



# SADA UPDATE



9<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Dairy farming contribution towards emissions reduction

The Australian dairy industry has made a commitment to reduce emissions by 30% by the year 2030. As an industry we want to always be on the front foot with global expectations and is becoming increasingly topical as some jurisdictions are looking at imposing a tariff on other countries who are not making enough of an effort on global reductions. A free trade agreement with the EU is one such example where the EU has flagged Australia's emissions as a relevant matter in the negotiations.

Agriculture contributes 13% of Australia's total emissions. Of that fraction, dairy contributes 12.5%. Consequently, dairy produces an overall total of 1.625% of Australia's emissions. SA being 6% of the milk pool contributes 0.0975% of Australia total emissions.

SADA endorses the idea that we all have a role to play in reducing our emissions as part of the global effort.

The upside for farmers is that reduction schemes need not be an expense, they are actually good business as they reduce costs overall. To save money by implementing carbon reduction schemes on your farm it is useful to visit the [Dairy Australia website](#)

This link demonstrates how there are substantial farm savings to be made by engaging in emission mitigation strategies for farmers.

Knowing how many emissions your farm produces is also a useful exercise. There is an excellent tool for farmers to assess their carbon emissions by way of a self-test. [This test can be found here](#)

By using this test many farmers will be surprised how much emission mitigation already occurs on farm.

By combining the outcome of the emissions calculator with some of the projects suggested by Dairy Australia some farmers have reduced their farm's costs.

Cow burps (methane) contribute over half of a farm's methane production and represent a 6% energy loss (that is milk production loss) from the food eaten by a cow. That is energy that is not available for milk production or growth in the beast.

Changes in diet will result in the lowering of emissions as a single example on what can be done to save money and reduce emissions.

SADA urges all members to visit the links provided and for members to consider practical responses to emissions reduction.

If you have any questions please call John Elferink on 0418406400 for further advice.