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MEDIA RELEASE

FARMERS CHALLENGED TO TEST THEIR FEED PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE

South-west Victorian farmers and their advisors have been challenged to test their knowledge about feed performance systems.

WestVic Dairy is organising a 'Hungry 4 Better Feed Performance' workshop in Warrnambool on September 16 and which aims to answer the questions in a quiz developed to test how much farmers know about feeding systems.

The eight questions in the quiz will be among the issues addressed at the workshop by feed industry specialist Steve Little.

WestVic Dairy Executive Officer Mike Weise said it was hoped the workshop would stimulate discussion among farmers about their feed systems.

"We hope participants will go home and question if their feed system is right for their farm and if their management is ensuring the best profitability," Mr Weise said.

The workshop will include presentations by Dr Little and feed industry experts and statisticians Gordon Cleary and John Morton and will cover different types of feeding systems, how farmers can achieve high performance with each of the systems and the risks they present, and what drives profitability.

It will be at the Wannon Rooms from 10.45am-2.30pm. During the lunch break WestVic Dairy annual general will hold its annual general meeting.

The program is free and includes a hot lunch.

Registrations are required by September 14 on 55 922477.

THE QUIZ

True or false?

1. Farms that feed high levels of concentrates per cow per year achieve poorer pasture utilisation (tonnes / hectare / year).
2. Feed conversion efficiency is generally better on farms where higher levels of concentrates per cow are fed.

3. The best measure of farm profitability to use when comparing farms with different land and herd resources is 'Milk EBITD per hectare'.
4. There is no 'best' concentrate feeding level or production / feeding system.
5. With feed being the greatest operating input cost on any dairy farm, low feed costs per cow are essential to achieve high farm profitability.
6. In high milk price years, most dairy farms actively pursue higher profit by implementing major management changes.
7. The most profitable dairy farms are consistently profitable year after year.
8. Farmers with a wide range of management styles and sets of attitudes and beliefs run successful dairy farm businesses.

Invert answers if possible

1. False 2.True 3.False 4.True 5.False 6.False 7.False 8. True

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