



OUR FARM, OUR PLAN

# QuickPlan

WORKBOOK



### **KEY CONTACTS**

### YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

Regional Development Programs (RDPs) are the place to go about what's happening in your region. Contact them to find out about Our Farm, Our Plan and other training, workshops, events and resources that are available.



DairyNZ has kindly given permission for Dairy Australia to adapt their QuickPlan and Farm Fitness Checklist resources for use by the Australian dairy industry. This is much appreciated and is another example of trans-Tasman collaboration providing benefit to Australasian dairy farmers.

dairynz.co.nz



Our Farm, Our Plan has been developed with support from the Gardiner Dairy Foundation, reinforcing the value of the dairy industry working together.

gardinerfoundation.com.au



# OUR FARM, OUR PLAN

### QUICKPLAN

### Now, where, how? Design your path to success

Our Farm, Our Plan is a program designed to assist farmers to use the plans in their heads to develop a clear understanding of their long term business and personal goals and get them down on paper. Using two key tools – the QuickPlan and Farm Fitness Checklist – ideas are turned into goals and goals are turned into actions.

This QuickPlan is designed for farmers, either on their own or with their trusted advisors. It will also be used in the delivery of the Our Farm, Our Plan extension program.

Ideally, all decision makers in your business will be involved in the planning process. For most Australian dairy farms this involves family members, with the outcome being a shared plan that can be communicated with others and reviewed down the track

### Keep it simple

The QuickPlan process is simple and involves three steps:

- 1 Thinking about your values and your vision for the future
- 2 Clarifying your goals and identifying actions to achieve them
- 3 Putting your plan on a page using the goals and actions from each section of the QuickPlan

At each step it is about identifying a small number of statements, goals and actions that will make a difference to you and your business.

### Keep it SMART

We encourage you to apply the SMART approach throughout your planning, with all steps meeting the following criteria:

- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Realistic
- Timelines

This will assist you to develop plans that are effective and assist to get results and achieve your goals.

### Our Farm, Our Plan for groups

Dairy Australia is delivering group workshops to assist farmers to get their long-term plans down on paper. Workshops utilise this QuickPlan workbook and the Farm Fitness Checklist. Support will be provided to farmers taking part to pressure test their plans and to review their progress.

The Our Farm, Our Plan workshop for groups is ideal for discussion groups and other farmer groups, including Young Dairy Network groups. For more information contact your Regional Development Program.

### THE PROCESS

#### Our Farm, Our Plan - the process

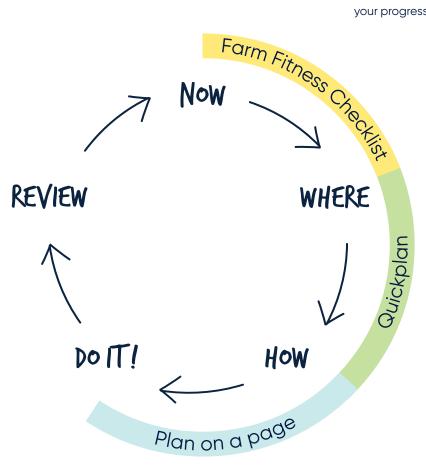
The aim of Our Farm, Our Plan is to assist farmers to be in control and achieve their long-term goals – both business and personal. It uses the planning cycle below to equip farmers to get their goals down on paper with the end result being a 'Plan on a Page'. It's a simple but powerful process - the outcome is a shared vision and plan with the key decision makers in a business on the same page.

#### Why the 'Plan on a Page'?

Putting your vision, goals and actions on a single page compels you to focus on the things that matter. It means you have taken the plans in your head and put them on paper, which also means you get the full picture in one place of the things you'd like to achieve. This gives all of the decision makers in a business the chance be part of prioritising what's important and achievable, and to see the vision, goals and actions (including who will do what by when). In the end you're all on the same page.

