Genetics AUSTRALIA

Breeding for Profit

Share Dairy Farmer of the Year Award 2007

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The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria and
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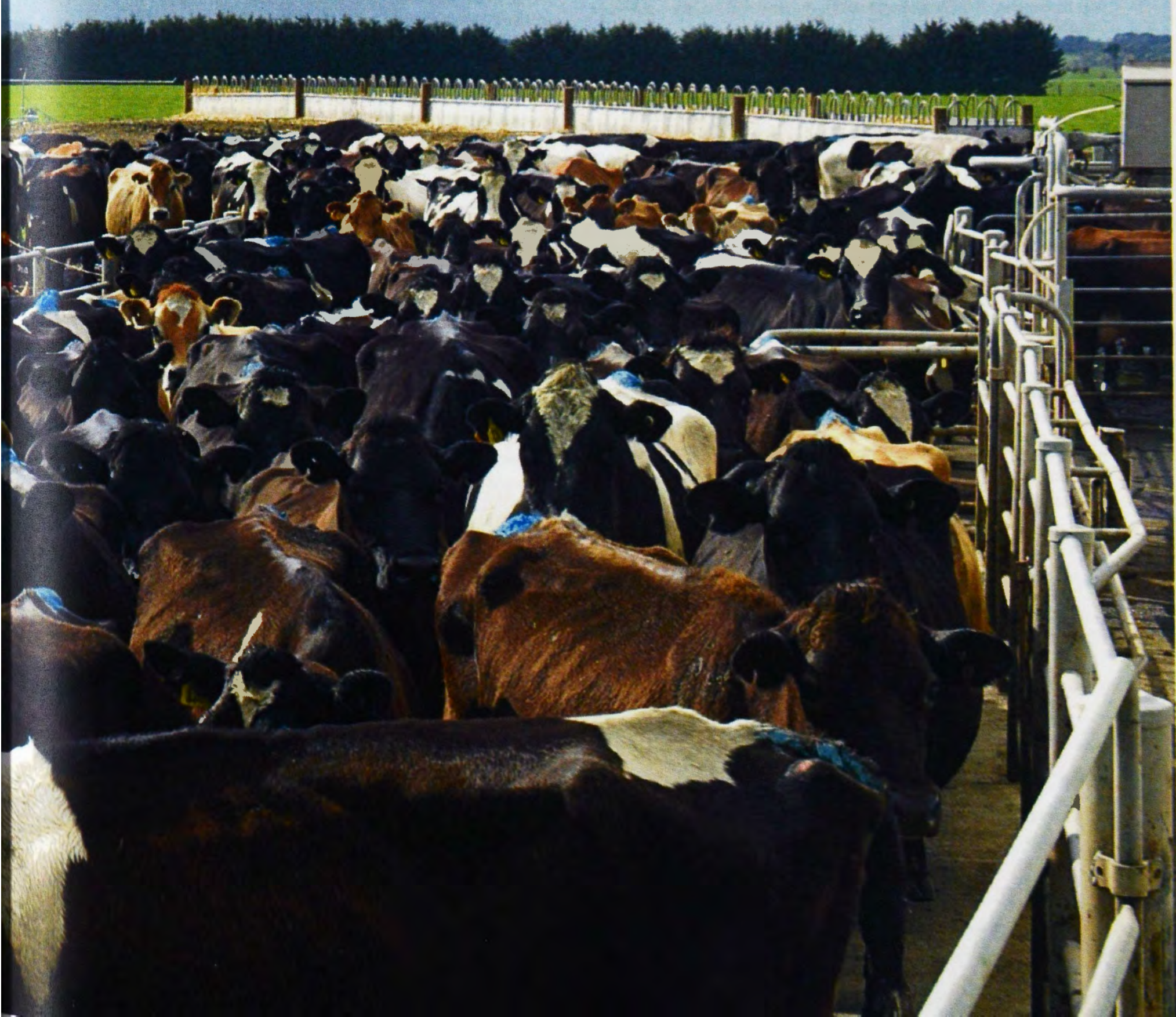

Genetics Australia Share Dairy Farmer of the Year 2007

The Share Dairy Farmer of the Year Award was initiated by the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria in 1979.

Aims

The aims of the competition are to:

- reward top sharefarmers for their contribution to productivity.
- encourage young farmers to the dairy industry.
- extend the performances of the top sharefarmers to others by way of a field day.
- lift the image of the sharefarming profession.
- encourage the formation of a good relationship between the sharefarmer and the owner.

Judges' comments

Judging this competition is always very satisfying and rewarding, and this year was no exception. Dairy farming can be a demanding industry at the best of times, and in this difficult drought year of reduced production and high feed costs, all entrants displayed tremendous properties and tenacity.

Having been faced with such a tough season in the past year, especially for those in the northern parts of Victoria, it's a credit to them that they were able to get though the difficult conditions and develop their business further in the process. It was interesting to see the different methods and management practices that the share farmers have put in place to get through the tough season.

It was also pleasing to be reassured that the dairy industry can still be a very rewarding one if you are prepared to work hard and invest in your property. All couples showed they were willing to seek information to improve their business through farming groups, consultants or industry bodies.

The seven finalists were judged against each other using the competition criteria, as the best share dairyfarmers in the state in this particular year. They were visited by the judging panel during late July and early August, and the following summary of their herds is in order of the visits:

Wayne and Leah Brunt, Newry:

Making the switch from the forestry industry to the dairy industry is no easy feat, yet Wayne and Leah have shown that with hard work and dedication it can be achieved successfully in a relatively short time. Viewing the farm soon after the damaging floods that occurred in East Gippsland, it was a credit to see the farm back in great condition so quickly. The Brunts demonstrated a strong knowledge of their herd. It was clear that they had an open mind and were willing to learn as much as they could from several information sources.

Steve and Sally Fallon, Willow Grove:

Steve and Sally are operating on a highly efficient, low input system. Operating such an efficient system meant they were able to overcome last season's difficult conditions quite successfully. Sally's background has helped provide sound financial management, whereas Steve prefers to look after what is going on outside the back yard. They showed that they are a hard working couple who are making the very most of their property.

Brett Nutting and Jodi Probert, Glen Alvie:

Brett and Jodi have gone down the path of a high input system to get them through the recent dry conditions. This has included building a feed pad and purchasing a mixer wagon. It's clear both Brett and Jodi are very passionate about the dairy industry and can see a great future for themselves as dairy farmers.

Aaron Bidmade and Sarah Beard, Koroit:

This is a young couple who are passionate and dedicated to creating a successful career in the dairy industry. Operating on challenging land, which was historically sheep country, has meant that Aaron and Sarah have had to work hard to get the farm where it is today. Since starting, major developments have been implemented, with pasture improvement through fertiliser use and new fencing, as well as laneway and infrastructure upgrades.

