



**Ross Warren, DAF, demonstrates the effects of different feed types in the rumen 'simulator'.**

# Basic nutrition workshops delivered in Subtropical Dairy

## Farmers revisited the basics of dairy herd nutrition recently in workshops delivered throughout Subtropical Dairy.

Ross Warren, Senior Extension Officer, Department Agriculture and Fisheries and Dr. Susanne Roth, Account Manager Dairy, Alltech Australia facilitated the March workshops in Gympie, Boonah, Nanango, Toowoomba in Queensland and Casino and Dorrigo in NSW. A workshop in Malanda has been scheduled for Thursday July 20 2017.



**Participants at the Casino workshop look on as Dr. Susanne Roth analyses a farm manure sample in the sieve separator.**

74 people in total attended the one-day workshops covering theory on rumen function, feeding rumen bugs, digestion and absorption, nutrition of different feeds, and ration fundamentals.

But without seeing into the rumen what do we know? Three types of cow signals can provide an indication of what's going on regarding a herds' nutritional status – rumination, milk composition, and manure.

Visual indicators for healthy rumen function include cud chewing, a visual appraisal of rumen fill, milk composition levels, and manure.

The workshops contained a practical component involving analysis of farm manure samples using a sieve separator to see what signals dung can give about the herds' nutrition and digestion.

The basic nutrition workshops were a great refresher or lead in for Dairy Australia's new advanced nutrition program being piloted by Subtropical Dairy in May and June. ■■

**For information on herd nutrition visit:**

[dairyaustralia.com.au/  
Pastures-and-Feeding/  
Nutritiondairyinfo.](http://dairyaustralia.com.au/Pastures-and-Feeding/Nutritiondairyinfo)

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