

Industry Pilot

Dairy Herd Advanced Nutrition Course



A farm visit to look at on-farm feed infrastructure and facilities.

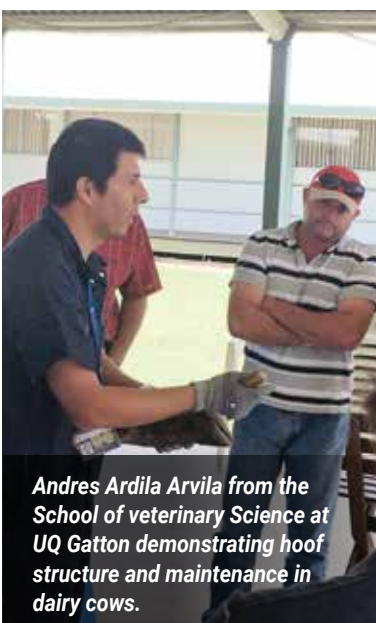


Getting out in the paddock and looking at some Cow Signs and investigating pasture quality and quantity.

A group of 15 farmers and service providers from throughout the Subtropical Dairy region are mid-way through completing the Dairy Australia Dairy Herd Advanced Nutrition Course. This course is one of two pilots being delivered nationally, with the second being held in the Murray Dairy region in Victoria.

Dr Dave Barber, Senior Research Scientist (Dairy Nutrition and Feeding Systems), Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Ross Warren, Senior Extension Officer, Department Agriculture and Fisheries are trainers for the course in the Subtropical Dairy region which runs over three months. Participants complete a portion of the content through the Dairy Australia Online Learning site (Moodle) which hosts a series of online learning modules including readings, video clips and quizzes. The remainder of the course is completed through three, two-day, face-to-face sessions held at Gatton, which combine theory and on-farm practical activities.

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Andres Ardila Arvila from the School of veterinary Science at UQ Gatton demonstrating hoof structure and maintenance in dairy cows.



Dairy Herd Advanced Nutrition Course participants practicing some hoof maintenance techniques.

The course has five over-arching themes;

- Dairy farms as complex systems;
- Operating with uncertainty, risk and variability;
- Production response functions or marginal thinking;
- Lifetime nutrient management and feed efficiency;
- Connectedness and inter-dependencies of herd nutrition with other components of the farm system;

The course also incorporates information, resources and tools from numerous industry extension programs such as InCalf, Cool Cows, The People in Dairy, Cow Time, Healthy Hooves, and DairyBiz 100, all accessible from the Dairy Australia www.dairyaustralia.com.au and Subtropical Dairy www.dairyinfo.biz websites.