Adam and Natalie Roberts, Camperdown:

Adam and Natalie had several problems to deal with when they took over as sharefarmers on their current property, including a large portion on their herd which were not in calf. Over the last couple of years, Adam and Natalie have turned this around and are about to return to a split calving system rather than three calving periods a year. Managing a large scale operation such as this takes a lot of work and dedication. All this work has paid off for them, with production increasing significantly since taking over the reins as sharefarmers.

Dehne Vinnicombe and Sarah Fairbrother, Mitiamo:

Dehne and Sarah planned early to get themselves through the last year's difficult season. This included buying some land so they could grow additional feed to bring back to their home property. They are a very dedicated couple who have a strong passion for breeding cows and bulls to add extra income to their business.

Peter and Rachel Romans, Kergunyah:

Peter and Rachel recovered well from the tough season to have their property covered in feed at the time of judging. It was the smart timing and planning of the pasture renovations that led to the farm having such a good feed cover. Peter and Rachel showed a great interest in developing their property further by renovating pastures and developing more land. Their livestock were in great condition and as good as any we saw from all the entrants. Once again this couple has shown that despite coming from a different industry background, you can be successful in the dairy industry if you're willing to learn and work hard.

The state judging panel was John Versteden from the UDV, Nigel VandenBosch of the RAS and Tim van der Poel of Genetics Australia. They were ably assisted in the regions by June Owen of Driffield, Jo Dickson from Terang and Sarah Crooke of Gundowring.

Awards

First prize
The title of Genetics Australia Share Dairy Farmer of the Year, semen to the value of $3300, 12 month membership of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria and a trophy.

Second prize
Semen to the value of $2000 and a trophy.

Third prize
Semen to the value of $1100 and a trophy.

Zone winners
Semen to the value of $700 each.

Zone runners up
Trophies

Past competition winners

1979	Pat & Elsa Horan, Dumbalk
1980	Hank & Trish Hayden, Simpson
1981	Bruce & June McGregor, Dingee
1982	Ron & Wendy Costin, Nambrok
1983	Ross & Dianne Burke, Timboon
1984	Peter & Rosemary Mathieson, Whorouly
1985	Brian Walker, Boisdale
1986	Ian & Helen Herron, Gainsborough
1987	Gordon & Elaine Ailey, Heytesbury
1988	Gerard & Lynette Santamaria, Orbost
1989	Max & Heather Farley, Tallangatta
1990	John & Lyn Versteden, Longwarry
1991	Wayne & Vickie Crole, Cobden
1992	Ian & Dale-Maree Florence, Kyabram
1993	Geoff & Debbie Evans, Toolong
1994	Gary & Samantha Owen, Budgeree
1995	Jamie & Anne Snell, Newry
1996	Wolfie & Kerrie Wagner, Bunyip North
1997	Geoff & Vicki Wickham, Nullawarre
1998	Stephen & Denise Cusack, Katunga
1999	Andrew & Carolyn Balfour, Willow Grove
2000	Brendan & Michelle Rea, Allansford
2001	Daryl & Leilani Hoey, Tallygaroopna
2002	Jason Leslie & Nicole Broadbent, Denison
2003	Kelvin & Lindy Bruce, Undera
2004	Mark & Tania Neville, Mepunga
2005	Barry & Megan Coster, Ripplebrook
2006	Ian & Alice Holloway, Gundowring North

2007 winners

State Prize Winners for 2007

Wayne & Leah Brunt, Newry	First Prize
Steven and Sally Fallon, Willow Grove	Second Prize
Peter & Rachel Romans, Kergunyah	Third Prize
Brett Nutting & Jodi Probert, Glen Alvie	High per cow production achieved through attention to feeding
Dehne Vinnicombe & Sarah Fairbrother, Mitiamo	Breeding and Genetics Award
Aaron Bidmade & Sarah Beard, Koroit	Young Achievers
Adam and Natalie Roberts, Camperdown	Successful Large Property Management

Group Runners-up for 2007

Hugh and Kaylene Jones, Simpson
Second Place, South West Victoria
Region Judges: Jo Dickson and Martin van de Wouw

Matthew and Joanne Broad, Cowwarr
Second Place, Gippsland
Region Judges: Gary McAinch and Margaret Stewart

Wayne and Kristie Cocksedge, Welshpool
Second Place, South Gippsland
Region Judges: Ross Francis and Ian Hitchins

Warwick and Karen Baum, Jindivick
Second Place, West Gippsland
Region Judges: Alan Blum and Stewart Tweddle

For more information on the Genetics Australia Share Dairy Farmer of the Year Award visit the Genetics Australia website at www.genaust.com.au or contact the Royal Agricultural Society on 03 9281 7444.

Northern: Dehne Vinnecombe & Sarah Fairbrother, Mitiamo

Farm Owner: Ron Vinnecombe

Effective ha of home farm	110 ha	Irrigation water used	377.4 ML plus 475 ML on leased farm
Effective ha of run-off block	304 ha	Average annual rain fall	400mm
Fodder conserved from home farm	Nil	Mating start date	22 October
Feed bought in	308t grain, 61.5t canola	Share agreement	50%
Fodder conserved from run-off block	255.4t silage, 450 round bales lucerne, 1200 round bales of sub & cereal hay		

Feeding

Owing to the drought, annual pasture was irrigated four times, cereals once, shaftal once for hay and 22 ha of lucerne was watered twice. The annual pasture gave us green feed to the end of October and from November until April the cows were fed a full mix ration using cereal silage, Lucerne hay and 5kg of grain.

Calf rearing

All calves are reared on 5 litres of whole milk in a shed for three weeks. From the shed the calves are dehorned and vaccinated, grouped into small mobs of approximately 40 and fed with a 50-teat feed trailer. Each paddock has a water trough hay ring with Lucerne hay and grain. Once the calves are weaned they taken to the run-off block and pasture on Lucerne paddocks and grain.

Breeding program

We use Genescreen on all flush cows, this gives a predictor on APR, ASI and type, which we find very important and valuable to our herd. Embryos are placed in all heifers and the bottom 20% of milkers that we do not wish to breed from. All other cows are inseminated, selecting bulls with good APR and ASI, plus overall type.

Embryo transplanting has been used since 1996 to value add and breed better stock without the burden of excessive costs. As above we use Genescreen as a breeding policy.

Herd health

All cows are checked out a week before starting AI for cysts, infections and other abnormalities. All cows are checked to make sure they are pregnant by ultrasound approximately 6 weeks after removing the bull. All cows are drenched for fluke and worms at drying off time. Any cow with an SCC over 250,000 is 'dry cowed'.

Replacements

All heifer calves are kept for replacements as they have very good value for embryo placement. About 20 bulls go to progeny testing.

Milking system

The dairy is a 12 double-up herringbone with automatic cup removers which one person can manage to milk a120 cows per hour. This means that we spend approximately 4½ hours on a daily basis.

