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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 Thermodurics, Bactoscan and inhibitory substances.

# NOVEMBER 2018 SOUTH WEST VIC & SA SUPPLIER NEWS

## Bulk Milk Cell Counts

Number	Supplier Name	Region	BMCC Average
1	D C Johnson Pty Ltd	Minhamite	34000
2	Peter & Joy O'Keeffe	Glenormiston	37000
2	Matt & Larissa Gardiner	Tyrendarra	37000
3	Powell Dairy Farms	Cooriemungle	39000
4	Ian & Colin Heatley, Rebecca Hodson	Nullawarre	40000
5	Carrakoorte North Pty Ltd	Grasmere	41000
6	The Claine Farm Trust	Ecklin South	42000
6	Andrew Buckley	Laang	42000
7	Cyril & Marjo Nijskens	Ecklin South	45000
7	Michael & Jill Mahony	Allansford	45000
8	Trevor & Carolyn Beasley	Port Fairy	46000
9	Mark & Karen Ryan	Toolong	47000
10	Bigdemah Trust (N & E Hayes)	Nullawarre	48000
10	Howard Partnership	Cobden	48000
11	Araluen Pastoral Holdings	Cobrico	49000
12	HW & BE Elliott	Willatook	51000
12	Ballangeich Run Pty Ltd	Ellerslie	51000
13	Carl Walder	Heathmere	52000
13	John & Jennifer Inglis	Cooriemungle	52000
13	Kangerton Farming Pty Ltd	Kangertong	52000
14	Bob & Sharron Atwell	Heywood	53000
15	PG & AC Parsons	Nirranda	55000
16	M & A Nolan	Scotsmans Lead	57000
16	K. Callow	Macarthur	57000
16	L & S Dunn	Glenfyne	57000

# Regional Field Services Round-up.

## Gippsland

Gippsland irrigators have commenced their silage harvest with reports of lower yields albeit with good quality. Most dryland farms to the south and west have managed one cut of silage and are commenting that cows have performed very well year to date. Hopes remain for November rains to at least deliver a hay yield and a possible spill in the Glenmaggie catchment.

## Northern Victoria

Conditions in Nth Vic/Riverina continue to tighten with water/feed inputs remaining unfavourably high. Summer cropping planning is well underway but with limited Millet and Sorghum stocks available to those who have not pre-ordered. Plentiful local hay supplies should provide some gains however the price differential between what growers want and dairy farmers are prepared to pay is significant. Milk production is ahead of same time last season on a per supplying farm basis.

## NSW/Sydney Region

NSW has experienced an improvement in seasonal conditions this month. Some suppliers are seeing the early signs of drought relief with many in the coastal areas baling silage. While this is a positive sign, the drought lingers across 98% of NSW. Feed prices are still prohibitive and hay supplies scarce. Saputo Feeds are working with suppliers to assist.

Milk production volume has lifted slightly and over 85% of milk is in the premium quality bands.

## South-west Victoria / SA

The silage harvest is now in full swing with the season being kind to most parts of the South West/South Australian collection region. Whilst our suppliers are making the most of home grown feed, now is the time to be calling our SDA feeds team and starting to get to know the hay and grain market before you make any commitments at the current high prices. Milk quality has been fantastic (>90% Premium) – keep an eye out for poor performing cows and keep staff vigilant with maintaining plant hygiene.

## Tasmania

The season in Tasmania has certainly improved over the last 3 weeks with good soaking rains across all our milk regions. The extra moisture has boosted growth rates as well as given silage and hay crops a lift. Quality remains high with average BMCC being 148,000 and very few Bacto issues. Milk volumes continue to climb with Octobers production 47% higher than last year, partly because of new suppliers and the balance from existing farms. Thanks to all those who attended supplier functions in October. They were well attended and well received.

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## Beat the heat: milk cooling and a not so 'cool' case study

Milk cooling is one of the most important aspects of food safety and product quality. Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) guidelines advise milk should be cooled on farm to 5°C within 3.5 hours from the start of milking.

Bacteria in milk grow rapidly at greater than 5°C producing spores, toxins and enzymes that can persist after pasteurisation has occurred. Milk collected soon after milking (to maximise transport efficiencies) may not yet be cooled to 5°C so Australian processors use an Early Milk Collection Index tool which considers the milk temperature, farm collection frequency and transport time/time in order to ensure milk is safe to collect.

### Not so 'cool' case study

Recently, a vat was unknowingly left off for the whole day on a farm in Gippsland. The milk was 21°C when the tanker arrived one hour after the end of afternoon milking. Even though the farm was on daily pickup and close to a factory, the Early Milk Collection Index tool indicated the bacterial load in the milk would be unacceptably high. The milk was rejected on-farm. A bactoscan was conducted on a sample of milk collected at the time of rejection revealing a count of 4.2 million bacteria/ml of milk, which was more than 100 times higher than the usual bactoscan result for this farm!

### What if the farmer had just turned the vat on and cooled it down?

This milk would have been harbouring significant numbers of spoilage bacteria. Pumping that milk (either warm or after

cooling) into an otherwise acceptable tanker would cause rapid deterioration of the entire load. This effect is exacerbated with long travel times.

Growth rates of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus cereus* bacteria form the basis of the Early Milk Collection Index tool collection decisions. These bacteria produce heat stable toxins and spores which can cause food poisoning even after pasteurisation! So if your milk is, or has been, hot – there are no ifs, buts or maybes – it's not safe to collect.

### Improving milk cooling

Milk cooling is a very high priority for Saputo.