Importantly, the 'Plan on a Page' allows you to

- Be confident that you have a shared vision and longterm goals – both business and personal
- Communicate your vision and plan with other people, either inside or outside your business
- Be accountable and refer back to your plan to track your progress.



### FARM FITNESS CHECKLIST

In addition to the QuickPlan the Our Farm, Our Plan program provides a Farm Fitness Checklist for farmers to assess where they are at now.

To find out more about the Farm Fitness Checklist contact your Regional Development Program - their contact information can be found on the inside front cover.

The Farm Fitness Checklist can be downloaded from Dairy Australia's web site - **dairyaustralia.com.au** 

Before using the QuickPlan we recommend that you have a go at the Farm Fitness Checklist. It is a self-assessment designed to prompt your thinking about different aspects of your farm business and personal life. There are no right or wrong answers – what it will do is help you to identify areas that are a priority for you.

Yes, we've nailed it	Ok, but we could do better	do so	we should mething out it	No, and it's not relevant to us
✓	✓		✓	$\checkmark$



### LEVEL OF DECISION MAKING

### SECTION SUBHEADING

Broadly, there are three levels that we think, plan and make decisions:

- 1 **Operational decisions** are the day-to-day ones we do all of the time. They are important – our overall performance is the result of a lot of good decisions over time.
- 2 **Tactical decisions** have a longer time frame and involve us making choices to respond to conditions that might change, such as how we will manage the season ahead.
- 3 **Strategic decisions** are the ones we make about our purpose and direction. They are the long term ones that, compared to the others, have a bigger impact on achieving our long term goals.

Our Farm, Our Plan is about the strategic decisions you make and having a clear purpose and direction to achieve your goals.

#### Control, influence and concern

We've all had the advice to 'focus on the things that you can control'. But why? Basically, a lot of energy and time can be wasted worrying about things that are outside of our control, and the results we achieve are normally due to us acting on the things within out control, making decisions and doing what we do well.

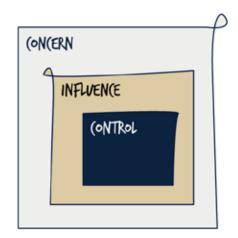
The three golden rules are

- Focus on the things you can control and do them well
- Operate within your area of influence
- Think about the things that concern you and make them the focus of your risk management. There are things outside of your control that can impact your business, so mitigating their impact is what's needed.

### SMART Goals

Goal setting sounds easy, and most of us have no problem saying what our high level goals are. But there are a few traps, especially not making our goals specific enough. For example, if our goal is 'to grow our milk production' does that mean one more litre of milk is OK? Or if it is 'to spend more time with the kids' what does that exactly look like and when will it happen? Applying the SMART approach is a good way to test your goals. If it meets these, then you're in good shape.







### THE WHOLE OF FARM APPROACH

Farms are complex and have a lot of moving parts. Thinking about the whole farm system is critical to good management given every decision you make will have an impact on the overall performance.

The natural resources, or PHYSICAL side of the farm, the FINANCIAL resources and the PEOPLE involved in the farm business are all part of its success and cannot be thought of in isolation.

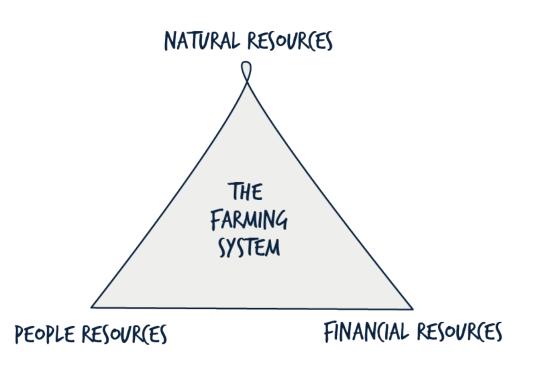
This wholistic approach is important, especially to get a sense of whether or not the business is well balanced. It isn't about being right or wrong – it's just about balance in the business that allows it to make money most of the time and have the flexibility to ride it out when things are tough.