Farm records

All cow records are kept on a palm computer using Easy Dairy. The palm data is transferred to a computer at Ron's home. Other records include water usage and feed budgets. All bookkeeping is done using Quicken.

Lifestyle

We go to the children's swimming lessons and 'mums and bubs' group. We go to the events at the footy clubs etc. We also like to go out for lunch just to get off the farm for a bit and go on one or two good holidays a year.

Financial management

Financial and management reports are done quarterly when the BAS statements are produced and discussed with the accountant.

Making the most of the property

A business plan determined the most feasible way to expand was to lift the production of each cow and produce a better quality feed.

Pasture and feed management

To lift cow production and to produce better quality feed there has been a need for lasering. Drainage and a feed pad to minimise feed loss and pasture damage.

Attitude to dairying and aims for the future

To milk 240 cows producing 650–700 kg solids and to fully utilise all our land, as we think this is better than buying more ground.

Family and leisure time

We try to take time off the farm with 4 weeks holidays a year. We have put on a worker to give us a bit more leisure time off

Community affairs and off-farm interests

Dehne is Vice President of the Holstein-Friesian Association and Secretary/Treasurer of the Landcare group. Sarah is in a good health group (once a week) and a local walk group.

Herd production

Season (production year)	No. of cows	Milk (L)	Fat (%)	Fat (kg)	Prot (%)	Prot (kg)
Factory Figures						
2006	186	1,270,205	4.38	55,656	3.42	43,485
2005	220	1,418,760	4.26	60,501	3.54	50,284
2004	220	1,045,633	4.30	45,806	3.41	35,752
2003	180	916,080	4.13	37,889	3.29	30,200
Herd Test Figures						
2006 (305 days)	186	7234	4.3	308	3.5	305
2005 (245 days)	191	5794	3.9	226	3.5	202
2004 (305 days)	220	4752	4.3	208	3.41	162
Production for each age group (current season) 245 days						
2-year-olds	12	4887	3.6	178	3.3	161
3-year-olds	45	5375	3.9	207	3.5	186
4-year-olds	38	6181	3.9	244	3.5	216
Mature cows	56	5955	4.1	241	3.6	213

Gippsland: Wayne & Leah Brunt, Newry

Farm Owner: Jim & Allyson Ferguson

Effective ha of home farm	117 ha	Lead feed	8t pellets, 104t hay, 62t silage
Effective ha of run-off block	70 ha	Irrigation water used	370 ML
Fodder conserved from home farm	200t silage, 35t hay	Average annual rainfall	600mm (actual 512mm)
Feed bought in (milkers)	539t grain, 158t pellets	Mating start date	25 October (cows) 11 October (heifers)
Feed bought in (calves)	45t pellets	Share agreement	50%, sharefarmers own herd
Fodder conserved from run-off block	Nil		

Feeding

We follow the Target 10 program 'Feeding pastures for profit':

- Graze pasture at the 3-leaf stage.
- Feeding sufficient grain so that the cows are fully fed.
- We crush our own grain, a mineral supplement pellet is also fed from another silo which ingredients are added or taken out depending on what is needed for cow health at that time of year.
- Use the 'Rotation Right' tool to determine daily pasture grazing.
- Keep our cows fully fed at all times to maximise profit.
- Supplements are used to manage pastures, production, body condition and to maintain high production all year.
- We have achieved the same average milk price as autumn calving herds, without the problem of finding enough feed for fresh cows in the winter.
- Lead feeding to minimise milk fever, RFMs and calving problems.

Calf rearing

New calves are picked up once a day, and taken to the calf shed. Both heifer and bobby calves are tube fed 3.5 litres of colostrum. Heifer calves have a follow up feed of another 3.5 litres in the morning. They are then taught to drink from the feeder the next day.

We have a system that pumps milk from a storage vat into the calf feeders. A preservative (Potassium Sorbate) is used in the storage vats. This system saves a lot of time, and more time and energy to spend looking after calves. Pellets, straw and fresh water are always on offer.

Calves are weaned at 8-10 weeks when they are eating around 2kg pellets a day. They are then taken up to the calf paddocks were they remain on pellet and a lucerne-rye grass mix.

Breeding program

We use 250 straws of Australian Holstein proven bulls and 250 progeny test straws. This year we selected DONANTE, JUSTIFIER, GOLDSMITH, INFORMER, BULLBAR and BESTKEPT. We look for production, fertility, teat alignment, cell count and type. Our policy is to spend that little bit extra on premium semen. You'll never stop reaping the benefits, for the difference of around $22 we believe it's a great investment.

Herd health

We identify and deal with sick and lame animals quickly, giving them a good chance of recovery. It is profitable to spend money on vet help to eliminate health problems quickly and efficiently. We identified several problems the milking plant has had since it was built causing teat damage and mastitis. Fixing the problem improved cell counts greatly. At dry off we 'Dry Cow' all milkers, drench for fluke and worms and vaccinate with 7-in-1. We also worm with a 'nil withhold' pour-on around late December. All young stock are vaccinated with 7-in-1, wormed and fluked.

Replacements

Cows are culled for cell count, low production, low fat and protein, empty cows and late calving. Each year we rear around 80 AI Heifers. Heifers start calving 2 weeks prior to the cows giving them a better chance of getting in calf to AI for their second lactation. We find calving them down earlier than the cows gives them a better chance to recover. We join the heifers to Jersey bulls for ease of calving. Crossbred heifers are sold to other dairy farmers. This year having 260 cows in calf to AI is looking like a good investment, to help us recover our numbers.

Fertiliser

Fertiliser used	N	P	K	S
kg/ha	195	42	84	40

Milking system

A 50-stand rotary takes two people 3.5 hours including clean-up. We put the main herd through the shed first, then the colostrums herd, then the antibiotic herd. When things are back to normal, milking and clean up takes around 2.5 hours.

Farm records

We are responsible for all herd records, milk care, grazing management and urea applications using a spread sheet that Jim created. We collect all data on feeding and irrigation for a spreadsheet to work out feed profit margins etc. This information is also used in our discussion group.

Lifestyle

We all enjoy motorbike riding, horse riding, camping and gardening in our spare time. Once a year we go on a two week family holiday. We also have several weekends away from the farm. We have a fulltime employee who works 5 days a week. Once calving and joining is over we have two days a week away from milking, to spend time with the children and other hobbies. Having our employee, Gerard, allows the family to enjoy their own hobbies.

Financial management

We meet monthly with the Frank Tyndall group where we all look at each other's monthly analysis, discuss other farmers situations and try to come up with helpful solutions.

Making the most of the property

Our goal is to continue to develop the property to make it more profitable. Jim and Allyson appreciate our ideas about future development.

