



dairynews

ISSUE 24, AUTUMN / WINTER 2013

Coping with floods on the North Coast

Kerry Kempton, Technical Specialist Dairy Tocal

Whilst large parts of NSW are now facing very dry conditions and in desperate need of rain, the mid north and north coasts are recovering from another large flood event! Record rainfalls were received in many places, with parts of the catchments of the Manning, Hastings and Macleay rivers recording nearly 2000 mm of rain by the end of March. The irony is that these falls followed a near record dry spell through the period from June last year, with farmers thinking they were heading back into drought!

The 2013 floods have caused widespread damage to the landscape and to the dairy farm businesses in their path, and set back normal operations significantly. The floods place a huge amount of strain on the people involved, and it is certainly a testament to the strength and resilience of dairy farmers, that they continue to pick themselves up and carry on. I have spoken to a number of farmers who have been affected by the floods,

and decided to share a couple of features from one farmer.

Dale Dornan has seen plenty of floods during his lifetime of farming on the Macleay River plains near Kempsey. But over the last five years they have been a regular occurrence.

Dale Dornan's property cops the full brunt of the river when it breaks over the bank just east of town, and almost his entire farm goes under water for the duration of the flood.

Dale has a small area of higher ground where the dairy and house and sheds are built, where he can maintain and feed his herd of Jersey cows and fortunately can keep milking. The photo below shows his cows looking out over the lake that should be the green lush pasture they would normally be heading out to graze after milking.

Continued Page 3...



CONTENTS

COPING WITH FLOODS ON THE NORTH COAST	1
RYEGRASS ESTABLISHMENT - THE KEYS TO SUCCESS	3 -
BJD CHECK TESTING REMINDER	7
GETTING THE ROTATION RIGHT	8
WHY DO FARMERS WANT TO DEEP RIP	10
NVD FORMS - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	12
WHAT'S THE LATEST IN GENETICS & BREEDING	13
KIAMA TO HOST DAIRY SYMPOSIUM	14
FRESH APPROACH TO DAIRY NSW	15

EDITORIAL



Tim Burfitt

Manager, Dairy &
Intensive Livestock,
Orange

Dear loyal readers,

Kerry Kempton has passed the editor's pen to me for one edition as we are now up to issue 24 of Dairy News, Autumn 2013. This marks 6 years that Dairy News has been delivered to dairy farmers across NSW and we plan to continue for another 6 years and more.

Our summer edition on page 3 outlined the changes that will occur for the dairy industry group that sits within NSW DPI as we now move to a research and development function with direct farmer contact and servicing to be the responsibility of the Local Land Services.

So what has happened to the DPI dairy staff you have come to know as a result of these changes. Three of the four staff are assessing options based upon many interviews they have undertaken with no firm decisions made yet. The next edition will advise where staff have gone and what their various roles will be as all new appointments within the new DPI have to be in place by 1 July 2013.

Ms Vicki Timbs, Livestock Officer Dairy based at Berry NSW has however elected to leave the Department where she has worked for over 10 years. Vicki is well known for her knowledge and

experience in herd fertility and cow management. Vicki has been encouraged to continue as a resource for the dairy industry in this important area, that is when she is not showing her Ayrshire cattle and winning at dairy events across the nation.

As a final mark of respect to the NSW dairy industry four members of the NSW DPI dairy industry group formed themselves into a mobile task force in March 2013 and serviced through farm walks and numerous farm visits the flood affected areas of the NSW mid and far north coast.

The best assessment of their value to the farmers was summed up in the following farmer quote after Livestock Officer Dairy Deniliquin, Brett Davidson had entered into a long discussion about nutrition, diet composition and profitable feeding *"you did not just teach me to fish you gave me a rod with a baited hook"*.

Other changes that will support and continue to grow the servicing of our NSW dairy industry is the formation of the skills based Board for Dairy NSW that is outlined in this edition. The depth of knowledge and experience amongst the board members can only bring significant value to the Dairy NSW region in NSW. The diverse NSW dairy industry will now find itself serviced by the boards and executives of three outstanding Regional Development Programs.

Sadly the days of our Dairy Connect calendar of dairy events will shortly come to a close as actions are in place to transfer the mechanics of the website to Dairy NSW for incorporation into their calendar.

Dairy Australia has also expressed an interest in putting the system out to the Australian dairy industry given its ability to inform farmers of coming events via email. I am sure the whole of the NSW industry will extend a vote of thanks to the members of the DPI Dairy Industry group for formulating, developing and implementing this service, and to Gaylene Marquet for her vital administration and maintenance role.

Dairy Connect, and NSW DPI's ownership of the name will also soon cease as DPI have offered to transfer this trademarked name to Dairy Connect Ltd. When this does occur the website will cease to function and confusion over names will then be drawn to a close.