Business balance and other key farm performance indicators are covered in Dairy Australia's Dairy Farm Business Analysis training. This is delivered through Regional Development Programs – contact them to find out what's available in your area.



#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information go to dairybase.com.au/tools-and-resources We recommend watching the 'Tower of resilience' video where John Mulvany gives his sense about getting the balance in your business right.



### FARM PERFORMANCE AND ANALYSIS

Understanding the performance of a dairy farm business involves a 'whole of farm' approach, which considers the goals of the farm owners, the resources they have to work with and a detailed understanding of the farm's physical performance, financial performance and risk profile.

The starting point to the whole of farm approach is recognising that each farm business is unique.

- The people running them have their own set of hopes, goals, skills, views of risk, stage of life and family situation.
- The physical resources of a farm business are different for every farm.
- Potential income, costs and debt structure of each farm business are different.
- Each farm has a unique history, which has shaped the present situation of the business, and influences the opportunities and directions for the future.

Farm business analysis should give you a picture of the cash, profit and wealth positions of your business.

Lay the foundations (Good information, common language)

Analyse and understand the information

Test the understanding

Linkage to dairy/annual decisions

Review your own business

### Dairy Farm Business Analysis training

Delivered over three half days this course assists farmers and their advisors to better understand and analyse dairy farm business performance. It uses DairyBase and covers the importance of getting annual farm physical and financial numbers right, how to interpret farm performance and how to understand cash, profit and wealth for a dairy farm business using DairyBase reports. This course is recommended for all dairy farmers and their advisors.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information contact your Regional Development Program - their contact details are inside the front cover of this booklet.

### DAIRYBASE

DairyBase is a web-based tool that enables farmers to capture their farm's physical and financial data and to measure and track their performance over time.

Comparison reports only use high-quality and validated data from Dairy Farm Monitor and Queensland Dairy Accounting Scheme (QDAS) farms. Filters can be used to compare your performance to other farms by region, farm size and production system.

DairyBase can generate cash, profit and wealth reports for your farm. These can be used to assess your current position.



#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Dairy Farm Business Analysis fact sheets are freely available from Dairy Australia. They outline the industry terminology and metrics used to measure and describe all aspects of farm performance.

Go to dairyaustralia.com.au/fbm

#### FARMERS AND THEIR ADVISORS CAN:

Compare their own farm business over time

Create annual reports and forecasts

Identify opportunities to drive profit and reduce risk

Make more informed business decisions

Generate comparative analysis according to farm size, region and production system

### PLANNING FOR UNCERTAINTY

Farming can be an uncertain and risky business, and with risk comes challenges and opportunities. Risk is the source of above average profits as well as below average profits and making the most of favourable conditions is critical to managing downturns.

How do you think about risk? Do all the decision makers in your business think about risk in the same way? When it comes to risk are you:

- Risk averse
- Mildly risk averse
- Neutral
- Comfortable with risk
- Prefer to take a risk.

#### Likelihood versus consequence

To consider uncertainty and risk in a balanced, rational way it is useful to break it down into two basic components – likelihood and consequence. That is, what are the chances of something occurring and, if it does, how much of an impact will it have on you and your business? By considering these two aspects you can assess the level of risk that any one thing presents to your business and put in place strategies to manage that risk.

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ζŧ	Low	Low	MEDIVM

LIKELIHOOD

#### Managing uncertainty might involve

- Removing a source of the risk, for example, putting overhead power lines under ground
- Reducing a risk, for example, putting in place a transition plan to manage succession
- Mitigating a risk, for example, locking in a proportion of your input costs, such as grain
- Transferring a risk, for example, using insurance against an unacceptable risk such as public liability.

