# Dairy Farm Monitor Project

## 2022-23 Northern Victoria performance

#### Dairying in Northern Victoria

Approximately **805** dairy farm businesses in Northern Victoria produced **1.48 billion litres** of milk in 2022-23, accounting for **29%** of Victoria’s milk production output and **18%** of Australia's milk production.

#### Physical farm characteristics

The average herd size in Northern Victoria is larger than the other regions and most dairy farms have irrigation infrastructure. Pastures tend to be dominated by annual species and supplementary feeding is higher compared to the other regions.

The average number of cows milked increased slightly, while there was a 6% decrease in milk production per cow. Greater quantities of purchased concentrates were fed with lower quantities of homegrown feed.

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| **2%**  | **6%**  | **4%** |
| Icon coloured red to showing a milking cow. | Icon coloured red showing a milk bottle with two overlapping squares.  | Icon coloured red showing two overlapping plant stems.  |
| **Average herd size436 cows** | **Milk solids sold542 kg MS/cow** | **Homegrown feed 54% of metabolisable energy consumed** |

#### In 2022-23, 28 out of 30 participants recorded a positive return on total assets



#### Icon coloured red showing a milk bottle with a dollar sign on the label. Future expectations 2023-24

**Nine-in-ten** are optimistic their business returns will improve and 10% expect business returns to remain stable.

#### Farm profitability was influenced by

**31%** increase in average milk price to **$9.84/kg MS**

**6%** in herd and shed costs to **$0.66/kg MS**

**31%** in total feed costs to **$4.70/kg MS**

**15%** in overhead costs to **$2.93/kg MS.**

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| Icon coloured red showing a hay bale | 9% decrease in homegrown feed (pasture grazed plus conserved) due to wet conditions and flood impacts  |
| Icon coloured red showing a grain silo | 0.3 t DM/cow increase in average supplements fed (total 5.4 t DM/cow) |
| Icon coloured red showing a dollar sign | 3rd 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 red showing a sun.  | Icon coloured red showing a dollar sign  | Icon coloured red showing a hay bale.  |
| **Climate****20%** | **Input costs****18%** | **Pasture/fodder****17%** |