



Welcome to the December 2019 Newsletter.

Well this will be my final report in the Hico newsletter as I will be finishing in my role as General Manager on the 20th December.

I joined Hico in 1994 and have held a number of roles within the business including Livestock Services, Milk Harvesting and Maffra Branch Manager prior to me being appointed General Manager in 2009. Over the last 25 years I have seen significant change within both the Herd Improvement Industry as well as the Dairy Industry itself. Innovation and automation has been one of the main changes within the industry both on Dairy Farms and within this Herd Improvement business.

I have met many great people in the industry during this time and will miss the regular interaction with the Board, my staff and our customers.

The Board are now in the process of recruitment for the General Manager position. In the interim the Board have appointed Brendan O'Loughlin to act as interim General Manager. Brendan currently undertakes consulting work with the business and will step into the role in early December to allow the opportunity for a smoother handover and transition.

As we come towards the close of 2019 there are some positive signs within the dairy industry as a result of the increased milk pricing from processors to our customers. There is much to be confident about in the future of the dairy industry and I trust you will continue to support Hico. I would like to wish all of Hico's valued customers the compliments of the festive season.

Regards,

Michael Lee
General Manager



Mistro Bull Teams

Speeding up the recording of your joining is easily done with Mistro Farm 5. There is a function that allows you to have a list of only the bulls being used in your current years mating. To use this feature, you will need to first add any bull you wish to use to your Bull Team.

1. In Farm 5 you can manage your currently used bulls from the Bull Team window. You can access this by clicking on Bulls from the top menu, followed by Bull Team.
2. From here you can add, delete and keep track of straw counts for bulls in your team.
3. To add a bull click the Add bull to group button and enter the bull you wish to add.
4. To add, click the select button or double click the bull name. If you wish to remove a bull, simply select it from the Bull Team window and click Delete bull.

5. You can add how many doses of semen for each bull you have on hand by double clicking the number in the In Stock field. The same can be done with the Used field.

6. Alternatively you can calculate how many doses have been used from a certain date by clicking the Recalculate inventory button.

7. Once happy you can close the Bull Team window by clicking the small X to the top right of it or clicking the close button to the bottom.

For more information or to resolve any issues feel free to contact me Scott Haw on the Mistro Help Line 1800 841 848.

Meet Chris Hoffmann – Colac Sales Representative and Branch Manager

We introduce Chris Hoffman to our customers in the Western District. Chris has a strong connection to the Western Region, having farmed for 23 years on his family farm, alongside being an active member of several discussion groups.

Chris has extensive experience with breeding programs as well as delivering Fixed Time AI programs (FTAI) and genetic plans.

His other interests include active participation in Surf Lifesaving with the Warrnambool SLSC, as well as a trainer for the Warrnambool Football Club.



Milk Pregnancy Testing - *Did you know you can test for pregnancy in milk?*

Pregnancy Associated Glycoproteins (PAGs) which are only produced by the placenta during pregnancy allowing us to determine whether or not the animal is pregnant, open or needs to be rechecked with 98% accuracy.

Post joining, this technology is a perfect way to monitor your herd's pregnancy status from as early as 28 days post breeding. This allows for better herd management through decreasing days open, increasing production and improving herd health therefore allowing for maximisation of profits. You have the opportunity to test anywhere from a single animal right through to your whole herd. This can either be done through your routine herd test or individual sampling vials provided by your local branch.

Be aware of embryonic loss and its potential to impact your results. It can take up to 60 days for PAG levels to drop below accepted threshold to produce an open result.

Visit our website for more information or chat to your local field officers on how to implement it into your herd.



**Do you wish to receive this newsletter electronically?
Please send us your email address to receive this newsletter electronically.**

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



From all of us at Hico we would like to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a happy healthy and safe New Year!

Please be aware that all branches will be closed from Friday 20th December through to Thursday 2nd January.

There will however be some staff working in our semen rooms to co-ordinate stock for our AI technicians on Tuesday 24th December.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

GIPPSLAND

Women in Dairy West and South
- Tues 10 Dec 11am - 2pm
Loch Village Foodstore
RSVP 03 5624 3900

Ellinbank Research Farm Tour
Evening of 16 January 2020
RSVP 5624 3900 or info@gippsdairy.com.au

Nutritional Fundamentals
South Gippsland Venue TBA
Day 1 - 20 Feb
Day 2 - 27 Feb
Day 3 - 5 March
Day 4 - 17 March on farm
RSVP 5624 3900

Advanced Nutrition in Action
Starts 12 Feb, workshops in March, April, June and Sept
RSVP 5624 3900

WESTERN VICTORIA

Sustainable Dairies Nutrition Management Plan
- 10 Dec 10-2pm WestVic Dairy Meeting Room,
5 Cressy Street, Camperdown
RSVP 5557 1000

Our Farm Our Plan
- 17 Dec, 10am-2pm Proudfoots Boathouse:
2 Simpson Street, Warrnambool
RSVP 5557 1000

International Dairy Week
- 19-23rd January, Tatura
For more info visit:
<http://internationaldairyweek.com.au/>

Colin Keeble has announced his Retirement

Colin Keeble - 7 years at Hico

Our beloved employee Colin has announced his retirement. He has been a highly valued member of our team and will be greatly missed.

Throughout his 7 years Colin has been in the role of Herd Test Courier for the Warragul branch, this role gave him the ability to spend a lot of time out on the road which he loved. Colin is excited about retiring and no longer having to wake up at 5am every morning.

From all of us at Hico we would like to thank Colin for his hard work and continued support over the last 7 years.



HERD IMPROVEMENT
CO-OPERATIVE AUSTRALIA LTD

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