...Continued from Page 1

The recent construction of a bypass around the town of Kempsey has changed the way that flood water travels across the flood plain, affecting several farmers in the area. Some farmers have been assisted to construct flood mounds, where stock can be held and fed until the flood waters subside. These mounds have greatly reduced the risk of stock losses during floods, and are becoming a more common strategy for flood preparedness. They allow stock to be quickly moved to the higher ground, have good access for bringing in feed, and a water trough in the corner for fresh drinking water.



Above: Flood mound on the Dornan farm

It can be very difficult and dangerous to get around flood affected paddocks. After the 2009 flood, Dale decided he needed a better and safer vehicle than his regular quad bike to be able to move stock and get around the farm during wet periods and floods. He came across the 6 wheeler amphibious ATV and decided it would be the ideal vehicle for his situation.



Quote from Dale "The vehicle has an enclosed engine and drivetrain, sealed bearings, low footprint so can traverse waterways and flooded paddocks. It is economical to run and extremely manoeuvrable - I wouldn't be without it."

Rye grass establishment – the keys to success -

Brett Davidson

Livestock Officer Dairy, Deniliquin

Most dairy farmers in NSW grow annual ryegrass and rely on these pastures to provide the bulk of their fodder production during the year. Establishing ryegrass in autumn is a significant cost, so success or failure at this crucial stage affects profits over the rest of the year. It is widely accepted that improving pasture consumption is the most reliable way to increase farm operating efficiency and profits. Yet farm analysis shows a large variation in the tonnes of pasture harvested per hectare across farms. Poor establishment is one of the factors that lower pasture harvest over the season.

A group of farmers in the Riverina have been working together with the DPI to investigate why some of their pastures perform well, but some fail to perform and are much less productive over the season. The group used the Ryegrass Check program, developed by DPI staff, to record their pasture establishment practices, then to monitor how well the targeted paddocks performed, and to identify what worked and what didn't. This is what was found out after running the program across the last two autumn sowing periods.

FACTORS AFFECTING PASTURE PERFORMANCE

There are numerous factors that could affect pasture establishment and subsequent growth and performance. Listed below are the common reasons for underperforming pastures that were identified through the Ryegrass Check project.

1. Sowing date

It can be very tempting to start sowing early, especially if you receive a good fall of rain in February or early March and the weather is fairly mild. But the reality is that early sowing greatly increases your risk of failing to achieve good plant densities and pasture yield. If you do

sow early, you need to be prepared to re-sow or have a plan B.

2. Soil temperature at sowing

This is one of the most critical aspects of pasture establishment, and ideally it should be between 20 - 25°C. A good rule of thumb is air temperature over 5 days with a maximum of 25°C or less. Hot conditions can reduce germination down to 10% and young seedlings are very vulnerable when it is hot and dry.

3. Plant densities

A good sowing and germination will produce approximately 600 ryegrass plants /m². Below this level and your pastures will not perform at the top level. To test your plant densities, get a piece of 10cm x 10cm reinforcing mesh, and count how many plants appear in each square. Throw the mesh around the paddock a few times to get a representative sample of the paddock (about 6-10 times). Given that your mesh counting guide needs to be multiplied by 10 to get the plant samples per sq metre it is easy to calculate the average.

4. Water

Achieving optimum soil moisture levels has been pretty difficult in many areas over the last 12 months, it has seemed to be either too wet or too dry. Flooding in the Riverina and other parts of NSW in late February 2012 delayed sowing and impacted on plant performance; and this has been repeated this year in many coastal areas of the state. After the rain stopped and farms dried out in our region, most farmers were reluctant to irrigate again before winter, in case more rain fell and paddocks became too wet. This thinking had the opposite effect, and led to many pastures drying out too much which restricted pasture establishment and growth.

5. Seed-soil contact

It is very important to get good seed to soil contact, but sowing too deep will have an impact on germination. The rule of thumb is for ryegrass to be sown only 5-10mm deep. Sowing seed too deep is often a cause of poor plant densities. One of the farmers in the group had only half the recommended plant densities in one paddock. Investigation revealed that he had been in a hurry to get the last paddock sown, and in his haste he "just dropped the hydraulics and kept going". The seed ended up at 30mm depth and struggled to germinate.

6. Pest control

Pests can have a big impact on plant establishment especially when paddocks are left dry sown for too long before germination. One paddock in the trial that had previously been flooded had half the plant densities at the top compared to the bottom. With the flooding you would expect the bottom to be the poor performer, but all the crickets had moved to the top of the bay and because of their concentration reduced plant densities by half. This was missed in pre sowing paddock inspection. Baiting could have reduced the impact.

Red legged earth mites can also have an impact on ryegrass but are more detrimental to legumes. Other pests can include slugs and snails, cockchafers and beetle larvae, armyworms and locusts.

7. First grazing

Quite often all the good work in establishing ryegrass can be undone by grazing too early and cows will pull out the young plants, so try the "pull test" before letting the cows in. If you can pull the plants out before first grazing so will the cows. Also avoid over grazing the young pasture at first grazing, as it will be slow to recover. Ideally first grazing should be at the 3 leaf stage and leave a 5cm high stubble.