- Always check your vat is turned on before you start milking and again before you leave the dairy.
- Check your milk has cooled to below 5°C within 90 minutes of the end of milking and that your vat thermometer matches that of the tanker at least once a month.
- Plate coolers should be cooling milk to within 2-3°C of the water source. Our FSOs have strip thermometers to test this.
- If you need to upgrade your cooling system, we have a series of financial assistance packages available. Your FSO can provide more information.

# Post Silage Fertiliser Application

## Know your pasture species

To determine the quality and quantity of subsequent silage cuts, you need to understand the seasonal growth habit and heading date of your pasture species. Investing in irrigation water and fertiliser for second cut silage or hay on short season varieties may be questionable so aim to maintain silage or hay quality, not quantity.

The key to maintaining quality is lock up time. Early (or first cut) silage or hay will have a longer lock up time to canopy closure than subsequent cuts. By understanding growth rates, you can organise your fodder conservation equipment or contractors and ensure timely silage or hay operations.

## Determining the best blend for your requirements

Nitrogen is the key driver in producing additional dry matter for fodder conservation. Typically, rates of Nitrogen (N) are 30-60kgN/ha however in the spring, N volatilization losses can be as high as 30% in paddocks exposed to high winds or where irrigation or rainfall (>6mm) does not occur within a couple of days.

To protect against losses, use Green Urea or Green Boosta blends. The Green treatment can also be used as a management tool where irrigation cannot be applied within the first 24-48 hours. As a general rule, for every t/DM removed, there is 25kg Nitrogen, 2kg Phosphorus (P), 25kg Potassium (K) and 2kg Sulphur (S). Consider your soil test information, subsequent fertiliser applications and previous silage cut to determine what ratio of N, P, K and S in your Boosta product should be used.

## Green Boosta blends

- > Pasture Blend (24-4-13-5) is a balanced N, P, K and S fertiliser that is ideal for pastures with a higher percentage of grass than clover.
- > Fodder Blend (12-7-20-4) is great for fodder crops and in situations where soil P and K levels need a boost.
- > Hay Blend (12-3-23-8) is a specially blended fertiliser for hay paddocks and pastures with a higher legume content. It is best applied when closing up paddocks to bulk up the pasture quickly and improve hay quality.
- > Urea (46-0-0-0) is the most cost-effective source of N where other macro nutrients are adequate to high, and mining of soil nutrient reserves of P, K and S is not a concern.

These fertilisers are all readily available from your MG Trading fertiliser depot where blends can also be manipulated to best suit your exact requirements upon request. Alternately, please speak to your local Field Service Manager.

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

## Summer feeding strategy

High grain, water and fodder prices will put real pressure on your profit margins this season. Planning your summer feeding program to get the best nutrient value will be critical.

Budgeting now and having a plan will help you prepare better for the tough choices you will have to make. Your plan will give you an indication of where you can reduce feed costs. Grain and fodder prices are extreme with, wheat \$470+, Cereal hay \$300-50, Canola hay \$280-330 and water \$380 + a mega litre. Given these high prices a summer ration for a herd averaging 25 litres/1.85 kg MS/cow could look like this:

At \$6.00 in feed costs to produce 25 litres at the above current prices, it would cost 0.24¢ to produce one litre of milk or \$3.24 to produce one kg MS.

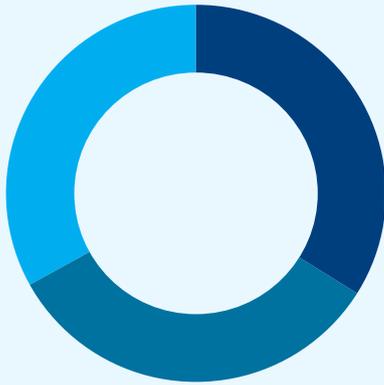
Doing a simple herd ration with your own feeds and costs will give you an indication of how your ration is stacking up. There are so many variables but focusing on using more home-grown feed and balancing the amount you purchase will be critical this year. All purchased feed should be scrutinised for quality prior to committing to minimise losses.

If you need help developing a plan or sourcing feed alternatives or pricing, please feel free to call Mark Brookes - Nutritionist SDA directly on **0447 500 450**.

### Herd requirements 25 litre (207MT, 18.8kg DM, 3.1kg CP)

Feed	Kg DM/cow	MJ/cow	CP/cow	\$/cow
Pasture	4	44	0.88	0.48
Wheat + additive	4	52	0.4	2.28
Canola hay	5	55	0.8	1.65
Pasture silage	3	27	0.48	0.6
Cereal hay	3	27	0.27	0.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>\$6.00</b>

# Antibiotic / Residue Investigation - October 2018



## Key Learnings

- > All fresh cows/heifers must be kept out of the vat for a minimum of 8 milkings after calving
- > Always check drug labels; off label use (e.g. increased treatment frequency or number of treatments) can significantly increase the risk of residues
- > Newly introduced cows should always be tested for antibiotic residues prior to entering the vat
- > Make checking the status of freshly calved cows easy by recording "date OK" next to dry cow treatments. If cows calve within their minimum dry period (MDP), withhold their milk from the vat until the minimum dry period has elapsed and her milk has tested negative for antibiotic residues at an MG site or using test kits available at MG Trading stores.
- > If cow(s) calve within minimum dry period, withhold from the vat until this period elapses and test for residues before returning to the vat

- 34% Cow calved early and still within minimum dry period
- 33% Purchased cows treated and still within WHP
- 33% Off-label use (extended course of treatment) of intra-mammary antibiotics

## Contacts

### Field Services

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

### Transport

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

### Feeds

SDA Feeds	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

#### 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.