To make the most of the property in the drought we:

- Fed extra grain early when its price was reasonable, to maximise the fodder we cut on farm.
- Sat down with Jim and Frank and worked out a feed budget.
- After doing the feed budget we purchased all our bought in fodder early to maintain a reasonable price, quality and quantity.
- Dried off paddocks that weren't performing well and used the water for the ones that were.
- Continued to fully feed the cows with pasture, grain (up to 8 kg), silage and hay. This still proved to be profitable in many ways, helping with conception rates, cow condition and grass residue.
- Utilised all dry areas by sowing oats for winter feed, silage and hay.
- Put millet in two paddocks that we had already planned to reseed, knowing we had water under laterals for bulk feed.

- Paddocks that were sown to millet were then when ready sprayed out once again and sow to pasture.
- Culled cows early to reduce grazing pressure.
- Made decisions for the future, not just thinking of the drought.

Livestock management

We are a spring calving herd because this makes the most of irrigated pasture. Herd testing is a valuable tool in monitoring herd production and health. Young stock are kept on farm, yearlings are agisted. We are striving to buy our own land to run yearlings. Calves under 12 months are kept on an area separate from the cows, which Jim has recently set up to irrigate with Johnes-free ground water.

Sharefarmer-owner relationship

We have monthly meetings with Jim and Allyson to discuss what is currently happening on the farm and talk about strategies for the future. We have a great working partnership. We are all good at listening, and enjoying a bit of humour or a joke or two. Jim always attends the Frank Tyndall discussion group meetings with us.

Attitude to dairying and aims for the future

We believe dairy farming can offer young couples a chance to build assets and financial security in a very short period of time as it has for us. There is so much information out there for young or old to learn. Surprisingly a fair chunk of it is for free. I often look back in disbelief seeing how far we have come. Considering that 5 years ago we hadn't put a set of cups on a cow! We recognised that there would be a lot to learn in the dairy industry. We were employed as herd managers on a dairy farm for two years, where we were given a good grounding in dairy farm management before coming here.

Before starting with Jim and Allyson we attended a lot of farm management courses and still do. We are always open minded to new ideas. We believe with good management dairy farming has a great future. You don't have to have grown up in the industry to be successful. We would recommend it to anyone with an interest and heart in it.

Herd production

Season (production year)	No. of cows	Milk (L)	Fat (%)	Fat (kg)	Prot (%)	Prot (kg)
Factory Figures						
2004-05	350	2,578,455	4.14	106,706	3.73	96,232
2005-06	340	2,545,995	4.10	104,510	3.39	86,389
2006-07	330	2,567,605	4.11	105,410	3.44	88,331
Herd Test Figures						
2006-07 (288 days)	270	7335	4.0	296	3.4	249
Production for each age group (current season)						
2-year-olds (296d)	80	6512	4.0	261	3.4	220
3-year-olds (292d)	12	6830	4.5	310	3.6	247
4-year-olds (293d)	18	7881	3.8	303	3.4	266
Mature cows (288d)	160	7335	4.0	296	3.4	249

South Gippsland: Brett Nutting & Jodi Probert, Glen Alvie

Farm owners: Murray & Bronwyn Wilson

Effective ha of home farm	140 ha	Average annual rainfall	950mm
Share agreement	47.5%, 50% costs	Mating start date	30 September
Fodder conserved from home farm	175t pit silage, 100 round bales silage, 40 6x4 rounds hay		
Feed bought in	1119t wheat and palm kernel, 175t cereal hay, 57t straw, 1600t citrus		

Feeding

To harvest as much pasture as possible then to top up with grain, citrus, silage, cereal hay, PKE and Brassica crops to make sure the cows are fed to their potential. For the last season we have feed about 3.02 tonnes of grain and additive combined. The approach we take each season is that it has to be profitable for the type of feed used. Cows are lead feed 2-3 weeks prior to calving to prevent milk fever and RFMs. This year a feedpad was constructed and mixer wagon was purchased. All milkers are fed on the pad and not in the paddock, reducing wastage, resulting in better feed utilisation.

Calf rearing

Calves that are AI heifers are banded in paddock and all births are recorded in book, band number with cow number and calves are collected ASAP as we are doing the JDCAP program. All animals taken to sheds, then fed 2 litres of colostrum via stomach tube. Keepers are tagged with brass, NLIS and yellow tags. Calves are fed twice a day, 2 litres per feed, colostrum for 1 week, then once a day, 4 litres each morning, also ad lib straw, water, calf meal till eating sufficient grain between 6- 8 weeks. Calves are then moved to the paddocks, still eating ad lib grain and straw, weaned by weight.

Calves are dehorned, drenched & vaccinated (7-in-1, copper and B12 + selenium) on being sent to paddocks. Any calves that start to look off colour are taken back to shed for care. Calves are reared by Jodi with the help of Brett and Daniel, our staff member if needed. Any problems and feeding regimes are recorded in the shed so if Jodi can't make it everyone knows what is going on. When about 3 months of age calves receive copper, cobalt and selenium bullets. They are drenched as required.

Breeding program

Sires with a high APR are selected. We also select on teat placement and length, rear udder height and also milking speed. We use 25% progeny test, 75% proven. The herd has been Genescreened and has selected sires that suit our herd and breeding corrections.

The cows are checked about four weeks after calving. Any dirty cows are treated with Metricure. Four weeks before MSD cows are painted with red paint and observed for heats and then painted green. Any red

cows at the end of 3 weeks are vet checked and either PG or CIDR, or left if calving interval is not long enough. On the 30th of September the cows all have red estrus alerts applied. Every morning the cows are observed for heats and are inseminated by a technician.

Once mated the cow is painted blue. This continues for six weeks and then mop-up bulls are used for six weeks. All cows are preg-tested 7 weeks after AI is finished, then the non-pregnant cows are retested 8 weeks after the bulls are removed. We use ultra sound for preg-testing. This is the second season that the heifers were mated using AI as we are aiming for more replacements as this is a closed herd. We did an aggressive PG program consisting of two doses of PG. We then inseminated for 4 days. Easy calving sires were used. The remaining heifers were mated using Jersey bulls. The mating time frame for the herd is 12-13 weeks. Our empty rate for the farm last season was 12%.

Herd health

The herd health program involves an annual 7-in-1 booster, salmonella vaccine and a drench for the 2- and 3-year-olds. All the cows get minerals in the additive that we feed. Lame cows have feet trimmed and treated as soon as seen and put close to the dairy to minimise walking. If really bad, they are milked once a day. Mastitis cows are treated accordingly, milk cultures are analysed to know what strain of bacteria we are dealing with. The general policy is '3-strikes-and-you're-out'. All cows are blanket treated with 'Dry Cow'.

Replacements

All replacements are fed 1-2kg of grain until yearlings, then sent on agistment. This year yearlings were feedlot fed due to no agistment being available. When there is an abundance of feed, calves are strip-grazed. Heifers are weighed for weaning, then every 6 months so we get an idea of their growth rates. Anything that is below target is fed accordingly. From 1 year old to point of calving they consumed approx. 350 t/DM.

