

# Taking care of cows ....is managing emissions

This fact sheet is part of the Profitable Dairying series - *Good business management reduces greenhouse gas emissions.*

The Australian dairy industry has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions intensity (emissions per L milk produced) by 30% by 2020.

The day-to-day management Australian farmers do to keep their herds healthy plays an important role in reducing the emissions intensity of Australian dairying.

Animal welfare, good business management and emissions management go hand-in-hand.

## Healthy cows, more milk

Over 50% of dairy farm emissions come from enteric methane. For the dairy industry to achieve a reduction in emissions intensity, every cow needs to be producing milk to her maximum capability. Cows compromised by lameness or mastitis or other health issues have higher emissions intensity.

Healthy herds mean a better milk cheque, less vet bills and much less stress in day-to-day farm management. The stress and worry of animals being unwell impacts everyone involved with a dairy business.

There are number of activities that combined optimise cow health. These include early detection of mastitis, preventing lameness and protection from extreme weather events.



A healthy cow produces more milk for the same emissions output, compared to a cow compromised by lameness, mastitis, heat/cold stress or poor quality feed.



Programs available to support farm businesses to manage herd health include:

### Managing Lameness

The Australian dairy industry is working to minimise the animal welfare impacts of lameness through encouraging the adoption of practices for the prevention, early detection and effective treatment of lameness on farm. Under development is a Healthy Hooves for farmers and herd managers. In the interim the following fact sheets contain useful information.

- [Managing in Wet Conditions - Lameness](#)
- [Building blocks for good laneways](#)
- [Equipment for treating lameness](#)

### Mastitis (Countdown)

Countdown promotes better udder health, milk quality and dairy farm profitability through a range of information resources, training programs and tools. For more information refer to:

- [Countdown Farm Guidelines](#)
- [Countdown shed guidelines and videos](#)
- [Countdown customised app](#)
- [Cups off cups on training](#)

### Heat stress (Cool Cows)

Heat stress affects herd milk production and income, but the impacts of heat stress on cow fertility, health and welfare last well beyond seasonal hot weather. To assist farmers in dealing with heat stress the [Cool Cows](#) program provides resources, tools and a Heat Stress Alert Service.



Published by Dairy Australia Limited with support from the Australian Government..

Whilst all reasonable efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of the **Taking Care of Cows** publication use of the information contained herein is at one's own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by Australian law, Dairy Australia disclaims all liability for any losses, costs, damages and the like sustained or incurred as a result of the use of or reliance upon the information contained herein, including, without limitation, liability stemming from reliance upon any part which may contain inadvertent errors, whether typographical or otherwise, or omissions of any kind.

© Dairy Australia Limited 2015. All rights reserved.

**Dairy Australia Limited** ABN 60 105 227 987  
Level 5, IBM Centre  
60 City Road, Southbank VIC 3006 Australia  
T + 61 3 9694 3777 F + 61 3 9694 3701  
E [enquiries@dairyaustralia.com.au](mailto:enquiries@dairyaustralia.com.au)  
[dairyaustralia.com.au](http://dairyaustralia.com.au)