All the farmers in the group were grazing at the 2.5 to 3 leaf stage, to achieve optimum plant growth between grazings. An exception was one farmer who had a fertiliser truck coming

and so grazed a paddock early. He found that this set the paddock back by overgrazing and reduced the amount of pasture available next grazing.

Setting the grazing residual at first grazing can be very difficult. Cows just love new fresh pasture and are not at all concerned with residuals. Strategies for the first grazing can include on/off grazing; opening up allocated area to reduce grazing pressure; and feeding the cows some hay or silage before they graze.

THINGS THAT WERE NOT AN ISSUE LAST SEASON

Plant variety - When comparing annuals to annuals and perennials to perennials in grazing situations we really did not see a difference between varieties

Type of machine use at sowing, row spacing and paddock preparation,

As long as sowing depth is correct and there is good seed soil contact, good results will follow. In some situations wide row spacing or poor paddock preparation will affect establishment.

Fertiliser – all the farmers in the group understood their soil fertility and plant requirements very well, so we did not see any nutrient deficiencies and subsequent poor performance.

Soil type – ryegrass is tolerant of a range of soils, and good management is far more important than soil type.

Weed control - All the pastures in the trial had very low weed competition due to use of herbicides pre-sowing, and good weed management all year to prevent weed seed build up.

Sowing rates – Economic analysis has shown a benefit at the first grazing from lifting ryegrass sowing rates to 30 kg/ha. All farms in the trial were sowing at 25kg/ha and had sufficient plant numbers in paddocks.

Risk Management – A couple of farmers in the group have taken the risk this year with early sowing, and sowed paddocks in late February. They believed they needed the early feed, and with hay and grain prices high and low stock prices they took their chances.

Plan B is to re-sow with a cereal and use the paddock for hay if the ryegrass does not establish as planned. They have weighed up the risk and have a back-up plan. Hindsight will tell on how smart sowing early is, but with soil temperatures higher than average, the risk of poor performing pastures or failure is higher than normal.

STOP PRESS! Early sowing was a bad decision. Germination was poor, and the hot weather that returned burned off the new seedlings. Plant densities ranged from 0 to 50%, or from 0 to 300 plants per square metre. So, these farmers have used 2 extra waterings and will now have to re-sow, compared to those who waited another 2-3 weeks before sowing. They are no better off with feed supply, and have spent much more money to achieve a well established sward of grass.

By having paddocks not performing at their best, pasture consumption is down and the cost of the relatively cheap feed (pasture) becomes more expensive. A decrease of 4 t/DM/ha is equivalent to an extra \$1,000/ha of purchased feed that will have to be bought in. If your farm is 80 ha that is an extra \$80,000 on current feed costs.

Take home messages from the Ryegrass Check group

- The best paddocks had all the management issues right.
- Small mistakes were costly resulting in paddocks with half the plants required for a productive pasture.
- None of the badly flooded paddocks achieved a highly successful establishment, most were only average at best.
- If you take the risk of sowing early and chasing the mythical early feed, you run the risk of crashing with underperforming pastures and higher bought-in feed costs.
- Ryegrass Check has proved to be a useful tool to make informed pasture management decisions.

I certainly rate the farmers in the trial as excellent farmers and thank them for being involved and for showing me their poorer performing paddocks.

Each season presents its own challenges with most farms in the trial suffering some problems depending on the degree of flooding.

Your management will have a big impact on how your paddocks perform. By making the right decisions about the key factors mentioned above, and also paying attention to the small details, you can increase the amount of home grown feed and reduce your feed costs.



A well established ryegrass paddock.

BJD check testing reminder – Attention all dairy farmers

In order to retain a Dairy Assurance Score (DAS) of 7, it is necessary to check test your herd every 12 months. Unfortunately, we are finding it increasingly common for dairy farmers to declare a DAS of 7 for cattle offered for sale at saleyards when they have not check-tested their herds in the previous 12 months, or even in the preceding 24 or 36 months.

Dairy farmers are reminded of the terms of the declaration they are signing when providing a Dairy BJD Assurance declaration Form:

DECLARATION

Iof.....

Date.....

am the person with day to day responsibility for managing the dairy cattle herd described above and

I declare that the information on this form is correct and I attest that I have documentary evidence to substantiate this declaration

.....

Signature

Please Note: Making a false or misleading declaration may make the signatory liable to prosecution and/or civil action under the Trade Practices Act 1974 and relevant State legislation.

According to the terms of the National Johnes Disease Program, a dairy herd with a DAS of 7 retains its DAS of 7 while awaiting check-test results from the laboratory*, as long as the check-test occurs within 12 months of the previous check-test. If more than 12 months is allowed to pass between check-tests, the herd's BJD status reverts to Non-Assessed, and the DAS drops to 0.

It is now easier and cheaper to undertake a check-test. While the blood test of 50 cows older than 2 years is still available as a BJD check test, a mixed manure sample collected from the dairy yard is now also an option. This manure test is called a 'Herd Environmental Culture' (HEC).

