Use of new sensor derived data in Australian dairy systems

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'The speed of technological advancement has outpaced (by a long way) our ability to turn data into better actions on farm'

(C. Clark, EAAP 2016)

The bleeding edge of dairy farming



A dairy farmer's day

Business management 5-10%

Reproduction & Health 5-15%

Feeding 10-20%

Milk harvesting 50-60%

Milk harvesting 5-10% Reproduction & Health 5-15%

Feeding 10-20%

Business management 50-60%

Group vision and the Z generation

Milk harvesting 5-10%

Reproduction & Health 5-15%

Feeding 10-20%

Business management 50-60%

Milk harvesting 5-10%

Reproduction & Health 5-15%

Feeding 10-20%

Business management 20%

Turning data in actions

- 1. Currently available data: Feed to profit
- Cattle ID and milking order
- 2. Data from new technology
- Cattle accelerometer sensors and health phenotypes
- 3. Our data future
- Forward to the past
- Individual animal attention

Currently available data: Feed to profit



Data: Milking order

Research question: What is the impact of milking order on milk production and composition?







Time after entry (min)	CP (%)	NDF (%)	ADF (%)	Fraction length (cm)	H 19/2
0	19	60	26	42	35-40 40-45
15	19	60	26	42	H 198 H 19/2
30	18	62	27	37	No. 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
45	17	63	28	34	510 15-16 80-35 ⁻
60	16	64	29	31	20-25 CT 20-25" 19/2 25-25
75	15	65	30	27	1.20CT H 15-3" 10-55-
90	15	65	29	28	Been the set the set
105	15	65	30	26	The Cold Mar A
SED	1.3	3.13	2.32	2.454	

(Scott et al., 2014)

40-

/H 35-





Large herds: Creating value from data

Farm	MYdif (%)	MYdif (L/cow/dav)	Cows				
			Average	SD*			
1	17.2	-5	476	115			
2	18.6	-3.9	568	172			
3	29.1	-7.5	700	111			
4	15.1	-4.1	776	118			
5	14.4	-2.3	618	82			
6	16.0	-3.4	763	210			
Av	18.4	-4.4					
*SD: Standard deviation							

Question: Can we increase the efficiency pasture nutrient conversion to \$ through simple changes in management?

Question: Are there high environmental impact cows?

Turning data in actions

- 1. Currently available data: Feed to profit
- Large herds project
- Voluntary cow traffic
- 2. Data from new technology
- Health phenotypes
- 3. Our data future
- Forward to the past
- Individual animal attention

Data from new technology: Health phenotypes

Obtaining real-time behaviour of dairy cattle at a sub-minute level is available to research (and for commercial farms) now.



Data from new technology: Health phenotypes







Data from new technology: Health phenotypes



'Health phenotypes'

– Behaviour phenotype



'Oestrus phenotype'



'Oestrus phenotype'



Theriogenology 83 (2015) 739-748



Evaluation of infrared thermography body temperature and collar-mounted accelerometer and acoustic technology for predicting time of ovulation of cows in a pasture-based system



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'Oestrus phenotype'





- Standing to be mounted
- Interval
- Duration
- Intensity
- Expression of behaviours...?
- Interaction herd mates

'Calving phenotype'







The University of Sydney

'Calving phenotype'

Animal (2015), 9:4, pp 691–695 © The Animal Consortium 2014 doi:10.1017/S1751731114003127



Rumination and activity levels as predictors of calving for dairy cows

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'Transition cow phenotype'



'Lameness phenotype'

School of Engineering and Faculty of Veterinary Science collaboration

PhD: "Advanced Perception in Precision Livestock Robotics: Lameness"







'LDA phenotype?'



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Rumination patterns, locomotion activity and milk yield for a dairy cow diagnosed with a left displaced abomasum



Relative day of illness for LDA cow

Data from new technology



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Our data future: Forward to the past





Herd management boundaries set by farmers

- System optimisation for health and profit

The sound of 'moosic': The language of cattle (PhD A. Green)









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