



Animal Welfare in the Australian Dairy Industry

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The Australian Dairy Industry

- Australia's third largest rural industry - \$3.3 billion at the farm gate
- Largest value added food industry contributing \$9.5 billion at wholesale
- Exports around 45% of its production to over 100 countries
- Third largest international dairy trader
- Major export products – cheese, milk powders, butter, milk (UHT), other – eg casein



National Dairy Industry Animal Welfare Strategy

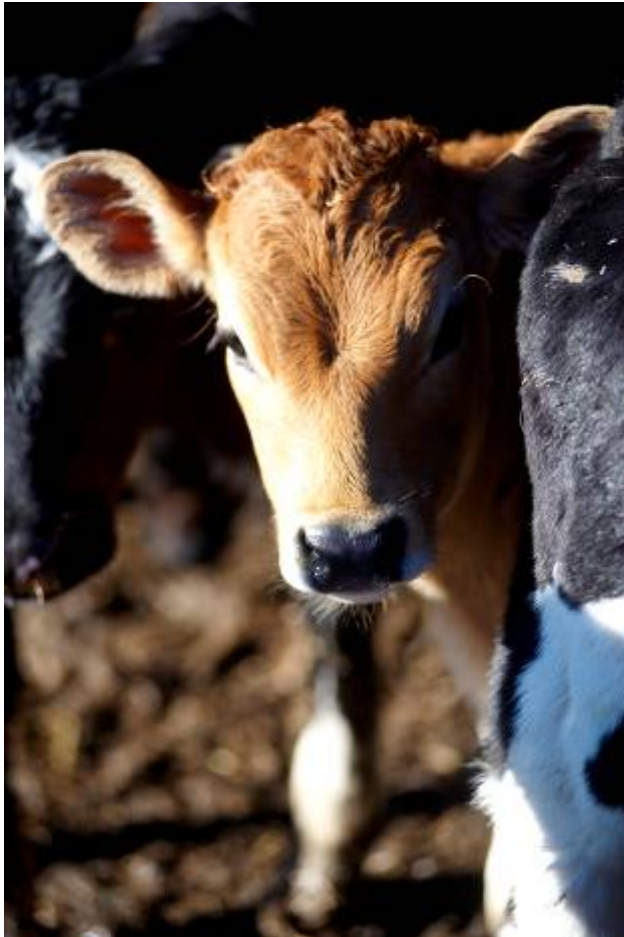
The dairy industry, a leader in the care of our animals

Providing leadership to enhance our record for animal care
to ensure community confidence and market access





Animal Welfare Priorities



- Calf management
- Tail docking
- Lameness
- Induction
- Disbudding
- Pain management





Dairy Extension Programs and Trials – Animal Welfare Outcomes

Program	Animal Welfare Outcomes
Supply Chain Calf Trial	Allows for traceability along the supply chain, Allows for a measure of time calves spend in transit A report of calf condition at delivery provided for farmers
CowTime	Reducing stress at milking time - Stock handling, dairy design, cow behaviour, lameness
InCalf	Reducing need for induction through better reproductive management
CountDown DownUnder	Assessing cow comfort during milking (and reducing mastitis)
Grains2Milk	Addresses issues associated with feeding concentrates to dairy cows such as acidosis and laminitis
Cool Cows (Grains2Milk)	Managing heat stress
Future Dairy	Animal behaviour in voluntary milking systems





Cool Cows <http://www.coolcows.com.au/>



- Understanding heat stress
- Identifying steps to address heat stress
- Preparing for the unexpected





Training and Education Programs

Program	Animal Welfare Units
National Centre for Dairy Education Australia	Calf rearing Stock handling General husbandry skills – feeding, milking, treating Monitoring for disease, prevention and treatment
Regional Development Programs	Calf rearing days Lameness workshops
National Meat Industry Training Advisory Council	Development of calf handling training packages
People in Dairy	Better training on farms, improved staff induction and supervision, improvements in attitudes of staff, better selection of staff



The People in Dairy

<http://www.thepeopleindairy.org.au/>



The People in Dairy

- Enhance Skills and Capabilities
- 16,000 website hits
 - More than 100 farmers attended 12 major programs
 - Delivery of industry mentoring and leadership programs



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Dairy research currently underway with animal welfare outcomes

Provider	Animal Welfare Research Outcomes
Regional Development Programs	Reduce lameness through improved laneway surfaces
Dairy Demo farms	Improve animal disease and welfare management in large herds
Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme	Improved selection for traits such as: calving ease, fertility, mastitis resistance, survivability
CRC for Innovative Dairy Products	Improve rate of genetic gain for traits such as: calving ease, fertility, mastitis resistance and survivability through the use of genetic markers Better control of sex of calves through improved technology for sexing semen
DairyNZ	Variety of research outcomes





MoU with DairyNZ



- Currently in discussions with DairyNZ for access to pastoral animal welfare research outcomes
- Total funding of NZ \$1.4 million a year will be available for dairy welfare research in partnership with AgResearch
- Topics include developing practical tools for farmers with regard to:
 - Heat stress/cold stress modelling
 - Establishing indicators of animal welfare for dairy cattle
 - Development of a system that incorporates practical animal-based measures and production parameters to assess animal welfare on farm.





Potential areas of future research in animal welfare in the dairy industry

Area	Research Provider
Work in collaboration with DairyNZ	AgResearch
Strategies to mitigate risks from; - consumption of concentrate feeds, genetic manipulation, metabolic manipulation, extended lactation	Grains2Milk Program managed by DA in association with DAFF and DPIV
Gaps arising from current investigations into pain management and calf management pre and post farm gate	To be considered



Questions?



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