Dairying in Gippsland

- On average, farms in Gippsland had a stocking rate of 1.9 cows per hectare.
- Approximately 1,220 dairy farms in Gippsland produced 1.87 billion litres of milk in 2018-19, accounting for 34% of Victoria’s milk production.

Physical farm characteristics

- Farm profitability was influenced by:
  - 18%↑ in variable costs to $3.81/kg MS as purchase feed and irrigation prices increased
  - 81% of long-term average rainfall
  - 100% irrigation determinations in the Macalister Irrigation District with no spill water
  - 4%↑ in milk price to $5.97/kg MS

Varied seasonal conditions contributed to 17 of the 25 farms recording a positive EBIT

- Average herd size: 307 cows
- Milk solids sold: 468 kg MS/cow
- Home grown feed: 66% of metabolisable energy consumed

Future expectations 2019-20

- 91% of farmers expect farm profit to improve

Issues ranked in order of importance as reported by farmers:

- Input costs
- Climate/seasonal conditions
- Pasture/fodder

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