

## Macalister Demonstration Farm

### Projects on the farm are funded by GippsDairy, HICO and Genetics Australia

#### Macalister Demonstration Farm Update 403 (Week ending June 12th , 2015)

##### *What's been going on at the MDF?*

Macalister Demonstration Farm (MDF) hosted the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources' (DEDJTR's) regional biosecurity exercise in May.

The aim of the exercise was to allow extension officers from the Agriculture Services and Biosecurity Operations (ASBO) Division to practice emergency response skills, evaluate gaps and identify future training requirements to improve the preparedness of DEDJTR's response to a suspected emergency animal disease on private property.

For an event like this to be successful, a scenario, or imaginary happening needs to be enacted. In this instance, officers of the DEDTJR dairy team were holding an extension day at the MDF when one of them noticed a sick animal showing symptoms of an emergency animal disease (eg such as foot and mouth).

From this point the exercise is in full swing: DEDJTR staff need to secure the property, notify, through the appropriate channels, the existence of a suspect emergency animal disease, deploy staff and tools required to manage the emergency and manage the people and vehicles already on the property, such as the provision of advice and decontamination as both people and vehicles pass over the quarantine line.

An exercise such as this highlights the strengths and weaknesses of an emergency response and hones the skills of the staff involved. The testing of operating systems and responses to an emergency is important in striving towards keeping Australia free of emergency animal diseases and it is good to see our Biosecurity Officers taking on their roles and responsibilities with enthusiastic professionalism.

And now, a look at production, inputs and margins: with 238 in the vat, but this is now down to 145 with 93 in the process of being dried off and a further 29 dried off.

	Litres	Solids
Production	13.8	1.3
Components %	5.28%, 4.05%	5.28%, 4.05%
Milk price on current test	59c	\$6.26
Gross milk income less levies	\$8.14	\$8.14
Minus 4.5kg grain (\$335/t)and 1kg pellets (\$541/t), and 2.2kg Almond hulls (\$170/t)	\$2.43	\$2.43
IOSFC (\$/cow/day)	\$5.71	\$5.71
Net production	9.7	0.91

There will be 130 or so dry cows going on agistment this week and the remainder will remain on farm receiving strip grass and dry cow hay. Pasture cover remains at 1950kgDM/ha and this allows remaining milkers and carryovers to receive grass and grain and dries to receive some pasture, whilst holding cover for calving in the first week of August.

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