



Irrigation Innovations Tasmanian Tour

Real Farms, Real Profits

Presented by the "Dairy Smarter Irrigation for Profit Project"

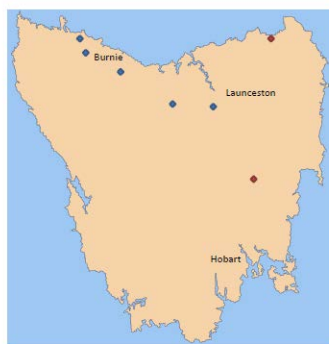
Irrigators from all industries are invited to attend and learn how the Smarter Irrigation for Profit project has improved productivity and profitability of pressurised irrigation on Tasmanian dairy farms.

February 27th to 1st March

This is an opportunity to experience firsthand the irrigation technologies and innovations being developed by smarter irrigation and applied on farm by Tasmanian farmers. See how this dairy research project has drawn on the experiences of other industries nationally to achieve more profitable irrigation.

The tour will be guided by the researchers from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) including Dr James Hills who has overseen the trials.

Leaving Burnie @ approximately 8.30 am 27th February & finishing at Launceston by 4:30 pm 1st March. Subject to interest a shuttle from Launceston to Burnie on Monday 26th February is possible.



Program:

Day 1: Rocky Cape and the TIA Dairy Research Facility,

Day 2: South Riana and Montana irrigation sites, Lunch Ashgrove Cheese

Day 3: TIA Smarter Irrigation for Profit Field Day – Cressy

Meet local farmers and hear about Rob Bradley's Variable Rate Irrigation experience.

Dinner speakers also included.

Cost: The only cost for participants is travel costs to and from Tasmania, (Burnie and Launceston)

Included: Coach (including shuttle on Monday 26th), all meals and accommodation, supported by "Smarter Irrigation for Profit"

Registration of interest is being taken at this time.

Please email your name, phone number and preferred starting location (Burnie or Launceston) to Monique White, Project Manager on:

Monique2@internode.on.net or phone/ text: 0400 972 206. Get in early to secure your seat.

This event is funded by Dairy Australia and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit program.

Further information:

The Tasmanian Smarter Irrigation for profit team commenced work at 5 field sites in 2015. In year 1 farms were intensively monitored without intervention to capture the baseline irrigation performance at each site. Since the baseline year the TIA team have worked with each farmer to improve irrigation performance seeking to achieve water, energy and labour savings at each site while also almost doubling productivity at some sites resulting in significant profitability improvements.

This potential to improve has also been achieved at Dairy Smarter Irrigation for Profit sites across Australia.

Attending this tour will enable you to hear first hand how an improved focus on irrigation performance can result in a significant improvement in your own business profitability.

Rocky Cape farm - Owner - Luke McNab.

800 cows currently – aim to increase to approximately 1000
270 Ha milking platform
Currently 14 GEA robots with the aim to increase this to 16 early next year
Pasture based with average of 4-6kg grain based concentrate
Sandy loam coastal farm with hump and hollow paddocks
12 span machine with an end gun, 600m in length and irrigates 60ha, in a part circle (2/3)
Dam water source. 30KW motor close coupled with centrifugal pump

TIA Dairy Research Facility, Elliott - Manager - Brad Millhouse

330 cows currently
112 Ha milking platform
20 aside swing over herringbone
Pasture based with approximately 4-5 kg grain based concentrate supplement
Undulating Red Ferrosol
Project site 24 ha CP part circle
Five span Bauer pivot with Valley VRI
The TIA Dairy Centre undertakes quality innovative and responsive research, development and extension to assist the Australian dairy industry in achieving growth and development in a profitable and sustainable manner. The TIA Dairy Centre aim is to be a global leader in utilising technologies and practices that enhance pasture based dairy systems productivity, profitability and competitiveness.

Visit will include presentations of other TIA research including:
Irrigation Automation using VARIWise.
Sense-T Pasture optimisation and decision support tools for the dairy and beef industries:
Evaluating the efficacy of the Smart-N technology

Montana - Owner – Nigel Brock

Autonomous irrigation site with Lindsay Zimmatic VRI pivot
800 cows
240Ha platform – 165 Ha irrigated
50 unit rotary
Pasture based with approximately 6kg grain based supplement
Flat floodplain with a loam soil over clay with some sandy loam ridges
7 span machine with an SR100 end gun irrigates 47.34 hectares
390m of sprinklers 33m of End Gun
37KW motor coupled with a Davey ISO pump, Vacon VFD motor control
Irrigation channel as the primary water source

South Riana, Corporate farm – AgCAP, Sharefarmer – Wayne Saward

800 cows
246Ha milking platform – 190 Ha irrigated
Pasture based with approximately 5 1/2 to 6 kg grain based concentrate
50 unit rotary
Undulating red ferrosol
7 span machine with SR-75 0.65" endgun, 360 m in length and irrigates 46 hectares
Dam Water source
45KW motor coupled with southern cross pump

Cressy- TIA Field Day – Rob Bradley

Valley centre pivot irrigator
Precision Irrigation VRI by Lindsay
11 span machine with an SRT-100T end gun
569.2m in length and irrigates 113.34 hectares
Water source is from an irrigation channel
A 75KW motor coupled with southern cross pump and a DanFos VFD.