

SMARTER IRRIGATION FOR PROFIT

New South Wales Optimised Irrigation Site

Smarter Irrigation for Profit is a national project that aims to quantify the expected water, energy and labour savings associated with adoption of innovative irrigation technologies over two irrigation seasons, as well as the associated management/skills requirements, maintenance costs and labour and lifestyle implications. It will target irrigators to improve their individual enterprise profit by \$20,000 - 40,000 per annum.

Limestone Park, located at Loomberah, near Tamworth, will be the NSW Optimised Irrigation Dairy Farm.

Owner, Rex Tout, currently milks a herd of 130 cows, producing approximately 1 million litres annually.

His aim for the demonstration farm is to increase profit per cow by optimising the potential of his irrigated milking platform, on which he currently grows approximately 14tMD/ha, to increase home grown feed production and quality.

The farm irrigation infrastructure includes two near new Reinke centre pivots and one linear irrigator.

Rex believes that through actually using the full functionalities of his existing infrastructure, and increasing his attention to detail he will improve his water and energy consumption and increase production whilst decreasing costly inputs.

He insists that monitoring needs to be user friendly and assist him to make management decisions with ease.

The site activities will include

- Soil moisture monitoring.
- Irrigation scheduling.
- Energy Efficiency analysis

Ongoing monitoring options being explored include:

- Use of the *Schedule Irrigation Diary App*
- Installation of soil moisture probes
- C-Dax pasture measurement



For further information contact: Marguerite White, Project Manager (ICD Project Services)
E: mwhite@icdprojectservices.com.au T: 0447 500 415

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