

QUARTERLY PROGRESS SUMMARY: Oct – Dec 2016

Transforming the Dairy Value Chain

Presentations, Publications & Training Courses

- 11 industry publications accepted
- 21 industry workshops, events or training programmes delivered
- 5 industry codes of practice or other resources; 4 data standards

Key highlights and achievements

- The big news for the quarter was the announcement by Fonterra of a \$240 million investment to build a new mozzarella plant at Clandeboye. This investment, which utilizes science and technology outputs from the programme, is expected to create more than 100 new jobs in the region.
- The dairy industry now has 12 certified Dairy Farm Systems consultants who can help farmers ensure profitability and sustainability of their business – 63 others are working their way through the modules. These rural professionals are now able to offer farmers Whole Farm Assessment reports that take into account financial and physical performance. This is potentially worth \$2000/ha for farmers.
- Fonterra has completed its extended human ganglioside (GS) deficiency study, which has provided good evidence of the biological plausibility of dietary GA on human cognitive development.
- Analysis of Health Pitstop follow-up calls shows that 65% of farmers followed up with a GP after being recommended to do so at a Health Pitstop - 15% up on previous years. Further analysis found that 18% of farmers who had recorded an abnormal result at a recent Pitstop took a positive long-term step towards improving their health, either by commencing medication or by making lifestyle changes.
- The Animal Evaluation transition was finalised in January 2017, and New Zealand Animal Evaluation LTD, a subsidiary of DairyNZ, now has the resources and time to move forward with the improved Fertility Breeding Value model and a more versatile commercial model. The current plan is to have prototype models in place for industry assessment in June and, assuming industry approval, full implementation in November.
- The 'Dairy Farm System Options to Reduce Nitrogen Loss' one-day workshop was piloted in the Waikato with farm consultants, regional councils, dairy company environmental advisers and two farmers. This is another step towards the implementation of appropriate solutions for meeting nitrogen limits on farms. Further workshops are planned in Canterbury and Otago in the next 3-4 months.
- A new on-line training programme for commercial effluent spreaders called 'FarmSpread' has been released. The next step is to engage with the effluent spreading companies to raise awareness of this training and support their efforts in working through the training material.
- The ongoing value of the programme was demonstrated to a large and wide audience through a number of communications highlights, including articles about various award wins, achievements and milestones reached. Also, people were given an insight into the human face of the research.
 - www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/87311075/meet-the-mozzarella-man
 - www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/84028142/all-aboard-the-dairy-regulation-train

Investment

Investment period	Industry contribution	MPI contribution	Total investment
During this Quarter	\$2.5	\$2.5	\$5
Programme To Date	\$67.5	\$68.6	\$136.1

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