

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



New tool to tackle greenhouse gas emissions

Tasmanian researchers have developed a tool to help farmers tackle greenhouse gas emissions.

The Dairy Greenhouse gas Abatement Strategies (DGAS) calculator has been developed by Karen Christie, Richard Rawnsley and Rob Kildare at the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR), using funding from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Dairy Australia.

The DGAS software program enables farmers to estimate their on-farm emissions of greenhouse gases and assists their business in balancing profit and environmental impacts.

Ms Christie says DGAS is a spreadsheet programme that requires the farmer, or farm adviser to enter in basic information relating to the farm enterprise.

“Inputs include things like electricity and diesel use, the proportion of the farm that is dry land or irrigated, fertiliser usage, purchased feed inputs, details of the animals being run on the farm and annual milk production,” Ms Christie said.

“The calculator gives farmers a chance to have a look at their methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions and works everything down to an emissions figure per tonne of milk solids.

“DGAS lets farmers look at how various management strategies will reduce emissions from their farms and hopefully improve their bottom line at the same time.”

DGAS is available as a free download from the Dairying for Tomorrow website and has already been taken up by the Murray Goulburn milk processing co-operative in south-east Victoria to assess the greenhouse gas emissions of a proportion of their milk suppliers.

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: 6226 2124 Mobile: 0417 517 291

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au