Fert$mart and GHG emissions

More grass, more milk, less impact

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.

Fert$mart is a key component of the Profitable Dairying in a Carbon Constrained Future project, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions intensity and improving the profitability of dairy farmers.

Emissions and water quality

Fert$mart is best practice nutrient management **for more grass, more milk and less impact on the planet.** This is achieved through:

- ✓ Cows on high quality feed burp less methane
- ✓ Cows on high quality feed produce more milk
- ✓ Fert$mart gives farmers strategies for using effluent to reduce methane & nitrous oxide emissions and also protect water quality
- ✓ Fert$mart gives farmers strategies for using nitrogen fertilisers to reduce nitrous oxide emissions and protect water quality
- ✓ Strategic use of fertiliser means less emissions from pre-farm embedded sources (manufacture, transport, handling)

Photo: Nikki Atkins

Fert$mart planning is:

- ✓ Working with your Fert$mart adviser
- ✓ Knowing farm management zones
- ✓ Soil testing regularly
- ✓ Nutrient budgeting
- ✓ Applying fertiliser strategically
- ✓ Monitoring progress over time and adapting plan to production targets

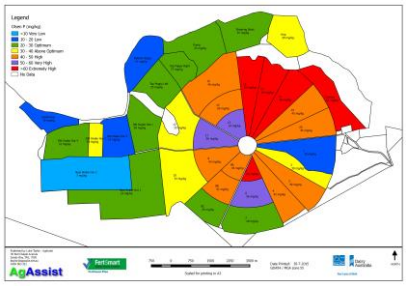
Strategic use of fertiliser is the 4Rs:

- ✓ Right product
- ✓ Right rate
- ✓ Right time
- ✓ Right place.

The Fert$mart Planning Process

Work with your Fert$mart accredited adviser to do a nutrient budget based on your production to date and accounting for seasonal conditions and production targets.

Know your soils, pastures and farm management zones. Think about dryland & irrigated areas, effluent paddocks, night paddocks, poorly drained areas, dry banks, different soil types, accessibility for fertiliser spreading etc. Identify limitations to pasture growth such as pH, drainage, pugging, weed competition and account for these in your planning.



Soil test representative paddocks from farm management zones regularly to build a good picture of fertility across the farm over time. Modify your fertiliser program according to soil test results.

Apply fertiliser strategically using the 4Rs:

- Right product
- Right rate
- Right time
- Right place

Effluent is a Fert$mart fertiliser. Spread it over as much of the farm as possible using irrigation and slurry/muck spreading. Design your effluent system for efficient management and capture of effluent nutrients.

PLAN DO CHECK REVIEW

fert$mart.dairyingfortomorrow.com.au

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

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
dairyaustralia.com.au

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