It takes 5 minutes to collect the manure sample for the HEC from the dairy yard, and it removes the need to hold cows after milking for blood sampling. The HEC takes 12 weeks to deliver a result, but as long as the sampling has occurred within 12 months of the previous check test, the DAS of the herd remains at 7 while you wait for those results to arrive.

* presuming there is no reason to suspect BJD infection in the herd

Getting the rotation right- for parasite control!

Julie Dart

Dairy Livestock Officer, North Coast

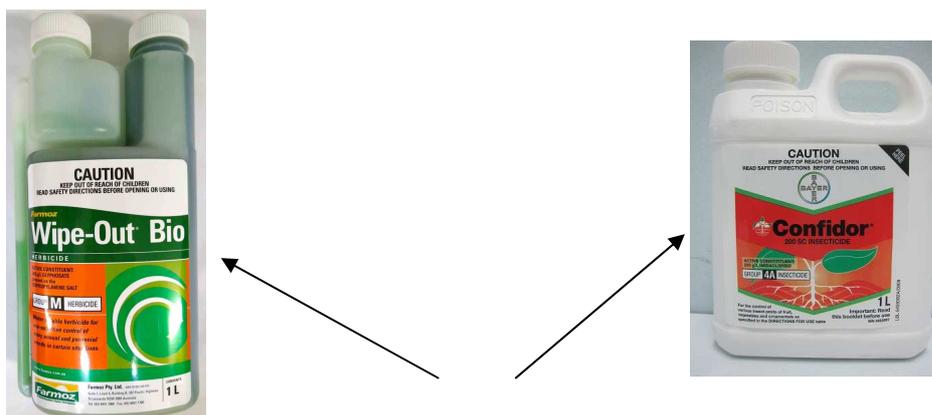
Dr Diane Ryan

Regional Veterinary Officer, EMAI

Recently two dairy discussion groups on the Far North Coast of NSW got together to hear from a rep and vet from Pfizer talk about correct vaccination technique, and the discussion later turned to managing worms.

It soon became apparent that most of the farmers thought they were doing the right thing by changing the worm control products regularly. However, whilst different pack names and active ingredients were purchased, the **mode of action group** was often not changed.

In Australia most crop insecticides, fungicides and herbicides have either a letter or number code on the front panel that indicates the mode of action group to allow easy selection of a truly different chemical to manage chemical resistance.



Mode of action group

For some reason, most products used to control internal parasites in livestock **do not have this code**. This makes it difficult to easily choose a different group.

There are three main chemical groups that worming products fall under that can be used on dairy cattle. These are the Macrocylic Lactones (ML) "Mectins", Benzimidazoles (BZ) "White Drenches" and Levamisole (LV) "Clear Drenches".

The following table shows the three mode of action groups, active ingredient and example trade names of worming products often used on cattle. Not all available products are listed. There are always new products and generics entering the market.

There are also several combination products that contain active ingredients from two or more mode of action groups, some which also control flukes. These are not included. Products requiring veterinary prescription are not included.

Chemical Group	Active ingredient	Example trade/brand name examples
Macrocyclic Lactones (ML) or "Mectins"	Doramectin	Dectomax
	Moxidectin	Cydectin, Cattleguard, Centurion, Moximax, Topdeck
	Ivermectin	Baymec, Cattlemax, Genesis, Ivomec, Paramax, Topshot, Virbamec,
	Eprinomectin	Epricare, Ivomec Eprinex
	Abamectin	Avomec, Endomec, Paramectin, Verbamec, Vetmec
Benzimidazoles (BZ) or "White drenches"	Fenbendazole	Panacur
	Oxfendazole	Systemex
	Albendazole- NOT FOR USE IN DAIRY CATTLE	
Levamisole (LEV) or "Clear Drenches"	Levamisole	Bomatak, Levimax, Kilverm, Nilverm, Rycazole,

WHICH ONE DO I CHOOSE?

It's important to choose the best product for the job, based on the susceptibility of the worms present. Be proactive – don't wait till the drench appears to be failing and cattle begin to suffer. Farmers should schedule testing via wormtest or drenchtest at least once a year to make sure the drenching program is on track.

For year round calving herds, calves will be born all year so there will be a variety of growing stock on the property at any one time. This will require more frequent testing. It's not the same as sheep or beef cattle where there are defined lambing/calving periods.

Consult your vet if a worming product doesn't seem to work. Check that products are applied correctly and the correct dose is given according to bodyweight. Using scales is the best practice as weight tapes can stretch and are unreliable on adult stock. Rotate to another suitable chemical group if resistance is identified via testing.

Talk to your vet about how you can monitor worm burden and test for chemical resistance if your current worm control program appears to be less effective over time.

READ IT AND GET IT RIGHT- IT'S THE LAW!

