

## INSTANT SUCCESS!

After attending a CowTime Shed Shake-up, Brett Gilpin and Geoff Mitchell achieved an instant improvement in cow-flow through their 'less than ideal' dairy. And they did it without spending a cent!

In partnership, Brett and Geoff lease property at Jindivic in Victoria's West Gippsland district, milking 200 cows through a 16-aside herringbone dairy. Although they aren't in the position to invest funds in capital improvements they'd become convinced that 'there had to be a better way to milk cows.'

Initially they made some minor modifications to the yard but cow-flow was an on-going problem.

Once in the dairy, the cows tried to steal their neighbour's grain, pushing and shoving until the cows at the front of the row became squashed up. It happened so often that they were hesitant to come in the shed because they knew they'd get squashed.

Brett, who does most of the milkings, had to go out into the yard more than a dozen times a milking, to chase in each row of cows. "And once they were in the dairy, they'd manure everywhere," he said.

After attending a CowTime Shed Shake-up Geoff spent about a week making a set of bale dividers, using about \$200 worth of steel he had in the shed.

"Once they were installed, the cows immediately put their heads in the right places. It was like they knew what they were there for," said Brett.

From that day on, cow-flow into the dairy has been better, there's less pushing and shoving and definitely a lot less manure flying around.



Brett Gilpin and Geoff Mitchell

Geoff said the yard is still an issue but will have to wait until things improve. The next little project will be to install guillotine gates so that cows can enter the dairy while the last batch is leaving. It's another low cost change that should further improve cow-flow.

"When times are tough, it's really easy to let things get you down, but the Shed Shake-up motivated us to do what we could. In our case a few days of my time has made milking a more relaxed and pleasant experience, and that's important," said Geoff.

GippsDairy sponsored the delivery of CowTime's Shed Shake-ups in Gippsland.

For more information phone CowTime on 03 5624 2221. CowTime is proudly supported by Dairy Australia and DPI Vic. Your Dairy Services levy making milking easier.

