In South West Victoria, 25 farms are analysed. Encourages the application of whole farm analysis principles on Victorian farm businesses.

The Dairy Farm Monitor Project provides industry and government with timely, farm level data for targeted strategy and decision making.

In South West Victoria, 25 farms are analysed.

**Physical farm characteristics**

- On average, participant farms in the South West maintained stocking rate, increased herd size but decreased milk production per cow.

- **Average herd size**: 378 cows
- **Milk solids sold**: 502 kg MS/cow
- **Home grown feed**: 62% of metabolisable energy consumed

**Farm profitability was influenced by**

- **11% increase in milk price to $5.80/kg MS**
- **811 mm** of rainfall received. Despite receiving 101% of long term average rainfall, it was a long, dry summer.

- Farms supplemented dairy herd diet to manage dry conditions:
  - 71% in fodder purchases to $0.22/kg MS
  - 18% in concentrate costs to $1.52/kg MS

- Feed inventory **$0.17/kg MS** from 2.5 times to $0.17/kg MS.
  - Farms utilised fodder reserves as pasture availability **$0.17/kg MS** from 1.3 t DM/ha.

**Future expectations for 2018-19**

- Only 72% of farmers expect business returns to improve
- Concerns as reported by farmers:
  - **22%** Milk price
  - **17%** Pasture/fodder
  - **24%** Input costs

**Dairy Farm Monitor Project**

**2017-18 South West Victoria Overview**

Approximately 1,280 farms in South West Victoria produce 2.18 billion litres of milk per year, accounting for 22% of national milk output and 34% of Victoria’s.

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