Other resistance management strategies such as pasture rotation, grazing resistant animals and only regularly drenching susceptible animals (such as calves) are important. Worm control can be complicated when macrocyclic lactones (ML) products are regularly used to control buffalo flies and cattle ticks in the northern regions. Management of Johnes disease may limit the paddock rotation options for worm control in calves, as calf paddocks must be separate and dedicated only to calves, to avoid contact with dairy effluent and adult faeces.

TREATING LACTATING CATTLE:

It is best to treat in small groups rather than all at once, especially if a product with nil milk withholding period is used.

These products rely on dilution to achieve target residue levels with the assumption that not all cattle will be treated at the same time. The best time to treat is at drying off. Some products will result in positive Delvo test, with farmers and vets scratching their heads about where the 'antibiotics' came from. Fasinex (shouldn't be used in lactating cattle) and levamisole can cause this.

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL IN FULL before each use!

- Not all active constituents or their formulations (injection, oral drench & pour-on) are suitable for all classes of stock. Some are not to be used on lactating or heavily pregnant stock, some are unsuitable for young calves.
- If a treated animal is sent to slaughter, meat withholding periods and Export Slaughter Intervals apply and must be observed. These may have changed since the label was printed, so seek advice!
- Sometimes the instructions for use, rate or withholding period of agricultural chemicals can change on an “old faithful” as chemical use patterns are regularly reviewed.

It's a good idea to read the label fully before you leave the shop, just in case your choice it isn't quite right. It's often a long drive back to town to swap it, and it's too late once you crack the seal!

A more in depth article on managing worms can be found here. It was written for the beef industry, but similar principles apply to dairy cattle.

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/health/specific/cattle/cattle-worm-control>

Acknowledgement: Thanks also to Lee Taylor (Pfizer) for technical advice on this article.

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this article is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (December 2012). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW DPI or the user's independent advisor. Inclusion of an advertisement or sponsor's symbol in this publication does not necessarily imply endorsement of the product or sponsor by NSW DPI.

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

Users of agricultural chemical products must always read the label and any Permit, before using the product, and strictly comply with the directions on the label and the conditions of any permit. Users are not absolved from compliance with the directions on the label or the conditions of the Permit by reason of any statement made or omitted to be made in this publication.

All chemical advice from NSW DPI is given on the basis that the applicator has a current chemical user's certificate of AQF3 level or higher in accordance with NSW state legislation.

Why do farmers want to deep rip?

Carol Rose, Agronomist

NSW DPI, Kempsey.

Farmers deep rip for 2 main reasons :

- 1) - remove compaction and
- 2) - break up clay layers that have greater bulk density than the top soil and act like a compacted layer.

The density of the compacted or clay layers limits root, air and moisture infiltration; the impact of this is more significant in a dry season. If nutrient and water supply are adequate for plant growth, plants are able to compensate for the lack of rooting depth by producing more roots in the surface layer above the compaction.

Deep ripping when done at the right soil moisture level and depth, fractures this layer increasing root, air and moisture infiltration.

Whether it is worthwhile to deep rip depends on the cost, how long the effect lasts and the damage caused to the existing pasture.

Deep ripping is an expensive operation due to the power (diesel and tractor size) required to pull a deep ripper through dense soils at depth.

How long the effect lasts depends on the soil chemistry, plants growing in the soil and how you treat the paddock after ripping. If the soil collapses back to its original state or if it is re-compacted, the positive effects are very short term. To avoid the soil becoming compacted again you need to manage traffic to stop access by stock and machinery on the soil when it is too wet.

Long term the soil needs organic carbon to help build and maintain structure, and the best source at depth is the plant roots themselves. If there is another limiting factor in the soil (e.g. high aluminium) then root growth may be limited. Sodic soils (high in sodium) may also affect your decision to deep rip, as they are prone to slaking which leads to soil collapse when wet. With sodic subsoils you can quickly return to what was there before. There is a further risk that the extra infiltration due the ripping can accelerate the erosion of this layer leading to gully formation. In some cases high rates of gypsum can be used to address sodic soils.

Damage to the pasture is done when the soil is ripped as the fracturing also damages root systems. This can be seen in a paddock as yellow or stunted pasture along the rip lines. The affect is worse in dry years. The fracturing also leads to raised soil along the rip line that can leave a distinct hump for years after deep ripping. This can interfere with other farm operations like mulching and baling of fodder.

BIOLOGICAL RIPPING

Biological ripping is the process where deep rooted plants are used to penetrate clay soils, dry them out which leads to the clay to crack. This acts as the fracturing agent. This only works in clay soils. If a soil is too compacted or naturally dense, even plants with strong root systems will not be able to break it up, growing sideways instead. When dense soils are moist they are easier to penetrate, and roots can grow sideways and then downwards during a wet period. However if it is waterlogged, the lack of air stops root growth.

BIOLOGICAL REPAIR

Biological repair uses the pasture's root systems to improve the structure of the dense layer. Tap rooted plants are better at penetrating dense soil but fibrous root systems are better at introducing extra carbon to a soil. When the roots die they leave channels for water and further root infiltration.