### **RISK ANALYSIS TEMPLATE**

The Risk Analysis Template below provides a way of recording risks that you have identified, their potential impact on your farm and the priority you will place on them. You can also record the options you have to mitigate those risks and the actions you will take to manage them.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

A blank Risk Analysis Template is included in the Our Farm, Our Plan folder and is also free to download at **dairyaustralia.com.au** 

Risk	Likelihood (high 3, med 2, low 1)	Impact (high 5, low 1)	Priority (likelihood x impact)	Possible mitigation options	Actions/implementation	Priority level after mitigation	Review date and comments
g. Low milk price	3	4	12	Keep costs low Lock in contracts price	Actions/implementation	Príority level after mitigation	Review date and comments
gh grain costs	з	3	9	Ensure fed at profitable level Lock in contract price			
gh hay/silage	з	3	9	Aim to end spring with X tonnes dry matter stored Grow X ha of fodder crop			
aff member Leaves	2	2	4				
rm succession							
nímal health íssue							
terest rates change							
ater availability							
mporary water price							

### HOW TO USE THE QUICKPLAN

The QuickPlan is designed to take you through a process that sees you and the other decision makers in your business use the ideas in your head to come up with a shared long-term plan that is documented on a page. The workbook takes you through a simple three step process.

- 1 Clarify your vision for the future both farm business and personal
- 2 Identify priorities in key areas and translate them into goals and actions
- 3 Put the key focus areas for you on the Plan on a Page.

There are six sections in the QuickPlan and in each of these there are suggested goals and actions. These are provided as examples only, but if any of them feel right to you, tick the box provided so you don't lose them. Don't be locked into the examples given – feel free to put your goals and actions in your own words. The sections are:

- Us
- Our Farm and Environment
- People
- Our Business and Risk
- Feed
- Animals.

The job in each section is to write down one to three goals - any more than this and it's less likely you'll achieve them.

Once you have this, write down the actions you will take to achieve those goals, noting who'll be responsible and when you aim to achieve them. Again, it's not about having a long list – it's about having achievable goals.

### Dairy Australia

### PLAN ON A PAGE

**VISION:** 

To enjoy life while steadily

growing our business,

extending our knowledge and

having the courage to take on new challenges creating a secure balanced future for our family.

I/WE VALUE:

- Courage

- Flexibility

- Passion

- Initiative



Goal: the farm is a safe working environment, with relevant policies and procedures in place that everyone understands and carry out.

Actions: Michelle to use DA Farm Safety Starter Kit to develop policies and procedures for our farm by 30 Nov 2019.

John to put safety as a standing item on our weekly team meeting agenda to discuss how we work on our farm and get input from the team, starting next week.

Team to use mobile phones to allocate tasks to staff, capture safety issues, track the completion of all jobs, get feedback and capture

ideas - try WhatsApp as a team communication tool, starting 1 Sept 2019.

Have a team dinner at the local pub once a month – our shout. First Tuesday of the month starting Sept 2019.

### FOCUS AREA: Lifestyle GOALS AND ACTIONS:

Goal: to be healthy enough physically and mentally to undertake farm activities and enjoy family and leisure time - ongoing. Goal: to complete one significant exciting activity per year - every year. Goal: to be active in our local community and make a contribution that

matters to us - ongoing. Actions: Michelle to book us both in for a check up with our GP by the end of October. Decide between going to the Grand Final or a week in Queensland and book it. Maybe book both John to book by end of August.

Invite the neighbours and new people to the area over for a bbq – do it after calving and before harvest starts. Michelle to make this happen.

Be more active with the fire brigade, starting with the next training day – John to contact brigade captain by end of Sept re training days.

### FOCUS AREA: Growing our equity goals and actions:

Goal: grow our equity from \$1.5 mill to \$2.5 mill by 2030 , so as to achieve financial freedom with enough equity to fund the lifestyle we want when we turn 55.

Goal: generate an average #70k cash surplus each year for debt reduction or future investments.

Actions: Meet with our consultant by the end of Oct 2019 to agree the important measures of financial performance (KPIs) for our farm business and track our farm performance annually.

use DairyBase annually to track and benchmark financial performance, starting with last financial year – Michelle to register by 30/09/2019. Allocate specific regular time to investigate the next opportunity to grow equity – meet together every 6 months starting Dec 2019.

