

# ANIMAL PRODUCTION SCIENCE

**CONTENTS** Volume 60, Issue 1, 2020, 1–191

## AUSTRALASIAN DAIRY SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM 2018: DAIRY SCIENCE FOR PROFITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Foreword i

The frontiers of biomedical science and its application to animal science in addressing the major challenges facing Australasian dairy farming

*Murray D. Mitchell, Mallory A. Crookenden, Kanchan Vaswani, John R. Roche and Hassendrini N. Peiris* 1–9

Potential solutions to the major greenhouse-gas issues facing Australasian dairy farming

*R. J. Eckard and H. Clark* 10–16

Defining the key attributes of resilience in mixed ration dairy systems

*D. G. Barber, M. J. Auldist, A. R. Anstis and C. K. M. Ho* 17–25

The role of forage management in addressing challenges facing Australasian dairy farming

*Lydia M. Cranston, Keith G. Pembleton, Lucy L. Burkitt, Andrew Curtis, Daniel J. Donaghy, Cameron J. P. Gourley, Kerry C. Harrington, James L. Hills, Luke W. Pembleton and Richard P. Rawnsley* 26–35

Manipulating the rumen microbiome to address challenges facing Australasian dairy farming

*Catherine Stanton, Sinead Leahy, Bill Kelly, R. Paul Ross and Graeme Attwood* 36–45

Getting value from artificial intelligence in agriculture

*Matthew J. Smith* 46–54

Defining resilience in pasture-based dairy-farm systems in temperate regions

*B. Horan and J. R. Roche* 55–66

Water-quality issues facing dairy farming: potential natural and built attenuation of nitrate losses in sensitive agricultural catchments

*Ranvir Singh and David J. Horne* 67–77

White clover or nitrogen fertiliser for dairying under nitrate leaching limits?

*David Chapman, Ina Pinxterhuis, Stewart Ledgard and Tony Parsons* 78–83

Identifying current challenges and research priorities to guide the design of more attractive dairy-farm workplaces in New Zealand

*C. R. Eastwood, J. Greer, D. Schmidt, J. Muir and K. Sargeant* 84–88

Feasibility of innovative sharemilking arrangements

*Eva Schröder-Merker and Peter Tozer* 89–95

A meta-analysis comparing four measurement methods to determine the relationship between methane emissions and dry-matter intake in New Zealand dairy cattle

*Arjan Jonker, Peter Green, Garry Waghorn, Tony van der Weerden, David Pacheco and Cecile de Klein* 96–101

A comparison of profitability between farms that milk once or twice a day

*J. P. Edwards* 102–106

Grazed chicory, plantain or ryegrass–white clover alters milk yield and fatty acid composition of late-lactating dairy cows

*M. C. Mangwe, R. H. Bryant, M. R. Beck, A. E. Fleming and P. Gregorini* 107–113

Establishing plantain in spring in existing perennial ryegrass pastures in northern Tasmania

*Pieter Raedts and Adam Langworthy* 114–117

Association among pasture-level variables and dairy cow responses to supplements

*C. Poole, D. J. Donaghy, R. R. White and J. R. Roche* 118–120

*Continued on next page*

- Use of reflexive interactive design to address challenges to New Zealand dairy farming  
*Álvaro J. Romera, Mark Neal and Bram Bos* 121–126
- Nutritive characteristics of perennial ryegrass cultivars: have they changed over time?  
*A. R. Lawson, K. Giri, M. E. Rogers, S. K. Muir, K. B. Kelly, K. Rentsch, S. Chandra and J. L. Jacobs* 127–132
- New Zealand dairy farmers preference investments in automation technology over decision-support technology  
*B. T. Dela Rue, C. R. Eastwood, J. P. Edwards and S. Cuthbert* 133–137
- Incorporating data into grazing management decisions: supporting farmer learning  
*Lydia Turner, Lesley Irvine and Sue Kilpatrick* 138–142
- The effect of perennial ryegrass ploidy and white clover inclusion on milk production of dairy cows  
*Brid McClearn, Trevor Gilliland, Clare Guy, Michael Dineen, Fergal Coughlan and Brian McCarthy* 143–147
- Effect of weather on activity and lying behaviour in clinically healthy grazing dairy cows during the transition period  
*S. J. Hendriks, C. V. C. Phyn, S.-A. Turner, K. R. Mueller, B. Kuhn-Sherlock, D. J. Donaghy, J. M. Huzzey and J. R. Roche* 148–153
- Preliminary assessment of the ability of detainment bunds to attenuate sediment and phosphorus transported by surface runoff in the Lake Rotorua catchment  
*Brian Levine, Lucy Burkitt, Dave Horne, Leo Condron, Chris Tanner and John Paterson* 154–158
- Setting targets for the Irish dairy industry  
*Laurence Shalloo and Liam Hanrahan* 159–163
- Predicting milk fatty acids and energy balance of dairy cows in Australia using milk mid-infrared spectroscopy  
*P. N. Ho, L. C. Marett, W. J. Wales, M. Axford, E. M. Oakes and J. E. Pryce* 164–168
- Profitable and resilient pasture-based dairy farm businesses in New Zealand  
*Mark Neal and John R. Roche* 169–174
- Defoliation dynamics, pasture intake and milk production of dairy cows grazing lucerne pastures in a partial mixed-ration system  
*K. A. D. Ison, D. G. Barber, M. A. Benvenuti, N. Kleinitz, D. Mayer and D. P. Poppi* 175–179
- Prediction of quarter level subclinical mastitis by combining in-line and on-animal sensor data  
*Momena Khatun, Peter C. Thomson, Cameron E. F. Clark and Sergio C. Garcia* 180–186
- White clover incorporation at high nitrogen application levels: results from a 3-year study  
*C. Guy, D. Hennessy, T. J. Gilliland, F. Coughlan, B. McClearn, M. Dineen and B. McCarthy* 187–191

