

Dairy Farm Monitor Project

2021-22 Northern Victoria Performance



Approximately **874** dairy farm businesses in Northern Victoria produced 1.59 billion litres of milk in 2021-22, accounting for **29 per cent** of Victoria's milk production output and **19 per cent** of Australia's milk production.



7% ↑ increase in average milk price to **\$7.54/kg MS**

16% ↑ in herd and shed costs to **\$0.61/kg MS**

9% ↑ in total feed costs to **\$3.59/kg MS**

10% ↑ in overhead costs to **\$2.54/kg MS**

Physical farm characteristics

Stable herd size at slightly higher production per cow delivered an increase in total milk production compared to last year in Northern Victoria.

Northern Victoria typically has larger herds and irrigation infrastructure that supports more intensive production systems. Non irrigated farms in Northern Victoria tend to be larger scale but are reliant on rainfall. While perennial pastures dominate in the other regions, annual pastures dominate in Northern Victoria and on average the milking cows consume less homegrown pasture.

Stable



Average herd size
428 cows

1% ↑



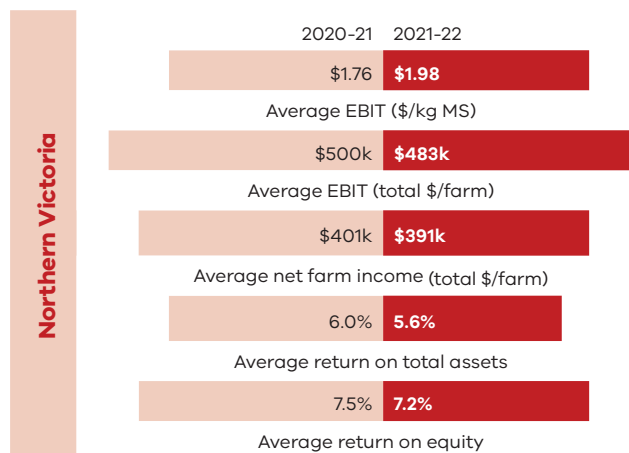
Milk solids sold
578 kg MS/cow

2% ↑

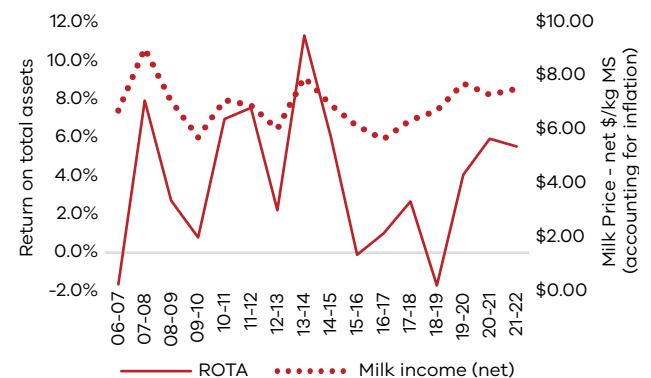


Homegrown feed
56% of
metabolisable
energy consumed

In 2021-22 all 30 participants recorded a positive return on total assets



Return on total assets and milk price



Future expectations 2022-23



Northern Victorian participants are optimistic with 87 per cent expecting business returns to improve and 10 per cent expecting business returns to remain stable.

Concerns as reported by farm businesses



Input Costs

19%



Labour

16%



**Climate/
seasonal
conditions**

15%



**Pasture/
fodder**

15%