Systems Approach to Dairy Grazing

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Get the priorities right

80% of potential gain made by getting the system right
Systems: A Plan for Success

• Failing to plan is a PLAN FOR FAILURE

• Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
  – Allows expansion and/or development
  – Allows for flexibility and adaptation
  – Each operation must determine what key elements will bring success and profitability

• KISS - KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID
Understanding Yourself

• What are your goals?
  – For the business
  – For the family
• What are your strengths and weaknesses?
• What do you enjoy?
• No one is great at everything….Build your systems around these strengths, goals and enjoyment
• Prioritize
Systems Approach

- Allows proactive approach rather than reactive
- Gives a plan for owners, management and employees
- Applications not set in stone but a “living structure” that enable flexibility within the operation
Key Elements for Dairy Grazing

- Forage(s)
- Cattle
- Labor
- Infrastructure
- Environment
All Systems Inter-relate

Environment → Cows → Forages → Infrastructure → Labor

PROFITABLE SUSTAINABLE
Cow System

• What market are you in?
  – Fluid
  – Components
  – Organic or natural grass-fed

• What calving pattern do you plan?
  – Seasonal
    • Fall or spring
  – Semi-seasonal
  – Year around

• What stocking rate do you anticipate?
  – Focus on milk per acre
  – Focus on milk per cow

• Registered or Commercial cow program?
Forage System

• Single or multi-species?
• Capability of harvest?
• Irrigation?
• Climatic Conditions?
• Timing of Demand?
• Stocking Rates?
Environmental System

• Size or anticipated size of operation?
• Agriculture rural or suburban rural?
• Potential of accidents and/or spills?
Labor System

- Efficiency of milking platform?
- Attitude of employees?
- Staff availability?
- Efficiency of labor?
  - Milk per employee?
  - Cows per employee?
Infrastructure System

• Type of Pasture Farm
• Capability of employees?
• Cost outlay?
• Forage Harvesting?
• Milk Harvesting?
• Water supply?
Mating & Calving Programme

- Calving 24 July
- Mid point 6 Aug 12 days
- AB starts 15 Oct 5-6 weeks of AB
- 8 Bulls 4x4 rotated every second day EBL tested
- Take bulls out Jan 8th
- Finish calving 10 Oct Late calves CIDR'd at 3 weeks
- End week 2 non cyclers are CIDR'd
- Rising plain of feed leading to mating Spring rotational planner monitored
- Submission rate at at 4 weeks 92% Conception at 5 weeks was 70%

Pregnancy test
MILKING PROCEEDURE

1. Milk Colostrum Cows First
2. Purge Milk Cans
3. Put hose into 200lt Drum change taps ON COOLER and VAT
4. Cup Milkers Change Cooler Taps when Drum IS FULL
5. Purge Milk Cans
6. Milk New Colostrum Cows, Change VAT taps TO Trailer - TANK
7. Milk any Penicillin Cows into test buckets LAST
8. Wash Plant
FULL DOSTERON - 1250!!
BOBBY TRUCK -
WED, FRI

**JOBS**

- tape c&b's fix/off ground
- even rubbish around shed
- general tidy up

- tidy tyres/plastic
- grease wagon + johnny's shaft
- put holes.
- granule thistles/behind cows
- replace broken naki c&b's to tape
- re-cut/rat stack
- get new hay bales
- re-batten main road fence/11/13/14/115
- tidy wool shed

- put hay, hi, meal in implement shed
- milk out all cows properly.
- 1/2 ps4
- feed old p.h to big herd
- jimbo's boss, be good.
- keep irrigator going.
- put dry's behind cows, longest addr.
- if in doubt, ask jimbo!!
- any problems ring me.

**MASS TIGHTS**
620
251

**BLIND COWS**
793
593
319
569
191
76
648
136

**TIME OFF**

**COWS**

- CONIC F3 & 42
- PINTO
- SCARLET
- PEARL/A(); 23, 21, 25, 26, 27 & boids

**DRENCH**

**THOU SHALT NOT BE ACCOMMODATED**
Summary

• Understand yourself.
• Decide on systems that suit you.
• Keep it simple so everyone can understand.