## ADSS2018 special edition

We are delighted to introduce this Special Edition of *Animal Production Science* entitled **ADSS2018: Dairy Science for Profitable and Sustainable Farming**, which contains selected invited and submitted papers presented at the 8th Australasian Dairy Science Symposium (ADSS2018) held over 3 days at Palmerston North in November 2018.

The ADSS is the largest technical dairy science meeting in the southern hemisphere, held biennially, alternately in Australia and New Zealand. ADSS2018 was co-hosted by Massey University and AgResearch, and had a strong focus on identifying the challenges facing dairying in the coming decades, outlining how science is developing solutions to those challenges that are well defined, and also identifying major knowledge gaps.

As with previous symposia, ADSS2018 was an opportunity for leading scientists from Australia and New Zealand to share ideas and interact with international scientists from a range of disciplines. ADSS2018 also saw Kevin Macdonald, recently retired from DairyNZ, presented with an Award for Lifetime Contribution to Dairy Science, in honour of his outstanding contribution to, and significant impact on, international pastoral dairy research, over a period spanning close to 50 years.

Invited keynote papers were commissioned by the Organising Committee: Bill Wales (Agriculture Victoria), Bruce Thorold (DairyNZ), Callum Eastwood (DairyNZ), Chris Murphy (Dairy Australia), Danny Donaghy (Massey University), Dave Barber (Agri-Science Queensland), David Nation (Dairy Australia), David Pacheco (AgResearch), John Roche (New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries), Kristy DiGiacomo (The University of Melbourne), Racheal Bryant (Lincoln University), Richard Rawnsley (Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture), Sabrina Lomax (The University of Sydney), and Yani Garcia (The University of Sydney).

In commissioning keynote presentations, the Organising Committee applied criteria related to the scientific achievements of the prospective authors and their standing in

the discipline, and also sought a balance in the number of invitations issued to Australian and New Zealand scientists. In addition to having established science speakers of international standing, we were proud to provide an opportunity for emerging leading scientists in ADSS2018. No doubt we will see them leading the charge as the next generation of scientists trying to solve the challenges that the dairy industry will face across both countries. Further, international speakers were asked to provide a different perspective to certain topics and issues. Co-publication and co-presentation were encouraged.

This Special Edition brings together a selection of the presentations at ADSS2018 and covers the major topic areas of: defining key attributes of resilience in dairy systems; more productive, resilient and sustainable forage-based systems; more productive, resilient and sustainable animals; social licence to farm; and people and technologies as enablers of productive, attractive and resilient farm systems. As with all previous ADSS events, this Special Edition demonstrates the dynamic and proactive nature of dairy research in Australasia.

The Organising Committee of ADSS2018 sincerely thanks all authors for their contributions and participation in this event, and their subsequent commitment to delivering papers for this Special Edition of *Animal Production Science*. We also thank Nicky Vallender from Event-It Ltd, the conference organiser, along with our major sponsors, Dairy Australia and DairyNZ, as well as additional sponsors including Massey University, AgResearch, CRV Ambreed, Synlait, ABVista, Agmardt and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, without whose support ADSS2018 would not have been possible.

*Danny Donaghy*  
*Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand*

*David Pacheco*  
*AgResearch Grasslands Research Centre,*  
*Palmerston North, New Zealand*

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