GARDINER

#### FOCUS AREA: Feed GOALS AND ACTIONS:

Goal: know our feed costs, including cost of growing and conserving the feed we grow on our farm (home farm, lease blocks, out blocks).

Goal: we have clear strategies to deal with feed surpluses and periods of feed deficit.

Actions: Plan our feed requirements annually and plan purchasing needs post harvest to meet requirements and manage risk – John by end of November each year. Ensure the farm is walked weekly, to generate a feed wedge, update grazing plan and discuss at weekly Movday norning meeting – Michelle to make this happen. Have a team meeting heading into spring to highlight the approach to growing, grazing and conserving as much feed as possible – Michelle to make this happen by

end of August. Talk with grain suppliers about opportunities to look in prices for a proportion of our grain supply – John to do this by end of September.

OUR FARM, OUR PLAN

### **VISION AND VALUES**

#### Vision

Your vision describes what you ultimately want to achieve. It will describe how you would like your life and business to look in the future. It also describes why you are doing what you do.

The vision you describe will be central to your Plan on a Page. Working through Our Farm, Our Plan with the other key people in your business requires you to develop a shared vision. In the majority of Australian dairy farm businesses this will be done with your life partner.

#### Values

Your values come from many different sources and are typically culturally acquired. Values provide us all with a framework to think and behave. We draw on them when making decisions and choices, which explains why we can find it difficult to understand the decisions and choices of people who have different values. They are difficult to measure but will play a key role in determining your goals.

Normally our values line up with the people that we develop relationships with, both personal and business. Similar values are what often makes us attracted to and compatible with other people. It is something we can take for granted and values can change over time, so it is worth checking in and discussing with the other people in your life and business. A shared sense of purpose for your business can be shaped by values and goals that are important to you and your family and business team.

### **VISION AND VALUES**

### Vision and values exercise

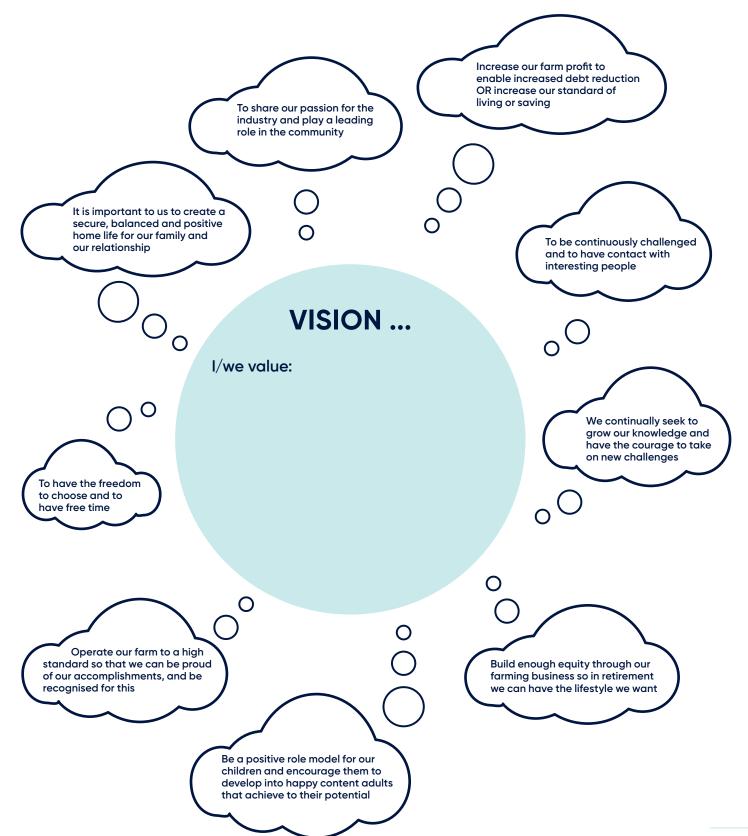
The thought bubbles on these pages are provided as ideas only. They might resonate with you, they might not. The values exercise below – it will help you to find the words that best describe your values, which you can then include in your vision.

