



# Farm Business Fundamentals

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In May and June Subtropical Dairy ran several Farm Business Fundamentals workshops across New South Wales and Queensland. Presented by Tom Farran, an experienced Dairy Farm Consultant from Victoria, 50 participants delved into a variety of Farm Business aspects across the two-day workshops. Some of the topics covered were key terminology used in business and finance; good record keeping systems; the Standard Chart of Accounts, including what goes where and how to set them up; farm budgets; balance sheets and depreciation. The group also worked through key calculations used in farm business such as farm working expenses, accrual systems versus actuals and cash versus profit.

Participants enjoyed getting a chance to work through a variety of real-life examples together, getting a chance to apply their knowledge to their own account and bookkeeping systems as well as cashflow as part of a budget. With the two days run non-consecutively, we also heard from many participants applying the first days learning in their own business with many people already having made changes and adjustments. The workshops were highly interactive and gave everyone a chance to ask plenty of questions and share their own experiences. Feedback provided also indicates that all participants intended to implement changes in their own businesses, with 82% expecting changes to be made within six months. Cash flow budgets and annual budgets were the changes most expected to be implemented, along with further adjustments to their Standard Chart of Accounts.

For those wanting further assistance and templates, Dairy Australia has a range of resources available including the Dairy Cash Budgeting Tool available from [www.dairyaustralia.com.au/farm/farm-business-management/dairy-cash-budgeting-tool](http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/farm/farm-business-management/dairy-cash-budgeting-tool) and the Dairy Australia Standard Chart of Accounts available from [www.dairyaustralia.com.au/farm/farm-business-management/dairy-standard-chart-of-accounts](http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/farm/farm-business-management/dairy-standard-chart-of-accounts)