Fertiliser

Fertiliser used	N	P	K	S
kg/ha	284	32	64	41

Milking system

The cows are milked in a basic 40-unit rotary. Milking times are 5.30 –6.00am and 3.30–4.00pm. The average milking time in the peak is about 2½ hours from start to finish for 370 cows.

Farm records

Records kept are animal health, animal movements (grazings, rotation), cow feeding rates, Mistro Farm, MG milkcare and our own financials.

Lifestyle

We have about 2 weeks each year of actual holiday time as a family, as well as 1–2 days per fortnight for off-farm activities such as motocross, football and to see friends.

Financial management

Probably our weakest point in our business is financial management although we are going to have to be on the ball due to our financial commitments. Although we employ a farm adviser to do an annual budget, we have done a few reviews this past season to keep everything on track. The budgets are always very conservative. It's been a tough year.

Making the most of the property

In the four seasons that we have been on this property we have utilised it to 90% of its potential, but have tried to utilise 100% of the resources we have had to work with in each season. Such resources are effluent and some water for irrigation and rainfall to maximise pasture growth.

Pasture and feed management

We feel we are very good pasture managers. We have achieved approximately 7.5 tonnes per hectare for the last season. This figure is about 2.5 tonnes/ha short of normal. To achieve this we have maintained grazing residuals and pasture quality (through topping or fodder conservation) as well as applying nitrogen strategically through out the season when moisture was available. Other areas are having the right rotation for the right situation.

Livestock management

The stock are always in good condition due to high feeding. The herd is on the JD testing program. Due to this calves do not enter the cow grazing area until they are at point of calving. The calves have there own separate area on top of a hill, which is double fenced to prevent any manure entering.

Sharefarmer/owner relationship

We feel that we have a very good relationship with Murray & Bronwyn as we have only sharefarmed on their property for five seasons. We have meetings once a month to discuss any issues, whether good or bad, and action taken on what needs to be done as well as issues, purchases of fodders and grains etc. Murray and Bronwyn like us to have an input into the farm's future direction. We receive 47.5% milk income, 50% income on choppers and bobby calf sales. Costs are split 50/50.

Attitude to dairying and aims for the future

The dairy industry looks to have a positive outlook for the next few years. So we hope to maximise every opportunity we can to achieve our aims and goals in this period. Our medium term aims for the future are herd ownership in the next 5-6 years. Then leasing a property, working towards farm ownership.

Family and leisure time

For family time we try to be home every night by six o'clock to spend time with the kids. One to two days a fortnight are taken off to have family outings. We attend some of the Glen Alvie community dinners. About two weeks of the year are for going back to Tasmania to see our families or for spending time with family when they visit us. We also try to travel around Victoria when we can.

Community affairs and off-farm interests

We are both members in the Wonthaggi/Korumburra discussion group. Jodi has completed her Advanced Diploma of Agriculture and currently taking place in the InCalf program. We both take part in farmer orientated short courses. Off-farm interests include motocross, football and travelling.

Herd production

Season (production year)	No. of cows	Milk (L)	Fat (%)	Fat (kg)	Prot (%)	Prot (kg)
Factory Figures						
2003–04	350	2,237,029	4.16	93,246	3.44	77,152
2004-05	350	2,576,016	4.03	103,707	3.42	88,125
2005-06	370	2,708,944	4.02	108,872	3.46	93,861
2006-07	370	2,795,609	4.22	117,975	3.52	98,405
Herd Test Figures						
2003–04	322	6585	4.0	266	3.5	229
2004-05	322	7457	4.0	299	3.5	257
2005-06	339	7519	4.0	298	3.5	264
2006-07	330	7580	4.2	318	3.6	271
Production for each age group (current season)						
2-year-olds		6467	4.2	272	3.6	232
3-year-olds		7604	4.1	310	3.6	274
4-year-olds		8135	4.2	341	3.6	291
Mature cows		8014	4.2	340	3.6	285

Far West: Aaron Bidmade & Sarah Beard, Koroit

Farm owners: Andy & Lois Beard

Effective ha of home farm	228 ha	Average annual rainfall	750mm
Share agreement	20% with labour costs	Mating start date	23 June (Heifers 6th June)
Fodder conserved from home farm	600t silage, 280t hay	Feed bought in	528t grain

Feeding

Our strategy is to feed cows to their potential to gain maximum milk production. Strict feed budgeting allows us to keep income after feed cost to a maximum. Profitability is a major focus so we are trying to grow as much of our own feed as possible. In our first year 2004 we made 350t DM of fine chopped silage and in 2005 we made 600t DM. We are also increasing hay cut on the property by oversowing with short term ryegrass, we aim to over sow a third of the farm every year with a continuous renovation program each year. Turnips, millet & sorghum provide good quality feed over the summer months.

Our aims are to reduce grain per cow from 1.6t to 1.2t if the season allows us, increase silage harvested from 600t DM to 750 tonnes DM, and increase hay harvested from 280t to 360 t.

Calf rearing

Calves are stomach tubed at birth with 2 litres of colostrum, then fed twice daily for 3-7 days in a shed. They then go to 0.2ha paddocks where they are fed once a day with milk and have access to calf pellets, fresh water and hay. Once they reach 6-8 weeks they are weaned and taken to grass paddocks and given calf pellets every day, along with ad lib hay. Calves are then given 7-in-1 and drenched at required intervals.

Breeding program

For decisions on bull selection we consult semen companies and our local AI company. We try to stick to a set budget. We only use proven bulls of high reliability with good components and workability. Our heifers are joined to calving ease bulls, this year we used LORDPRES.

We inseminate naturally for a week, then give each cow that hasn't been joined a shot of PG which will bring on two-thirds of the herd. We inseminate for another 7 days, then any cow that hasn't been joined or has a suspicious heat gets a CIDR. We inseminate for 6 weeks all up and then put in bulls for 9 weeks. We use tail paint and Kamars in the detection process.

Herd health

Cows are dry-cowed with Orbenin Enduro and heifers are dry cowed with Amplicox. They are also given a lepto shot at dry-off and are dry for 50 days. We teat spray cows thoroughly every milking and we also have a three strike mastitis policy. Good record keeping is essential for this to work. Cows with mastitis are always milked last and kept in a separate herd until they are clear and out of the withhold period. We strip individual cows for 7 days after calving, looking for mastitis and every cow is checked for retained membrane 4 days after calving and treated with a pessary if needed. Cows are drenched once a year with Eprinex. We also lead feed the cows with 2 kg of pellets (with Anionic salts) per day for 10-14 days before they calve to prevent milk fever.

Replacements

We look at individual cows for fertility, production, mastitis, cell count and lameness. We aim to breed 60-70 replacements every year.

Fertiliser

Fertiliser used	N	P	K	S
kg/ha	150	33	36	41

Milking system

Our milking system is a 20 double-up dairy which was built by Andy nine years ago and upgraded last year. It has a Coweld grain system and DeLaval cup removers which have made it a comfortable two person operation. At peak milk it takes 2.5 to 3 hours to milk 330 cows.

