

Drying Off and Healthy Calves in CQ

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On the 4th and 5th December 2018, Subtropical Dairy Extension Co-ordinator Kylie Dennis, along with veterinarian Dr Carl Hockey from Rural Vet delivered a number of workshops at Rockhampton and Miriam Vale in Central Queensland. Although the region was battling bushfires at the time, we were lucky that our dairy farmers appeared to have dodged the devastation that affected many regions. The workshops were based on Dairy Australia's Drying Off & Rearing Healthy Calves programs

however, Dr Carl was open to discuss any relevant herd health issues.

The workshops were interactive discussions and a fantastic opportunity for farmers to ask Dr Carl any herd issues that they were experiencing. Farmers had the option to discuss topics such as maximising the benefits, and minimising the risks during the dry off period, how to choose between selective and blanket dry cow therapy, pre-calving care, calf housing, calf nutrition, disease prevention, calf health management

and weaning management. The latest resources from Dairy Australia's 'Drying Off' and 'Rearing Healthy Calves' were handed out at the workshops.

It was great to catch up with those farmers that attended and to get a better understanding of how we can service CQ better. We understand that the geographical spread of farmers in Central Queensland, make it difficult for some to attend, however, we appreciate those farmers that made the effort. ■■

