



Maffra Site

I would like to provide an update on Hico's Maffra site. In earlier communication with our shareholders we indicated that we planned to sell the Foster & Johnson Street sites prior to commencing a development at our McMahon Drive site. Further to this I can announce that we will be holding an auction of the Foster & Johnson Street sites on Friday 14th December. Once we sell the properties we plan to lease back these sites for a period of time while we finalise our future plans for a single Maffra work site.

Mistro Software

I am also pleased to announce that the software upgrade to our Mistro Finance program is nearing completion with testing to commence in early 2019.

Year to date overview

As we come towards the close of 2018 I am pleased to report that Hico has been able to achieve budget to this point in our financial year in very challenging trading conditions. There have been many of our dairy customers leave the industry during this year and I thank them for their loyal support over a long period of time. There is however much to be confident about the future of our dairy industry and I look forward to Hico being able to support you all in 2019.

Office Closures

Hico offices will be closed from Friday 21st December until Wednesday 2nd January. There will however be some staff working in our semen rooms to coordinate stock for our AI technicians on Monday 24th December.

I would like to wish all of our valued customers the compliments of the festive season.

Regards,

Michael Lee



MISTRO FEATURES added to Mistro Farm 5

Over the past few years we have had a number of requests for new features to be added to Mistro Finance 5. We are happy to announce that we are currently working on adding some of the more popular features to Finance to really bring it up to the industry standard.

We will be introducing such features as payroll, employee management, new reports including cash flow reports, the ability to export data to MYOB and Xero, Fonterra milk statement imports, updated Saputo milk statement imports and some smaller features such as being able to set diesel rebates, business name and some updated questions. Along with these changes, there are also some minor performance updates being implemented.

Once Mistro Finance has been updated, we will be updating and looking at adding more features to Mistro Farm 5. If anyone has suggestions for what they might like to see, please feel free to email them through to support@mistro.ag or call the support line on 1800 451 451.

Congratulations Neil Odgers on 30 years.

Hico board and staff wish to congratulate Neil Odgers for 30 years at Hico. Neil started at Hico in 1998 under South Gippsland Herd Test Association in Korumburra. During 1998 to 2000 Neil's main roles were herd test courier, laboratory machine operator, lab assistant, herd test co-ordinator and herd test farm support. Since 2000 Neil completed 17 years as Herd Test and Laboratory Manager and a short stint as Farm services manager at Leongatha.



Neil is still working for Hico in his current role as Machine operator in our herd test laboratory. We thank Neil for his dedication to Hico over the past 30 years.

Recommended Vacuum levels and herd test milk meters.

In the dairy, it is important that vacuum levels are running at the correct levels. The correct vacuum level is dependent on a number of things. Primarily though, the type of dairy you milk in (high, mid, and low-level) determines what vacuum level the shed should be running at. Below is a guide as to what the Working Vacuum range should be at the receiver:

47-50 kPa for a high-level milklane system, 45-48 kPa for a mid-level milklane system (No higher than 1.25m above platform), 42-46 kPa for a low-level milklane system (below the platform).

When Working Vacuum levels are set to the above vacuum range, this will achieve an average claw vacuum of 36-42 kPa during peak milk flow.

When Herd Test meters are added to the milking unit, this can cause the vacuum levels at the claw to drop. The average vacuum drop in this case is 5-6 kPa at 5 litres/minute. This is an important thing to think about at herd test time and is worth checking at your next herd test. Ideally, Working Vacuum at the receiver should not fall below 47 kPa (high-level milklane), 45 kPa (mid-level milklane) and 42 (low-level milklane) when herd test meters are added to the milking unit.

Other influences to cause vacuum drop include:

- Extra milk rubberware added at herd test time
- Blocked air admission hole in clusters
- Length and diameter of the long milk tube
- Height of milk lift to a high-level or mid-level milklane

For more information regarding vacuum levels within dairies, refer to: Dairy Australia-Technote 25 (Test, service and up-grade milking machines).

Meet Hico Director Josh DeJong.

When you meet Hico board member Josh DeJong you will quickly learn that Josh is a quiet achiever that loves cows and working outdoors.

Josh is the manager of his 450ha family farm that currently milks 450 cows in two dairies at Irrewillippe East.

Calving 3 times a year they run a fresh herd at one dairy and a later lactation herd at the second dairy. "I love being my own boss and really enjoy working outdoors." Josh comments.

After joining the Hico board 3 years ago, Josh has really enjoyed learning what happens in the industry at a different level. "When I was approached to join the board I felt it was a good chance to have a say in the industry along with learning a lot about the process and operations of another dairy business." Josh comments.

Prior to joining the Hico board Josh was the Treasurer of the Polwarth and District Tennis Association. Josh is married to his wife Ellie who is a nurse at the local doctors clinic and they have a baby son Isiah.



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**Have you got feedback?
Please email us at info@hico.com.au**

Pregnancy testing without the mess or stress

Traditional pregnancy check methods are messy, time-consuming and cause stress for your cows. That stress, as well as the time off feed, impacts milk production and ultimately productivity. There is another, much easier way to pregnancy test cows, using milk samples you already provide to us.

The IDEXX milk pregnancy test uses the detection of Pregnancy-Associated Glycoproteins (PAGs) expressed by the placenta to detect pregnancy from as early as 28 days. When used strategically the test can be used to date pregnancies, tighten calving windows and make dry off decisions. Laboratory trials have shown the test to accurately identify 98.7% of pregnant cows (known as sensitivity) and to identify cows not pregnant accurately (known as specificity) 94.4% of the time.

Ian Lewis is a veterinarian who has specialised in dairy cow reproduction in research and commercial situations for over 30 years. Ian says "By simply getting the pregnancy test done as part of the regular herd testing, it takes out all the mess, stress and hassle."

"All you have to do is to select which cows to pregnancy test when herd testing and an answer on whether or not the cow is pregnant will be supplied within 2 or 3 days."

Call us for more information on adding pregnancy testing to your next run.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 5th, 6th, 11th and 12th 2018

GippsDairy Euthanase Livestock program.

All days run from 9.30am to 2.30pm at:

5th Dec - Yarram, 6th Dec - Tinamba

11th Dec - Ellinbank, 12th Dec - Meeniyan

For more details contact GippsDairy 5624 3900

December 10th 2018

DataGene proof release

January 17th 2019

Farm tours to the Paco Aussie Red Herd, Leongatha South and Leppin Family Orana Herd at Bena. Matt Harms (On Farm Consulting) will deliver a presentation over lunch. For more details phone the Hico office on 5655 1311.



**HERD IMPROVEMENT
CO-OPERATIVE AUSTRALIA LTD**

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