



Advanced Nutrition In Action 2018 group continues to meet as a discussion group in 2019

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As a follow-up to the Advanced Nutrition in Action (ANIA) workshop series last year, graduates gathered at The Garratt's family farm on the Darling Downs in late January 2019. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold. The first was for participants to revisit the topics they covered throughout the workshop series, and the second was to discuss and review the projects participants had planned for their own farm businesses based on their new nutritional knowledge. Dr Dave Barber, Dairy Team Leader & Principle Scientist, DAF, and Ross Warren, Senior Extension Officer, DAF, facilitated the session.

Heifer-rearing, cooling cows and splitting

the dairy herd to increase profitability were popular project ideas discussed on the day. Unfortunately, current seasonal conditions have delayed some graduates implementing projects, however, there has been some great new knowledge implemented across dairy herds and young stock, particularly in regard to the body condition of heifers. For one farm, simply milling the existing grain being fed to a finer consistency lead to increased production heifer growth from the same amount of grain.

Hosting the meeting on-farm meant that the group (which has members from the northern NSW through to Far North Qld),

could also see another farming operation. Pete talked the group through the recent changes in their dairy business, such as the implementation of a compost barn and a centre pivot irrigation.

The group has decided it will continue to meet on a quarterly basis and visit each of the graduates farms over the next 12 months. The next meeting will be held in May at Gympie on the Sunshine Coast, Qld. These meetings are being funded through the Dairy Australia and Subtropical Dairy Discussion group project with the DAF C4 Milk team facilitating the meetings. ■ ■