

Energy – watts it worth?

Anyone who got a lot out of CowTime’s previous Shed Shake-ups – ‘Go with flow’ and Pits and People’ – won’t want to miss out on the latest series *Watts ‘n’ Your Dairy*. It’s all about saving energy in the dairy.

Jack Laidlaw knows a bit about saving energy in the dairy. He’s Farm Manager at DPI, Ellinbank, where they’ve cut plant cleaning consumable costs (power + chemical) by a whopping 60%, saving more than \$4500 a year.

“Our researchers estimated we could save up to 75% of our energy use. It sounded good but my first priority was to ensure milk quality was protected,” said Jack.

The savings came from two simple changes – altering the cleaning system and maintenance.

Most of the energy saved was achieved by altering the cleaning system to reduce the amount of hot water used. Some of the hot water wash phases were replaced with ‘cold chemical’ phases, using chemicals specially designed and registered for this purpose.

The hot water services were reviewed to make sure they were sized appropriately and functioning correctly.

CowTime’s presenter Darold Klindworth, says *Watts ‘n’ Your Dairy* focuses on ways to get the best energy efficiency from your equipment.

Did you know?

- water heating and milk cooling account for 80% of energy used in the dairy
- Some farmers use four times the energy that others use to harvest the same amount of milk
- Most farms use far more energy than they need and could save 40-74% of their energy use

(based on research conducted for SEAV/Bonlac)



Jack Laidlaw and Tim Clarke have cut the cost of plant cleaning consumables by 60% at DPI’s Ellinbank dairy.

“Simple things like regular maintenance can make a huge difference to energy use in the dairy, and anything you save means more money in your pocket,” he said.

A dairy farm in Gippsland producing about 1.2 million litres of milk a year uses about 57,000 kWh per year, costing about \$5,500. This energy use adds about 79 tonnes of greenhouse gas to the environment, the equivalent to running about 18 cars on Victorian roads for a year! So come along to *Watts ‘n’ Your Dairy* and find out how to make a difference.

CowTime would like to acknowledge support from Sustainability Victoria in developing *Watts ‘n’ Your Dairy*.

CowTime’s Shed Shake-ups are delivered with support from regional development programs – your Dairy Australia levy making milking easier.