Farm records

We are responsible for all records including quality assurance, dairy data and cow records, calving, joining and mastitis. We also do feed budgets using software. We do the book work for our side of the business using Mistro Finance and budgeting programs.

Lifestyle

We enjoy water skiing, camping, fishing, playing football and Sarah especially enjoys shopping.

Financial management

This is the most important part of the business. We sit down with Andy & Lois at the start of each financial year and do a spreadsheet on all the expected costs. We itemise them and work out the amount of money we can spend on each item, then at the end of every month we sit down and review how much has been spent in what area and whether it has gone over the budget or not. We also do weekly income over feed cost budgets.

Making the most of the property

Stones are an issue with the property but we are clearing a lot of land to be able to utilise and conserve as much fodder as possible. We want to be as self-sufficient as possible. We have oversown about 140ha to Italian ryegrasses this year and we fully renovated about 32ha, which includes clearing up rocks. We have to make the most of the property because we don't have a run-off block.

Pasture and feed management

Topping up pastures in the poorer areas of the farm is very important, the flats and paddocks closest to the dairy have been dairy paddocks for 8 years, whereas the higher country was only sheep country 3–4 years ago with fog grass, onion weed and old natural ryegrasses. We are using high levels of fertiliser and renewing pasture with a cropping and oversowing program to bring it up to par with the rest of the farm.

Livestock management

Looking after livestock is the most important part of the farm. Everything from drenching, feeding and general working is essential. Keeping cows in good condition is very important. We pride ourselves on our livestock management to have healthy, happy quiet cows.

Sharefarmer-owner relationship

The relationship between us couldn't be better. They have shown a lot of faith and have supported us in our decisions and the goals we are trying to achieve, including herd ownership. We work closely with Andy and Lois to improve the financial outlook of the farm. I have an enormous amount of respect for Andy and his knowledge of farming and all the work he has done over the years, I am the first to ask him for any advice. We are currently working towards buying cows and going on a 50/50 share arrangement on the July 1 2008.

Attitude to dairying and aims for the future

Our attitude to dairy farming is very positive because we love it and we can't imagine ourselves doing anything else. Being our own boss, working with animals, and outside is something Sarah and I both enjoy.

Working very hard has its rewards, we have set our goals on buying the herd within the next 12 months and eventually striving to own our own farm.

Family and leisure time

Each year we try to get a couple of week's holiday, we enjoy water skiing very much with friends and family. Even over the summer months we might go into the Hopkins River in Warrnambool for the day. Aaron also plays football with the local football club. It helps when you have good reliable staff you can trust to run the farm while you are away.

Community affairs and off-farm interests

We are both involved in the local discussion group, which is a great way to meet other farmers from around our district and learn and swap ideas with each other. We are members of the local fire brigade and Sarah also works part-time as a hairdresser at the Port Fairy Day Spa.

Herd production

Season (production year)	No. of cows	Milk (L)	Fat (%)	Fat (kg)	Prot (%)	Prot (kg)
Factory Figures						
2004-05	330	2,312,275	4.02	89,104	3.27	74,655
2005-06	330	2,426,160	4.00	92,004	3.28	78,086
2006-07	330	2,167,740	4.08	85,317	3.23	69,644
Production for each age group (current season)						
2-year-olds	70	29.9	3.29		3.21	
3-year-olds	80	31.2	3.49	1.088	3.23	1.008
4-year-olds and mature cows	180	32.8	3.37	1.105	3.21	1.051

North-East: Peter & Rachel Romans, Kergunyah

Farm owners: Ken & Lynne Jones

Effective ha of home farm	180 ha plus 64ha runoff block	Average annual rainfall	1000mm (actual 376mm)
Share agreement	36%	Mating start date	11 June
Fodder conserved	280t silage	Feed bought in	520t grain, 276t hay, 26t palm kernel

Feeding

Two weeks before calving cows have ad lib hay and 2kg of lead feed pellets per cow. Once calved the cows are fed 8kg in the bail and hay and silage to be fully fed. Once grass is introduced the levels of hay, pellets and silage are monitored on a daily basis to prevent wastage but to ensure peak production. We fed 2.3 tonne of pellets per cow.

Calf rearing

Calves are brought into the shed within 12 hours and are placed into pens of 6 with a wood shaving base. Milk is fed at a rate of 2 litres twice daily (total 4 litres) for 6 weeks then 3 litres once daily until weaning. Calves have access to ad lib pellets, straw and fresh water. At 8 weeks they are drenched and vaccinated with 7-in-1 and weaned to pellets and hay and grass. At 14 weeks a second drench and 7-in-1 is given. At 12 months they are transferred to the irrigated run-off block.

Breeding program

Using Genescreen and Genetics Australia Premium Packs allows us to improve type traits in our herd and maintain maximum production and longevity. Peter does all the insemination of our herd. Heat detection is identified by Estrotects and observation. All cows that have had twins or retained afterbirth are given PG to help cycle. We follow with a PG or CIDR program for any cows that have not cycled after 3 weeks and also the late calvers to tighten our calving pattern. AI is used for 7 weeks after which bulls are run with the herd. The Holstein heifers are given a single PG and joined to a calving ease bull, then Jersey bulls.

Herd health

Annual 7-in-1 and drench at dry off. All cows with above 200 cell count are treated with dry cow. Herd test is done monthly to assist in monitoring mastitis. Mastitis and sore feet are treated quickly to ensure recovery period is as quick as possible. Cows with acidosis are drenched with Bi-Carb and given B12 to assist recovery. A second worm drench is given to the 2-3 year olds.

Replacements

All Holstein AI heifers are kept plus the best of the AI Jersey heifers. Our aim is to rear approximately 25% replacements per year. About three Jersey bulls are kept each year for heifer joining.

Fertiliser

Fertiliser used	N	P	K	S
kg/ha	43	23	31	27

Milking system

Since purchasing the farm Peter has built a new dairy shed and replaced the 12 swing-over open trough system with a 14 double-up, stall gates, computerised feed system. Milking is done by two milkers and takes 2 hours to complete.

Farm records

Cow records are kept in Murray Goulburn hand booklets, then transferred to cow sheets and then on to 'Easy Dairy' on the farm owner's computer. Records kept include pasture rotation, MG Milkcare, semen stock and fodder stocks.

Lifestyle

We take at least one family holiday consisting of two weeks each year. Additional weekends or camping trips are spent away whenever possible throughout the year. Interests include tennis, camping, 4-wheel driving, home renovating, plus activities with the kids.

Financial management

Rachel manages our own finances using Quicken. Tax planning is done with an accountant in about May each year. As a farm we work together with owners to manage cash flow. Before the drought hit hard this year we did some forward planning and stocked up on hay, seed and detergents while the cash flow still allowed us to keep our debts to a minimum. Because of good tax planning last year we were able to withdraw FMD investment instead of bank loans.