#### Instructions

- 1 Circle 12 of the words describing values in the list to the right that mean the most to you. They will be the ones that jump out at you – remember, there is no right or wrong
- 2 From the 12 you have circled you can only keep six. List them in the space provided below
- 3 Next discuss your values with the other important people in your life and/or business. With them identify the six that are most important to both/all of you
- 4 Finally, use the values when describing your vision in the circle provided. This will be used at the centre of your Plan on a Page.



Values		
truth	commitment	fulfillment
persistence	freedom	community
respect	excitement	fairness
efficiency	recognition	purposefulness
sincerity	friendship	integrity
dependability	creativity	order
initiative	learning	strength
fun	influence	peace
trust	happiness	spirituality
environment	honesty	place
relationships	justice	loyalty
excellence	honour	adventure
power	originality	clarity
wisdom	quality	cleverness
teamwork	innovation	cooperation
control	hard work	success
flexibility	humour	security
service	obedience	candour
courage	prosperity	stewardship

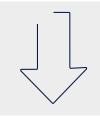


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The job is to write down your goals and actions on the next page.

	Friends and family	Health and motivation	Sport/leisure/community
ALS	Maintain a strong relationship with my husband/wife/partner	Be healthy enough physically and mentally to undertake farm activities and enjoy family and leisure time	Complete one significant exciting activity per year
GOALS	Develop and maintain a close group of friends, who are positive and motivated	Be at the appropriate weight and blood pressure for my age	Be active in our local community and make a contribution that matters to us
	Help family members achieve to their potential	Regularly improve our knowledge and skill base and seek new opportunities	Always be focused on a new challenge that makes us jump out of bed every morning
	Plan to do something with your partner on a regular basis	Plan some personal free time	Join and participate in a local volunteer organisation or club - could be fire brigade, SES, sport, leisure, other community groups
N	Family to brainstorm ideas for exciting activity for next year and make the booking	Have an active involvement in some regular sporting or leisure activity	Allocate monthly time to leisure activities that you enjoy
ACTIONS	If you have kids at home, schedule some one-on-one time with each child	Plan an annual GP health check	Invite new people to the area over for a bbq or dinner
	Organise to catch up with friends regularly, e.g. monthly dinners or pub night	Ensure you get enough sleep	Participate in community activities, e.g. school, sport, Young Dairy Network, food related, outdoors
	Plan an annual holiday, e.g. weekend away with friends	Contact our Regional Development Program to discuss events and programs that could benefit us	Consider taking up a new challenge – could be farm related, off-farm, volunteering, a hobby or personal challenge



On this page write down your goals for this section and the actions you will take to achieve them. One to three actions is enough - remember there are six sections, so they will add up.

An important step here is to think about timelines, and also identify who will be responsible for making sure the actions happen and the goals are achieved.

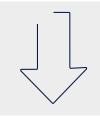
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# **OUR FARM AND ENVIRONMENT**

This section of the QuickPlan is designed to assist you to translate your ideas into goals and actions. The final step of putting them into your Plan on a Page will make you prioritise which ones are the most important. The goals and actions below are provided as examples to stimulate your thinking. If any of them feel right to you tick the box provided so you don't lose them. Don't be locked into the examples given – feel free to come up with your own words.

The job is to write down your goals and actions on the next page.

