# Dairy Farm Monitor Project

## Icon coloured green showing a milk bottle with upward arrow depicting milk priceSouth West Victoria Performance

#### Icon coloured green showing a milk bottleDairying in South West Victoria

Approximately **941** dairy farm businesses in South West Victoria produced **1.85 billion litres** of milk in 2022-23, accounting for **36%** of Victorian milk production output and **23%** of Australia's milk production.

#### Physical farm characteristics

Greater pasture availability due to good seasonal grazing conditions lifted the amount of homegrown feed in the diet and reduced the requirement for supplements. Milk production and cows milked remained comparable on average.

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| **1%** | **Stable** | **2%** |
| Icon coloured geen of a dairy cow | Icon coloured green showing milk bottle with two overlapping squares on the label. | Icon coloured green showing 2 stems of a plant |
| **Average herd size 385 cows** | **Milk solids sold 526 kg MS/cow** | **Homegrown feed  64% of metabolisable energy consumed** |

#### In 2022-23, all participants (25 of the 25) recorded a positive return on total assets

#### Graph showing South West Victorian participants comparative average data between 2021-22 and 2022-23. This data is available in the Historical Appendix tables.

#### Future expectations 2023-24

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| Icon coloured green showing a milk bottle with a dollar sign on the front. | **Four-in-five** farmers expect business returns to decline or stabilise |

In 2022-23 farm profitability has been influenced by:

**33%** increase in average milk price to **$9.81/kg MS**

**9%** in herd and shed costs to **$0.70/kg MS**

**17%** in total feed costs to **$4.08/kg MS**

**6%** in overhead costs to **$3.07/kg MS.**

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| Icon coloured green showing three rectangles to represent homegrown feed. | 124% of long-term average rainfall saw wet conditions and reduced conserved feed |
| Icon coloured green showing a grain silo. | 0.3 t DM/cow decrease in average supplements fed (total 3.7 t DM/cow) |
| Icon coloured green with a dollar sign to represent costs. | Highest total costs (variable and overhead) in 17 years of DFM. |

#### Return on total assets and milk price

**Concerns as reported by farm businesses:**

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| Icon coloured green showing a dollar sign. | Icon coloured green showing a sun. | Icon coloured green showing a hay bale. |
| **Input Costs**  **19%** | **Climate**  **18%** | **Pasture/fodder**  **17%** |