0412 422 411

Grain Silo

- 1 x 60 Tonne Grain Silo second hand \$500.00 + GST

Contact Ricky Bruhn: 0417 893 688

Complete 50 Unit Rotary Dairy

- Yarroweyah Engineering Platform with Nylon Rollers
- Boumatic plant with automatic wash system
- Variable speed vacuum pump
- Flo-Tek CDA milk meters / cup removers
- Easy ID identification system including touch screen
- Barry Brown 30,000 litre Glycol cooled milk vat
- 3 Feed Tech feed heads
- 2000 litre stainless mains pressure hot water service
- 1000 litre heat reclamation unit

Call Kerry: 0418 688 560

Two Frigrite bulk milk tanks:

- 7,700 litre, \$11,000 plus GST
- 4,700 litre, \$4,000 plus GST

Contact Paul: 0417 348 944

POSITION WANTED:

Wanted position in SW Victoria dairy farming

- Wide experience across variety of positions, Good references

Contact Mick Buckley: 0407 732 796

110 Medium framed AI holsteins

Whole Herd for sale

- 1st -3rd calvers, 1/2 Herd has 48 years of AI, 500 plus kg/MS, Minimal Bale Feeding, Top 100 Cell Count 2018
- Ranked 62 BPI, Calving 1-5-19
- Latest BMCC 56,000
- 38 AI Holsteins 2 year olds
- In calf to Holstein, Calving 1-5-19

Genuine Reason for selling

Contact Carl Walder: 0400 419 838

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 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.