Making the most of the property

Since purchasing the property, major subdivision has been carried out with water troughs being set up in every paddock. As we milk more cows than the previous farm owners the dairy was modified to make milking quicker and the yard had to be increased to hold the additional cows. The calf shed had to be modified to fit more calves and make feeding easier. A machinery shed has been built so that the tractors and machinery can be kept out of the weather. Tracks have been upgraded to accommodate the extra cows. We find that being involved in discussion groups, such as John Mulvany and 30/30 Project, we are always learning new ways of making the most of our property.

Pasture and feed management

By following the 'Pastures for Profit' program our aim is to maximise as much grass as possible. Each year at least one-third of the farm is oversown but this year we over-sowed 70%. All silage paddocks are over sown with annual rye grasses each year. Permanent pasture is sown in a rotation. The whole farm is sprayed for weeds in the Autumn. Urea is used to boost pasture growth. Annual Autumn fertiliser is applied at 300kg/ha and we rotate lime applications across the farm at 2.5 t/ha.

Livestock management

We treat the cows as if they are our own. As the cows are the source of income, we do all that we can to ensure that we maintain a healthy and productive herd. All stock is closely monitored to pick up any problems promptly. Cows allowed to walk to and from dairy at their own pace.

Sharefarmer-owner relationship

We work together with owners as a close-knit family. If problems arise they are dealt with quickly.

Attitude to dairying and aims for the future

We aim to make it as successful a business as possible while enjoying the family lifestyle benefits. We are hoping to expand land holding to consolidate the future. By purchasing new equipment as required we are increasing our financial interest in the farm.

Family and leisure time

Having three kids, Luke 10, Megan 8 and Chloe 6, we like to spend as much time as possible with them enjoying activities such as the cinema, bike riding, swimming and camping.

Community affairs and off-farm interests

Peter is a member of the local CFA. Rachel is involved in tennis and Meals on Wheels. We try to assist the School with things such as working bees, sports days and school canteen. Other groups include Holstein Association and The North East Jersey Club.

Herd production

Season (production year)	No. of cows	Milk (L)	Fat (%)	Fat (kg)	Prot (%)	Prot (kg)
Factory Figures						
2006-07	241	1,827,700	4.18	76,311	3.37	61,575
2005-06	265	1,828,815	4.31	78,838	3.34	61,142
2004-05	228	1,534,690	4.42	67,915	3.36	51,662
2003-04	226	1,402,670	4.33	60,753	3.42	48,015
Herd Test Figures						
2006-07	239	6713	4.1	275	3.4	227
2005-06	232	6536	4.5	295	3.4	225
2004-05	211	6699	4.3	289	3.5	283
2003-04	235	5936	4.3	257	3.6	212
Production for each age group (current season)						
2-year-olds	59	24.7	2.6	.64	3.2	.80
3-year-olds	33	28.1	3.3	.94	3.2	.91
4-year-olds	54	29.8	3.9	1.16	3.4	1.00
Mature cows	105	28.7	3.9	1.12	3.3	.95

West Gippsland: Steven & Sally Fallon, Willow Grove

Farm owners: Geoff & Elly Fallon

Effective ha of home farm	74 ha	**Average annual rainfall**	700mm
Effective ha of run-off block	36 ha	**Irrigation water used**	70 mL
Share agreement	50%	**Mating start date**	1st October
Fodder conserved from home farm	600 rolls silage	**Fodder from run-off block**	80 rolls silage, 80 rolls hay
Feed bought in	105t grain, 8t palm kernel		

Feeding

Regular walks of the farm are done to calculate growth rates and pasture availability and quality, to ensure the best pasture for maximum production with minimal inputs. We graze pasture at the 3-leaf stage, except for Spring where it is back to 2½-leaf stage to maximise quality. In the previous three years we have averaged 11.3 t/ha pasture consumption. In this last year it has dropped to 9.5t/ha due to the drought.

Pasture is measured in cow days and we set a 'start of calving target' of over 2000 available cow days, which we have done every year to be able to fully feed the cows at the start of calving.

Calf rearing

Calves are brought in 12 hours after birth and heifer calves are stomach tubed with 2 litres of colostrum. Calves are reared in the shed in groups of 12 on buckets — fed 4 litres once a day with ad lib grain with 21% protein, plus hay — then weaned at 10-12 weeks (approx 100kg), then put in calf paddocks and fed grain, hay and grass. Calves are fed grain until 10 months and silage during the summer months. Calves are reared under the JDCAP program.

Breeding program

We do a commercial breeding program in which the cows are evaluated and bulls are selected on type, components, APR, udder attachment, teat placement and this year we went for more strength. We try to spend extra on proven semen, as we believe spending around $23 is a good investment. We visually heat detect prior to joining and at the start of joining we use heat detectors and then tail paint after each cow is joined. After 7 days of joining any cow that hasn't come on heat is PGd.

Ensuring that the correct bulls are selected is dependent on the evaluation of each individual cow. The cows are joined for 7 days and then PGd to keep a tight calving pattern and give most cows the opportunity to be inseminated twice. AI lasts just over 4 weeks.

Herd health

To ensure the cows are in good condition at calving they are fed Causmag to help reduce the incidence of milk fever. They fed well after calving to maintain condition and increase production.

Cows are blanket dry cowed and vaccinated with 7-in-1. Wide lane ways are maintained to ensure cows don't get sore feet. Cows are monitored closely and anything out of the ordinary is dealt with quickly and veterinary attention is given if required to ensure a quick recovery.

Replacements

Approximately 50 calves are kept each year and are kept in calf rearing area with the JDCAP. The yearlings are on a run-off block.

Fertiliser

Fertiliser used	N	P	K	S
kg/ha	260	0	30	18

Milking system

Cows are milked in a 22 swing-over herringbone shed with milking taking 1½ hours plus washing up for 195 cows. This is done on our own with a relief milker on Sundays. We installed a yard blaster to minimise time washing the yard, which now takes about 2 minutes.

Farm records

We are responsible for all records including breeding records, fertiliser records and all paddock records. These are recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, which we created ourselves. We use Cashflow Manager and Excel to record our financials.

Lifestyle

We now have a 12-month-old son who takes up a lot of our time. Our family outings consist of swimming, playing tennis, watching football, playing mixed netball, playing golf, visiting family and friends, gardening, breeding birds and going to the beach.

Financial management

This year we have tried to minimise the damage of the drought by using extra nitrogen in the spring to grow more silage and not chase production. We sold empty cows as soon as they had been pregnancy tested, and made the most of the irrigation when restrictions weren't implemented. Since we have been sharefarming we have been putting money aside into a special account for a deposit to buy the farm hopefully next year. We had a 5-year plan when we started sharefarming to buy the farm.