To use plants for biological repair you need to address the soil factors that have limited plant growth in the past, including pH, Aluminium and nutrient deficiencies. Some soils may be so compacted that they grow plants that are

adapted to shallow root depth including couch and elastic grass.

Organic matter is important for good soil structure, so increasing it by using products with high organic matter, such as poultry manure and composts can help with the biological repair. Any product that increases pasture growth also increases root growth and usually lifts soil organic matter content. Alternatively, tillage or high nitrogen products can lead to increased rates of break down and mineralization of organic matter. This can be good for nutrient availability, but (especially tillage) lowers soil organic carbon. This is one of the contributing factors to cropping paddocks having hard soils.

Biological repair can be a slow process and so there may be pasture yield penalties in the shorter term. The repair is generally faster in wet (but not waterlogged) years, as pastures grow better and moist dense soils are easier for roots to penetrate. Assessment of the chances of success of biological repair (level of compaction, species and fertility issues) should be made to fit biological repair into your pasture planning.

SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO DEEP RIP, SO WHAT NEXT

Before you deep rip, you should check that you have compaction, your soil is not sodic, you have the equipment or contractor that can do the job and biological repair is not going to work on its own, or in your time frame.

Deep ripping provides quick results, but is an expensive operation. The initial success of the operation depends on the moisture content of the soil and the depth of tillage.

Soil moisture is important when working a soil. A soil (particularly clays) when worked wet will smear and compact, while a silty or fine-sandy soil that is worked too dry may powder; both circumstances destroy soil structure. Ideally you should aim to have a soil that is dry enough to shatter, but not too dry that it goes to powder.

Caution: remember to check the soil moisture below the compacted layer. If the soil is wet you could create further compaction!

Depth of tillage is also important. The ripper tine should be worked just below the compacted layer to be effective. If you do not have a good idea of the depth and thickness of the compaction, ripping could be an ineffective and costly operation. -

NVD forms – Additional information

Joanna Blunden

Livestock Officer, Tocal

You may have been completing National Vendor Declarations (NVD) for years without ever having written anything in the space allocated for question 9 “Additional Information”. But changes to market requirements mean that many producers will now need to make a declaration in this section.

On an NVD **Question 9 Additional Information** is used to provide other information on chemical use, animal health status, or commercial matters that are not covered specifically on the NVD form, including specific market eligibility. Below are some statements that may be relevant to your cattle and could therefore be written on the NVD under question 9.

RUSSIAN ELIGIBLE

Producers must now declare the status of their livestock against the Provisional Russian Export Slaughter Interval (ESI) by completing the LPA NVD/Waybill under question 9.

Where ‘Russian Eligible’ is written on the LPA NVD/Waybill for cattle, it means that the livestock have not been injected with or ingested feed products containing oxytetracycline and chlortetracycline in the last 90 days. This means,

1. - products or feed containing oxytetracycline or chlortetracycline are not administered to your cattle or
2. - cattle may have been treated with one of these products but comply with the 90-day ESI.

For a list of prescribed products containing oxytetracycline or chlortetracycline go to www.safemeat.com.au or contact your veterinarian.

SAUDI ELIGIBLE

Animals are Saudi Eligible if they have never in their lives been fed feed containing animal fats. While feeding of animal materials to ruminants is prohibited in Australia feeding animal fat (ie tallow) is exempt. It is therefore possible that tallow can be present in supplementary feed materials.

However, some overseas customers also require beef and offal to be sourced from cattle that have never in their lives been fed animal fat such as tallow.

To ensure that you can accurately complete the section on the NVD regarding Saudi eligibility you need to keep the NVD’s for purchased cattle and read the labels of supplementary feed stuffs.

If you use NVD forms produced after 2009 **question two** refers to animal fats. “Have these animals ever in their lives been fed feed containing animal fats?” If the answer is no then Saudi requirements have been fulfilled.

On older versions of NVD’s question two will not refer to animal fats. In this case, if your cattle meet the requirements for supply to the Saudi market write the words “Saudi Eligible” in the space allocated under question nine.

SIRE:ANGUS DAM:ANGUS

Wingham Beef Exports currently accepts the statement “SIRE:Angus DAM: Angus” under question 9 of the NVD as the producers declaration of eligibility for a premium price for Angus cattle. Under the terms set by the processor cattle must be 100% Angus, including displaying physical appearance or character of this breed, such as external colour and other characteristics. Other conditions apply regarding access to this premium and producers should contact the processor for more information.

This is an example where additional information is supplied on the NVD to support a commercial arrangement between to buyer and seller.

THE BOTTOM LINE

An NVD waybill is a legal document and the accuracy of information you provide is important for market access. Explanatory Notes for completing NVD’s is provided in the front of your NVD book. Check current information regarding completing NVD’s at www.mla.com.au

- NVD s are a legal document . Ensure all statements are accurate.
- Keep accurate records so you can back up any statements and declarations made on the NVD.
- The manager of the cattle must fill in the document not a third party.
- It is necessary to put all your details in the NVD and answer all nine questions..

