



Coming Event Notice from Grains2Milk

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(260 words)

Head: How now cool cow

Local dairy farmers will be able to see first hand what's being done on a local farm to keep cows cool and reduce the impact of heat stress, with the *Cool Cows field days* coming soon.

Dairy Australia's Dr Steve Little, who developed the *Cool Cows* package says the field days are a great opportunity for farmers to see ideas being put into practice on-farm and to discuss ways to make use of what they already have to keep cows cool this summer.

"Many people are surprised to hear it doesn't take really high temperatures to trigger heat stress in dairy cows. They start to feel uncomfortable once temperatures hit 25 deg C," said Dr Little.

The effects of heat stress include a drop in milk production, reduced herd fertility and lower milk protein and fat tests. It can also trigger live weight losses and create animal health problems.

"The good news is that heat stress can be effectively managed on farm and the benefits are clearly visible," he said.

Some heat stress strategies are simple, quick and cheap to put in place, while others are longer term, involving more cost and effort.

"Providing ways for cows to stay cool will result in substantial benefits in terms of improved productivity and more contented cows. And the *Cool Cows* field days are a great way to get started," said Dr Little.

Farmers wishing to put ideas into action after the field days will be able to draw on the *Cool Cows information package* including the booklet and web-based resources, available on www.coolcows.com.au or www.dairyaustralia.com.au.

For more information contact your regional co-ordinator (listed below)

ENDS

Diary dates: **Cool Cows field days**

Gippsland (more info: John Hutchison ph 03 5659 4373)

Macalister Demonstration Farm Monday 16 February 10.30am

NSW Mid North Coast (more info: Tony Dowman ph 6562 6244)

Kempsey Monday 16 February 10.30am Bret and Sue McGinn's property, Belmore River

NSW South Coast and Highlands (more info: Kerry Allan ph 0401 015 670)

South Coast Thursday 29 January 10.00am Jenny and Rodney Crawford's property, Numbaa

Southern Highlands Thursday 5 February 10:30am Evan and Kylie Hayes' property, Avoca via Moss Vale

Illawarra Thursday 12 February 10.30am Alan and Leesa Swan's property, Jamberoo

About Grains2Milk (background information for media)

The Grains2Milk program provides dairy farmers with the training, resources and support they need to make better decisions about

using grains and concentrates in their businesses. The program is funded by dairy farmers through Dairy Australia.

Media contact: This media release has been issued by Monks Communication on behalf of Grains2Milk. Contact Monks Communication for inquiries about photos and interviews or to have your contact details removed or updated on our distribution list:

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