We belong to an AG Challenge Discussion Group which is facilitated by Geoff Urie. This provides us with monthly data on milk income and feed costs per cow and return per ha. We also complete a farm financial analysis each year to compare against ourselves and others and also to see our assets increasing.

Making the most of the property

Before we started sharefarming this farm it was very run down, with very big paddocks and bent grass and paspalum pastures. We have now re-sown all new pasture by cropping and cultivating paddocks and putting in the best new rye grass pasture.

We have also split up a lot of the paddocks, planted thousands of trees, implemented fertiliser programs, put in irrigation system, built a new dairy shed so we could milk more cows. We have increased pasture consumption from approximately 5 tonne to 11.5 tonne without any really good seasons.

Pasture and feed management

Cows are fed on pasture based system with start of calving targets set and total pasture consumptions. Every time the cows come out of a paddock moisture provided urea is put on at 80kg/100 per ha to maximise growth. Silage is cut when pasture growth exceeds consumption during spring and topping is also done normally in thirds of paddocks each round. .

Livestock management

Cows are fed on pasture-based system with minimal inputs and are calved down over a 9-week period. They are dry for 7 weeks. Any cow that gets Mastitis three times is sold. Being able to know each and every cow from the front and back makes it very easy to notice if anything is wrong with a cow, or to tell from a distance if a cow is on heat. Calves and heifers are strip grazed and rotated around their selected areas, with grain and silage inputs when required.

Sharefarmer-owner relationship

We have an excellent relationship with Steve's parents. They have total faith in what we do and give 100% support with decisions that we make regarding the management and running of the farm. Regular discussions are held regarding what is happening on the farm and our plans.

Attitude to dairying and aims for the future

After a tough year the signs are looking really good for the coming season, and we hope to make the most of the milk price and milk more cows. Our aim for the future is to ensure money is contributed to our special account for when we are ready to hopefully buy the farm next year. We think that dairy farming has a positive future and think it is a great life style for families.

Family and leisure time

As we have a relief milker on Sundays we make sure that we have a break and spend the day away from the farm doing the activities we have noted earlier. Family time is also spent on the farm doing chores together such as going for a ride on the motorbike, shifting fences, bringing the cows up for milking or going for a ride in the tractor to feed hay/silage and feeding calves.

Community affairs and off–farm interests

We are members of UDV and a local Farm Discussion Group (AG Challenge) and are also involved in YDDP.

Herd production

Season (production year)	No. of cows	Milk (L)	Fat (%)	Fat (kg)	Prot (%)	Prot (kg)
Factory Figures						
2006-07	180	921,482		37,756		29,552
2005-06	185	881,525		35,888		28,324

South-West: Adam & Natalie Roberts, Camperdown

Farm owners: Denis & Norah Place

Effective ha of home farm	317 ha	Average annual rainfall	800mm
Share agreement	34%	Mating start date	01/05/07, 13/08/07, 08/11/07
Fodder conserved from home farm	600t silage, 240t hay, 100t maize		
Feed bought in	600t grain, 200t hay, canola grape mark		

Feeding

1.5t of grain is fed per cow to maximise pasture growth. We direct drill 100 ha of annuals in autumn and renovate 30-40ha per year. Crops of turnips, rape and maize are ready for Summer and Autumn calvers.

Calf rearing

Calving is carried out in three blocks. Calves are reared in a shed for the first 2–3 weeks before going into small paddocks in mobs of 20, then weaned at 6–8 weeks. Grain and straw is fed ad lib from Day 1 and they are fed 4 litres of milk per day in the morning. One person does all the calf feeding. We rear 40–50 calves per calving.

Breeding program

We use a herd evaluation to select appropriate sires, using bulls with good feet and legs, high protein production and 75% proven/25% progeny test. We changed from April–November calving to three calving periods. Using 100% AI single shot PG has helped tighten up calving periods, and we hope to change back to Autumn-Spring calving.

Herd health

Cows are fully fed year-round. Blanket dry cow treatment is used and there have been minimal mastitis issues. All animals are closely monitored year round to make sure any problems are sorted out promptly.

Replacements

Herd replacements are grown on the farm and drenched every six weeks. Heifers are weighed before joining, and must be at least 330kg. We keep approximately 100 replacements per year. Cows are culled for high cell count, poor production figures (total milk solids) and empty cows.

Fertiliser

Fertiliser used	N	P	K	S
kg/ha	200	27.6	73.6	32.2

Milking system

We milk in a 50-unit rotary with cup removers and auto teat spray (one operator). Each milking usually takes two hours.

Farm records

We keep all our own records including herd breeding records, quality assurance records and business records.

Financial management

Both of us share the bookwork, we will try and sit down a couple of times a month to go over all the finances and keep records up to date. Financial records are monitored closely with regular meetings with our accountant.

Making the most of the property

The farm is well set up and maintained. Areas that we are still working on improving include pasture management and soil fertility.

Pasture and feed management

Pasture utilisation is improving as more of the farm is being resown or oversown. Annuals are proving a useful short-term tool. Maize and summer crops (turnips and rape) are a big part of our Summer-Autumn feeding. We direct drill 100 ha of annuals each autumn, while renovating approximately 30-40 ha per year. We apply 200kg/N/ha per year and try to have 2000 kg/dm/ha on June 15, which is four weeks into the second block of our calving pattern.

Livestock management

Calving heifers at 24 months is working well, although there is still room for improvement. Lead feeding and a different calf rearing program is also working well. We have had very good cattle to work with from Day 1, working out the most effective way to feed them is the challenge.

Sharefarmer-owner relationship

Denis and I can be looking at the same object and see totally different things. He is very much a machinery, repairs and maintenance man while I prefer looking after the cows, pasture and focusing on turning grass into milk.

Attitude to dairying and aims for the future

Both of us are excited about the future of the farm and the dairy industry. In the long term we hope to be able to own our own farm.

Family and leisure time

We get away from the farm a couple of times a year as well spending weekends at football. With our first child due in November and we are sure everything is going to get a lot busier, therefore we will have to look at ways in which we can still enjoy our family and leisure time.

Community affairs and off-farm interests

Adam plays football for Camperdown and enjoys surfing and travelling. Natalie is treasurer of Camperdown Show Committee and very much enjoys horse riding.

Herd production

Season (production year)	No. of cows	Milk (L)	Fat (%)	Fat (kg)	Prot (%)	Prot (kg)
Factory Figures						
2005-06	420	3,116,730		123,696		97,775
2006-07	400	2,690,785		106,136		82,108
Herd Test Figures						
12 month average 317 days	366	7223	3.9	285	3.1	228
Production for each age group (current season)						
2-year-olds	56	21.5	3.3	.72	3.3	.72
3-year-olds	63	23.2	3.7	.85	3.3	.76
4-year-olds	41	26.4	3.6	.94	3.2	.84
Mature cows	118	24.6	3.9	.96	3.3	.80