



Cool Cows Newsletter Grab

For immediate release: 14 April 2010

Head: Use cool months to set up for cool cows (220 words)

Dairy farmers are being encouraged to think about what can be done during the cooler months to better manage heat stress in their herds next summer.

Dr Steve Little, who manages the Cool Cows program for Dairy Australia, said winter provides an ideal opportunity to install improvements to avoid getting caught out next time.

“Some of the most effective management options are low cost but they need to be done well in advance. It’s very easy to get caught out when the hot weather arrives,” said Dr Little.

For example sprinklers in the dairy yard and water troughs at the dairy exit cost very little to install but can greatly reduce heat stress.

Planning ahead is even more important if you are considering more substantial improvements such as a shade shelter or covered feedpad.

“Now is the time to get organised,” he said.

A good place to begin is the *Cool Cows* website which has interactive tools to help farmers use local weather data and their own records to look at what impact heat stress had on the herd’s milk production and reproductive performance

“You can work through the Actions Generator tool to identify what can be done on your farm, and print out a personalised action list,” Dr Little said.

For more information visit www.coolcows.com.au or contact Steve Little mob 0400 004 841 email slittle@dairyaustralia.com.au .

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Caption: Winter is an ideal time to install simple improvements to manage heat stress next summer: sprinklers and water troughs can be quite cheap to install, but need to be done before the hot weather arrives.

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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