

# Focus on Farm Safety in Far North Queensland



**During June, Subtropical Dairy delivered the Farm Safety Manual Workshop in Malanda. The deliverers for the workshop were Bill Youl and Andrew Sullivan. Bill is the Program Manager for Dairy Australia's Industry Workforce Planning and Action program and Andrew is a farm Workplace Health and Safety consultant. The session was very well attended with 12 dairy businesses represented.**

As part of the workshop format, participants were able to select two topics to cover on the day. For this workshop, the majority wanted to cover i) Quads and Motorbikes and ii) Working with Livestock. Each farm

received a copy of Dairy Australia's Farm Safety Manual. The manual is very comprehensive and includes 14 sections which cover all aspects of dairy farm operations. Bill discussed the importance of having Standard Operating Procedures for different tasks on-farm. It is important that employees read these, agree to follow procedures and sign them. This process goes a long way to protecting the dairy farm business in the event of an accident.

Dairy Australia is currently developing Dairy Passport which will enable farmers to manage all the members of their farm team via an online platform. It can be customised to suit each dairy

farm business. For more information regarding Dairy Passport go to this link: [www.thepeopleindairy.org.au/farm-safety/dairy-passport](http://www.thepeopleindairy.org.au/farm-safety/dairy-passport)

Bill and Andrew also provided a timely reminder to all participants of the importance of protecting their businesses by having all the relevant paperwork and procedures in place. There were examples presented to the group of fatal on farm accidents that had occurred in the most unlikely of situations. Complacency on this subject just isn't an option for dairy farm business owners. ■ ■

**To assist farmers in FNQ to work through and complete their Farm Safety Manual, Jo Srhoj will facilitate a number of discussion group sessions in the coming months.**

**Please contact Jo on 0458 065 695 or email [jo@subtropicaldairy.com.au](mailto:jo@subtropicaldairy.com.au)**