

Colin Cluster

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Career overview

Employed on dairy farms, gaining experience for 5 years after completing University. Share dairy farmer for 8 years building my capital base through the acquisition of livestock and some plant and machinery.

Key Skills

- Excellent skills with livestock.
- Good skills in overall dairy business management.
- Passionate about the dairy
- Good computer skills.

Career history

Share Dairy Farming – 2003 to present

8 years of active dairy share farming (2003 to present), milking in excess of 400 cows on irrigated dairy farms in the Murray Valley and Goulburn Valley of Victoria.

Key achievements.

- Successful operation of various share farming arrangements ranging from 220 cows to 440 cows
- Participant in Dairy Business of the Year Awards in 2009 and 2010, regional finalist in 2010.
- Involved in numerous seminars and dairy conferences

Herd Manager, Crumple Dairies, Echuca – 2001 to 2003

Responsible for all aspects of herd management in a 600 cow dairy.

Key achievements.

- A 5% increase in milk production
- Reduction in overall herd health costs
- A PTIC rate of 67% across the entire herd

Agricultural Farm Worker, Holstein Hill Dairy, Gunbower – 1999 to 2001

Undertook all activities involved in the successful operation of an irrigated dairy farm.

Key achievements.

- Gaining knowledge from one of the best dairy operations in the region

Education & Training

Education/Training B. App. Sc(Agr)
Graduated from Melbourne University in 1998

COCO course
NCDEA in 2011

DPIV Pastures for Profit Course in 2005

Relevant Interests

I am currently an active member of the HFAA.

After retiring from playing football in 2008, I have continued my involvement as a board member of the Echuca United Football Club.

Referees

Cameron Smith, B.App. Sc (Agr), CPAg, AAAC),
Farm Management Consultant
Farmanco Pty Ltd
1214 Echuca-Nanneella Road
Strathallan, Victoria, 3622.

Long association with Cameron Smith Bill Malcolm commencing in 2003 when our farm was selected as one of three focus farms as part of a Murray Dairy project.

Mobile: 0437 073 843

Bob Crumple,
Crumple Dairies,
Echuca Village Road
Echuca, Victoria 3564.

Employed by Bob as a herd manager for two years prior to going share farming.end.
Bob has continued as a mentor, providing subtle guidance throughout my share farming career.

Mobile: 0412 888 888

John Holmbros
Holstein Hills
Gunbower 3566

Employed by John as an Agricultural Farm Worker. John opened my eyes to the possibilities that are in the dairy industry.

Mobile: 0418 888 888