	System	Infrastructure	Resources
Ŋ	Establish the most suitable farm system to optimise production/ profit that aligns with our goals	Infrastructure is not limiting production, e.g. farm dairy, fencing, water, drainage, races, laneways, irrigation (where applicable)	We have a water risk management program developed, including management of carry over water and other management options
GOALS	Have clear strategies to deal with feed surpluses and periods of feed deficit	We are set up to manage extreme heat events and reduce the impact on cows and production	Enhance our farms natural environment (plantings, native bush protection, maintain waterways, biodiversity)
	Have the flexibility in our system to manage fluctuations in milk price, input costs and availability of feed	We are happy with the housing on the farm, for us and our employees	We have a good understanding of our supplementary feed reserves and how they will be used to manage risk
	Develop a robust set of decision rules covering fodder conservation and feeding supplements	Discuss with your team ideas about infrastructure needed on your farm to reduce feed wastage	Complete the Dairy Self Assessment Tool (Dairy-SAT) - an environmental self-assessment and action tool. Go to <b>dairysat.com.au</b>
S	Improve farms infrastructure, for example - realign fences so paddocks are of similar size, upgrade water supply	Get advice from a farm consultant about the cost-benefit of any investment in infrastructure you are considering	Secure enough stock and dairy water to meet the needs in a dry year
ACTIONS	Improve cow stand-off areas to minimise soil damage in wet conditions	Go to the Dairy Infrastructure website for information about planning and constructing - dairyinfrastructure.com.au	Talk to your team about how important managing feed is, including the need to minimise wastage
	Use farm practices that minimise feed wastage - talk to your team about ways to achieve this	Call a family meeting to discuss the housing on the farm to make sure everyone is on the same page about it meeting your need	Apply fertiliser based on most recent soil test and the Nutrient Management Plan
	Improve the aesthetics of the farm, e.g. planting program, tidy up around tanker track, etc.	Think about the way your team works and setting up the farm for them to be efficient, motivated and safe	Assess your on farm feed storage capacity and discuss with the other people on your team



On this page write down your goals for this section and the actions you will take to achieve them. One to three actions is enough - remember there are six sections, so they will add up.

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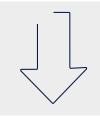
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### PEOPLE

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The job is to write down your goals and actions on the next page.

	The team	Relationships	Ways of working and safety
S	We have strong supportive relationships within the farm team leading to excellent team work and achievement of farm goals	Have a team of service providers that fully support us to achieve our goals	The farm is a safe working environment, with relevant policies and procedures in place
GOALS	The farm management team have enough capability to keep the farm operating well in the event that we are unavailable	Staff are attracted to work on our farm because of the learning and progression opportunities	Clearly communicate farm policies and procedures to ensure repeatable and reliable results from the farm
	Permanent and/or relief staff get the right jobs done, on time within a positive team environment	Build and maintain a positive, mutually beneficial relationship with farm owner/share farmer/ equity partners	Manage our time more effectively so that we meet important job commitments and have a good work life balance
	Utilise the People in Dairy website - start by establishing a staff recruitment and review process. thepeopleindairy.org.au	Ask successful farmers who they use for advice (farm consultant, banker, accountant) and interview them to decide suitability for us	Manage our time to achieve a balance between family, farming, recreation and education
	Meet as a team every Monday morning to prioritise and plan the weekly tasks and delegate to appropriate people	Invite for dinner – a person or a couple we respect and can learn from 2 to 3 times per year	Consider employing other people to free up time
ACTIONS	Ensure staff are ready to step in and run the farm if required at short notice. Develop a clear farm procedures guide for milking, animal health and feeding management	Attend one conference per year and one regional workshops, e.g. Australian Dairy Conference, seasonal updates sessions.	Ensure staff know requirements around health and safety e.g. helmets on bikes, weed spray management, machinery operation
	Set up whiteboard in the farm dairy to record peoples weekly jobs	Organise an annual meeting to share goals and discuss the farm direction with the farm owner/ share farmer/equity partners	Manage our time to achieve a balance between family, farming, recreation and education
	Use mobile phones to allocate tasks to staff and track the completion of all jobs, get feedback and capture ideas - try WhatsApp as a team communication tool	Find a group of like-minded people to share ideas on farm management planning, achieving goals, business ideas	Consider taking up a new challenge. This could be farm related, off-farm, volunteering, a hobby or personal challenge



On this page write down your goals for this section and the actions you will take to achieve them. One to three actions is enough - remember there are six sections, so they will add up.

