

Impact of 'Feeding Pastures for Profit' program in the dairy sector



FPPF INCREASES USE OF HOME GROWN FEED

The most significant factor correlating with **profitability** is the **proportion of directly grazed pasture**.

FPPF started in **2004**, runs across all dairy regions of **Victoria** and **1300** farmers have participated to date.

FPPF increases use of home grown feed by:

- Growing more grass
- Profitable use of pasture and crops
- Efficient use of supplements
- Using simple practical tools

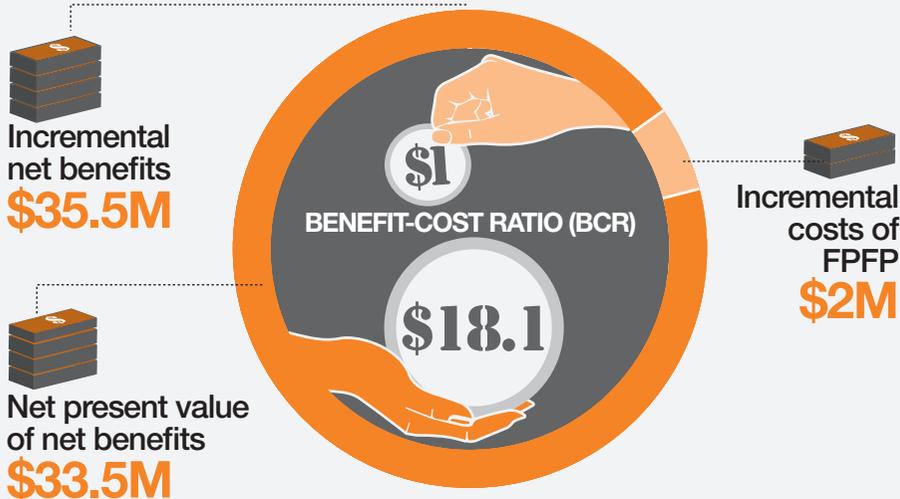
Through:

- Group discussions
- On farm sessions
- 1:1 support



RETURN ON INVESTMENT

FPPF improves farm productivity and profitability generating big returns for the dairy industry.



(Calculated over four years of program delivery 2008 – 2012)



WHAT LED TO THE BENEFITS?

Increasing proportion of home grown feed equals bigger profits.

Tools to increase proportion of home grown feed utilised:



Grazing management principles



Rotation right tool



Key Decision Checklist (Body of Evidence)

Change implemented by participating farmers:



Assess post grazing residuals to adjust supplement usage



Indicators for grazing



Adjust rotation and supplement usage



Monitor grazing residual



Use rotation right tool

Annual benefits to farmer (average) **\$43,000**



WHAT FARMERS SAY ABOUT FPPF

- 100%** of participants satisfied or very satisfied with the program
- 100%** of participants would recommend the program to others

- "I would have been broke without the program."
- "Every dairy farmer should do this program."
- "We have been able to increase overall milk solids by **113 kilograms of milk solids** per cow over the past **12 months** by improving pasture management and increasing pasture consumption."
- "This stuff just works, I can't understand why people don't jump on board - it's just so easy."
- "We have increased production by **30% over 3 years.**"

(Quotes sourced from post program evaluations)

Data sourced from: An evaluation of selected productivity programs and supporting groups and network services, final report, January 2014, Marsden Jacob Associates

