Prepare for public holidays

With the festive season comes many public holidays which often differ in each state.

*Monday 24 December*
Christmas Eve

*Tuesday 25 December*
Christmas Day

*Wednesday 26 December*
Boxing Day

*Thursday 26 December*
Christmas Day (Public Holiday)

*Monday 31 December*
New Year’s Eve

*Tuesday 1 January 2019*
New Year’s Day

Entitlements for not working on a public holiday

The National Employment Standards provides for employees who do not attend work on public holidays to receive the base rate of pay they would have received for ordinary hours of work as follows:

- Full-time employees are entitled to a paid day off for public holidays.
- Part-time employees are entitled to be paid for the hours they would normally work on public holidays.

If they do not normally work on the day of the public holiday they are not entitled to pay.

Some employees are not entitled to pay for public holidays unless they have been rostered for work on that day.

Further details on employees working on public holidays, and public holiday pay rates can be found here.

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Irrigation Scheduling optimises return

When it comes to irrigating, Dairy farmers have access to a range of scheduling irrigation tools designed to reduce their costs—in time, resources and money.

While we recognize that most farmers use experience and stock rotation to guide their irrigator scheduling decisions, getting it wrong can cost money.

The challenge is that you don’t see the benefit until you are missing out on.

The key is to measure your water use and production potential—keep records and review them regularly.

There are a range of tools available to assist farmers to schedule irrigation including the language, weather based tools such as INHEAT, the DairySA Irrigation spreadsheet and the irrigation monitoring systems.

DairySA can assist you to use a tool to suit your situation.

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A CASE STUDY

Geoff Sisson from Stansley was funded through Round Four of the Dairymaster Irrigation Efficiency Program to commission fixed spreader irrigation and replace it with a 40ha centre pivot on the highland. The work included Pettigrew mainline upgrades. Geoff also completed laser grading works on the example and extended the existing pipe and upgraded the 'brick' to serve the newly irrigated area.

Soil moisture monitoring has been installed on both the highland centre pivot and the surface irrigation area which is providing valuable data.

The centre pivot has also been base set up in the IRISAT system which is currently administered by the INHEAT system which is providing very useful data. It is especially useful as the INHEAT system also generates NDVI and Kc (crop stress) data. The system also provides irrigation scheduling tools which Geoff uses to optimize his crop production.

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Dairy SA News

NEW LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS FROM DARYSA

**November 2018**

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By Dairy Australia

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Keeping dry cows cool is good for bottom line

Geoff explained how heat stress limits mammary growth, metabolism and immune function, with these factors setting the stage for a more challenging transition, resulting in lower milk yield in the next lactation.

Geoff’s research found cooling dry cows increased milk for 40 weeks after calving. “Yields from cows cooled in the dry period saw a 4 to 5% increase in milk production compared to a day when uncooled cows were calved, he reported, despite some differences in how the animals were treated after calving.

“Across the board, they all show the same — animals cooled when the weather was cool made milk in their next lactation,” Geoff said.

Cooling dry cows increases body weight prepartum, but decreases body weight postpartum. The key message Geoff stressed is that cooled cows actually gained weight during their dry period and, because they are making a lot more milk after calving, they’re mobilising fat stores.

Research also found that cooling dry cows had positive effects on their immune function, including lymphocyte proliferation and increased neutrophil action postpartum.

Geoff rated the effects on acquired immunity and antilbody production could be important to vaccination profiles.

“Biopsies revealed that cooling dry cows has a direct impact on their mammary cells. The difference is an effect on the proliferation — or growth — of these cells,” Geoff explained. “There is a lot more in a cooled cow.”

Effect on calves

Heat stress on the cow also impacts on the uniform calf, both early life and when she begins lactating. Geoff termed this a ‘generational issue’ and not just on the affected animal, leaving it to human mothers smoking during pregnancy and resulting in effect on a child’s development.

“We have essentially created a situation where calves can’t reach their genetic potential while they suffer heat stress in the dry period,” Geoff said.

Geoff confirmed that cooling the cow increases her milk, birth weight, cull weight and in-farmer heat stress of about six weeks in length reduced calf body weight and height at weaning. “Cooled calves were heavier and taller,” Geoff reported.

Cooling also improves immunity, measured by the higher circulating IgG weight postpartum. “In fact, it looked like calves born to hot cows had lower ability to absorb IgG,” Geoff said.

Geoff’s studies also show that in utero heat stress decreases reproductive performance, with cooled calves requiring fewer services and achieving conception at an earlier age at pregnancy, by almost a month.

“At minimum we need to be allowing animals to recover from heat stress to assure core body temperature does reduce, and that will have positive flow-on effects for the whole business,” it makes sense to cool dry cows,” Geoff added.

Creating temporary shade structures, providing two shade, sprayers or even planning calf patterns that allow cows to be dry in the cool months of the year, will all help, he said.

DairySA Farm Business courses set farmers up for the future

Feed Shortage booklet designed to assist SA dairy farmers

Recent national weather forecasts show Australia is likely to be heading into a drier than average spring in many regions.

Many regions that rely on rainfall for crop growth have experienced below average rainfall in the past few months. This has resulted in lower crop yields and growth, which in turn has impacted feed supplies.

In South Australia, the 2017/18 season did bring some challenges to farms but was a good season overall. Despite an average spring and a drier than average autumn, the overall yield was the highest of the season. Despite the conditions, farmers were able to have a good year, with a better price received, lower concentrates costs and an increase in milk price.

Rian events have been sporadic across SA, with some parts of the central region seeing several inches of rain while other areas saw no rain at all. This has resulted in a mixed bag of conditions. Winter conditions improved for the southeast and some parts of the central region. The flow on effects from other drought affected areas in the northern and eastern regions has led to a decrease in price for purchased fodder, grain and concentrates.

Through situation and outlook reports, Dairy SA assists farmers and the industry by sharing information on feed supplies, pasture and hay supplies, storage and harvest issues across the entire state.

“With the situation and outlook reports we aim to provide a broad overview of the situation and outlook for feed supplies across the state,” said Dairy SA's Dairy SA's Farm Business Analysis Manager, Bec Walmsey.

“The reports are designed to provide an overview of the factors that will impact feed supplies and give an idea of the potential supply and demand scenario for the season ahead, which will help farmers plan ahead,” she said.

Dairy SA's latest Situation and Outlook report is now available online via the Dairy SA website. It provides a snapshot of how the dairy industry is tracking in international and national market trends, statistics and facts and providing expert analysis and unbiased insights.

The October S&O highlights how the Australian market for dairy products has remained stable, with high key product categories showing growth, pointing to ongoing and strengthened support for dairy in the country.

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