What's the latest in Genetics and Breeding

Vicki Timbs

Livestock Officer Dairy Berry

It is an old adage in any business that if you are not improving your productivity each year you risk being left behind your competitors.

The Australian dairy industry has had steady productivity gains of around 1.6% per year, which is fairly typical for agricultural commodities. That means each year farmers are managing to produce more outputs for the same amount of inputs.

Improvements in the genetics and breeding of our dairy cattle has played a significant part in this improvement, and there are some recent advances in technology that will help farmers continue to improve what they do.

GENOMICS BUILDS A BIGGER PICTURE

A quantum leap has been mapping of the bovine genome, leading to the identification of which genes are responsible for the desirable traits of dairy cattle, such as production and type.

Potential AI sires can be gene - screened at a young age using a hair sample, and their breeding worth estimated. So rather than wait up to five or six years to measure a bull's breeding value from the performance of enough of his daughters milking in herds, this genomic assessment combined with the average performance of his parents, means young sires are being used at the farm level earlier.

Also young bulls can be screened out and only those showing the most potential need be kept in AI centres.

A new Fertility Australian Breeding Value (ABV) has been released by the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme (ADHIS) in April with the latest bull proof update. <http://www.adhis.com.au/>

The new Fertility ABV is now more reliable and robust than before, because it uses more types of information on fertility than before. This includes calving interval, lactation length, days to first mating, first service non-return and pregnancy rate.

So there are now many more bulls to choose from with fertility ABV's, and the ABV's for fertility are more reliable than before.

Gene marker technology opens the doors to assessing the impact on performance of chunks of DNA known as Haplotypes, some of which have a positive effect while others negative.

The Dairy Futures CRC research has identified Haplotypes affecting fertility and causing early embryonic death and failed conception in the Holstein breed.

Genetic screening technology will help to screen which bulls are carriers and reduce embryo loss as a result.

Feed conversion efficiency – Australian and NZ researchers along with ADHIS are working on the development of a breeding value for feed conversion efficiency. This will provide farmers with a selection criteria for bulls, ranked on how well their daughters convert feed to milk.

Trials have shown that those heifers who are highly efficient at converting feed into liveweight growth, go on to be cows who are highly efficient at converting feed into milk. So the heifers that grow bigger and faster than

their peers turn into the cows that produce more milk.

HERD TESTING – PROVIDING BETTER INFORMATION

Technological advances in the use of milk for additional tests through herd testing, and better use of the information collected each month, means farmers who herd record can really increase the value on herd testing.

- Take a snap shot of the current genetic merit of your herd with the ADHIS Genetic Progress Report. This will give you a picture of the effectiveness of your bull choices on the herd performance and the gains in genetic merit over the last 10 years. The report gives a within-breed analysis and ranks the impact of the genetic gain on profit, production, type, longevity, fertility and mastitis resistance, and compares your herd with the top 10%. Reports will be easily accessed through your herd test centre .
- Already you will have seen reports on metabolic disorders such acidosis and ketosis for your herd, based on milk composition.
- Under development are indicators for Bovine Johne's Disease, Salmonella, and Pestivirus (BVDV). Perhaps the most useful for farmers is the development of a milk pregnancy test sensitive from 35 days post mating.

The next advances in the genetics technology frontier are likely to involve research in genomics aiming to lift immunity, fertility, feed conversion efficiency & methane production, through gene marker technology and genomic sequencing.

Researchers and breeding companies are working towards breeding a cow "fit for purpose", to provide farmers with more breeding choices when it comes to sire selection.

There are exciting times in the genetics and breeding, herd performance assessment and recording arenas – watch this space!

KIAMA TO HOST DAIRY SYMPOSIUM

The Dairy Research Foundation's annual symposium will be held at Kiama, on 4-5 July 2013, following the Dairy NSW industry meetings on July 3.

Joe Delves, a third generation dairy farmer from the UK will speak to the Dairy Research Foundation's annual symposium about his experiences in supplying milk direct to the UK's largest supermarket, Tesco.

Organising committee chair, Associate Professor Kendra Kerrisk, said the symposium theme was 'Taking control,' which included a number of speakers who will talk about constructive approaches to the milk price.

"Direct supply to supermarkets is a hot topic after Woolworth's announcement in March of new direct supply arrangements with a group of farmers in mid-north Coast of NSW," she said.

"There is a lot of interest in the way direct supply models work. Symposium delegates will be able to hear about them first hand through Joe's talk," said Dr Kerrisk.

Five years ago, Mr Delves successfully negotiated a direct supply contract with Tesco, in a deal that involves submitting figures to Tesco so that he is paid the cost of production plus price. This price has been 10% above the average UK milk price.

Of the 700 dairy farmers supplying Tesco, 400 submit their costings to an independent consultant. Their data is pooled to calculate the cost of production figures which influence the price they are paid. He said the direct supply pool was a great way to build relationships.

