

NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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A fresh approach for feedbase research

The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) will hold its first Tasmanian Dairy Industry Feedbase Forum in Burnie tomorrow.

The event is the first step in a new project, supported by Dairy Australia, to foster greater involvement from farmers, agribusiness people and industry in TIA's dairy research.

Between 30-40 farmers, consultants and members of industry are expected to attend the full day forum to hear from local and national presenters.

Event organiser and TIA Dairy Extension Officer, Lesley Irvine said this was a new approach for the Dairy Centre.

"The purpose of this forum is to provide an update on the latest information available in the area of feedbase management and to begin prioritising areas for future feedbase research, development and extension," Ms Irvine said.

"We want to get local farmers more involved in our research by contributing at the design stage and also involving their properties so we can have research across different regions."

"The event is open to everyone and is just the first step for wider industry consultation. The next step will be to narrow down and prioritise where the focus for future research needs to be."

The presentations will cover the management of pasture, irrigation, nitrogen, crops and alternative pasture species and will be delivered by representatives from TIA, the University of Melbourne and Macquarie Franklin.

TIA researcher Dr Keith Pembleton will talk about the role and management of pasture mixtures within dairy systems and will highlight the critical points to managing mixtures within a dairy feedbase.

"Our research at TIA has found that using diverse pasture mixtures on dairy farms can increase both pasture yields and milk production per cow," Dr Pembleton said.

"This is important for farmers because a concurrent increase in both pasture consumption per ha and milk production per cow is arguably the most profitable method of increasing productivity."

TIA is a joint venture between the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government.

What: Tasmanian Dairy Industry Feedbase Forum

When: 10am to 4pm Tuesday 13 October

Location: The Point Function Room, 10 Bass Highway, West Park, Burnie

Information released by:

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