Diary date: Dairy Research Foundation Annual Symposium, Kiama, NSW 4-5 July 2013.

To find out more about taking control of your dairy business, register for the Dairy Research Foundation's 2013 symposium.

**Contact Esther Price Promotions,
esther@estherprice.com.au or 1800 177 636.**



Fresh approach for Dairy NSW

Dairy NSW has appointed a new board to help deliver better services to farmers. The new board members bring extensive experience from across the dairy industry and join reappointed board members, Michael Perich, Simone Jolliffe and Michelle Blakeney.

Interim chair Michael Perich was reappointed to the board at a recent Extraordinary General Meeting and is looking forward to working with the new board appointees.

"The new board members have a fantastic range of experience in all aspects of the dairy industry as well as other business areas," Michael said. "Their skills will complement the expertise and knowledge of the re-elected members."

Joining the re-elected board members will be:

- **Ken Baxter** – Ken previously held the role of Chairman on the Australian Dairy Research and Development Corporation and Australian Dairy Corporation and has held a range of senior positions external to the dairy industry.
- **Delia Dray** – A previous director of Dairy NSW (2007-2010), Delia is the Director of Livestock Systems with DPI NSW and has over 25 years of RD&E experience.

- **Ken Garner** – Working at Bega Cheese for over 13 years, Ken is a member of the Dairy Research Foundation, Far South Coast Dairy Development Group and is a ministerial appointee of the NSW Dairy Industry Conference.
- **Dr Ian Lean** - Ian is an internationally recognised researcher and consultant with over 30 years experience in dairy production in Australia, USA, New Zealand and South America.
- **Sue McGinn OAM** – A Nuffield Scholar, mid-north coast dairy farmer and stud Holstein breeder, Sue recently received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the dairy industry and as a role model to rural women.

The new skills-based board structure is the result of recommendations made by a Dairy Australia and DPI NSW commissioned review of extension services across New South Wales. The changes were made to deliver better services to farmers. The new Dairy NSW board now consists of four farmer directors and four special skills directors. The Chair and Deputy Chair will be appointed at the next board meeting.

Dairy NSW is one of eight Regional Development Programs (RDP) funded by Dairy Australia and the dairy service levy. Dairy NSW addresses regionally specific research, development and extension needs through its linkages with dairy farmers' local knowledge and skills. It is not a lobby organisation, but works closely with the representative side of the dairy industry in NSW currently represented by NSW Farmers' Association Dairy Section and Dairy Connect Ltd NSW.

For more information on the skills of the new board, as well as other local levy investments, visit www.dairynsw.com.au.

For a full list of coming events across the NSW dairy industry, visit NSW DPI's Dairy Connect website and register to receive fortnightly updates.

Or call the Coordinator to arrange to have the coming events faxed to you. -

Gaylene Marquet | Dairy Connect Coordinator | -
Primary Industries NSW | Tocal Agricultural Centre | Paterson NSW 2421 -
T: 02 4939 8992 | **F:** 02 4939 8950 | **E:** gaylene.marquet@industry.nsw.gov.au -
W: www.dairyconnect.com.au | www.dpi.nsw.gov.au | -



NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES – CONTACT DETAILS -

BEGA	Ph: (02) 6491 7802	TAREE	Ph: (02) 6592 0304
Hayden Kingston — District Agronomist	0427 401 532	Ray Johnston – Livestock Officer Dairy	0411 119 613
		Peter Beale – District Agronomist	0427 007 468
BERRY	Ph: (02) 4464 6005	SCONE	Ph: (02) 6544 4905
Amanda Britton – District Agronomist	0427 102 793	Sheena Carter – Livestock Officer Dairy	0427 102 798
COFFS HARBOUR	Ph (02) 66503132	TOTAL	Ph: (02) 4939 8940
Julie Dart – Livestock Officer – Dairy	0427 007501	Kerry Kempton – Technical Specialist Dairy	0427 114 602
DENILIQUIN	Ph (03) 58819922	Neil Griffiths – District Agronomist	0427 007 425
Brett Davidson – Livestock Officer Dairy	0418815490	ORANGE	Ph: (02) 6391 3729
KEMPSEY	Ph: (02) 6563 6800	Tim Burfitt – Manager Intensive Livestock Industry Development	0427 401 552
Carol Rose – District Agronomist	0427 001 903		

Dairy News is a newsletter for dairy farmers throughout NSW.

Editor: Kerry Kempton -

Phone 02 4939 8945

Technical Specialist - Dairy

Fax 02 4939 8950

Tocal College, Paterson NSW 2421

Email: kerry.kempton@dpi.nsw.gov.au

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/periodicals/newsletters/dairy-news>

ISSN 1834-948X (Print)

ISSN 1843-9498 (Online)

© State of New South Wales through NSW Department of Primary Industries 2011. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute NSW Department of Primary Industries as the owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (June 2011). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.



Primary Industries