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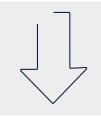
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# **OUR BUSINESS**

This section of the QuickPlan is designed to assist you to translate your ideas into goals and actions. The final step of putting them into your Plan on a Page will make you prioritise which ones are the most important. The goals and actions below are provided as examples to stimulate your thinking. If any of them feel right to you tick the box provided so you don't lose them. Don't be locked into the examples given – feel free to come up with your own words.

The job is to write down your goals and actions on the next page.

	Financial performance	Risk	Planning
Ŋ	Establish the important measures of financial performance (KPIs) for farm business and track our farm performance annually	Have adequate protection in the event of financial, physical or relationship challenges, including insurance	Have a business transition plan that supports the long term goals of our family and business, including succession
GOALS	Generate \$X cash surplus each year for debt reduction or future investments	Maintain debt to asset ratio below X%	Have a retirement plan – where to live, source of income, social interests etc
	Generate a Return on Total Assets (ROTA) greater than interest rate (or between X% and Y%)	Grow our equity from \$X to \$X , so as to achieve financial freedom with enough equity to fund the lifestyle we want	Spend less time in the office with better results
	Register farm on DairyBase and look at resources online at <b>dairybase.com.au</b>	Call a family meeting (or farm business management team meeting) to discuss the long term future of the business	Contact our Regional Development Program about The Dairy Office workshop and other programs
SN	Use DairyBase annually to track and benchmark financial performance	Allocate specific regular time to investigate the next opportunity to grow equity e.g. share farming job, equity partnership, off farm investment	Streamline our business administration systems so that they are more efficient
ACTIONS	Contact Regional Development Program about Farm Business Fundamentals or Dairy Farm Business Analysis programs to build analysis and planning skills	Allocate \$X to debt repayment from cash surplus identified in the budget	Investigate financial computer software programs that could help with managing accounts and cashflow budgeting
	Discuss your cash position with the other key decision makers in your business monthly	Meet lawyer to update our wills and meet with insurance agent to review our requirements	Allocate time each month to review planning wheel, goal setting process and progress
	Revise annual budget at least 3 times per year.	Allocate time each month to review Plan on a Page, goal setting process and progress	Use the Dairy Standard Chart of Accounts to organise farm financial accounts



On this page write down your goals for this section and the actions you will take to achieve them. One to three actions is enough - remember there are six sections, so they will add up.

An important step here is to think about timelines, and also identify who will be responsible for making sure the actions happen and the goals are achieved.

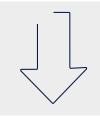
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The job is to write down your goals and actions on the next page.

	Growing	Feed	Managing
S	Increase the quantity and quality of pasture grown and utilised • Grow X tonnes DM/ha • Cows eat X tonnes DM/ha	Irrigation management is efficient and optimises yield of feed grown per megalitre of water	Have clear strategies to deal with feed surpluses and periods of feed deficit
GOALS	Know our feed costs, inlcuding cost of growing and conserving the feed we grow on our farm (home farm, lease blocks, out blocks)	Feed facilities are adequate and minimise feed wastage	Plan our feed requirements annually and plan purchasing needs to meet requirements and manage risk
	Achieve optimum soil fertility	Use supplements to complement grazed pasture and optimise cow performance	Reduce exposure to feed markets by having infrastructure on farm to hold two years of fodder reserves
	Contact our Regional Development Program about enrolling in a Feeding Pastures for Profit program Go to the Feed Planning web site for the latest technical information feed.dairyaustralia.com.au	Ensure the farm is walked weekly, to generate a feed wedge, update grazing plan and discuss at weekly Monday morning meeting Ensure grazing residuals reach 1500 to 1600 kgDM/ha with milking cows	Develop an annual feed plan highlighting feed budget, deficits and bought in feed requirements[p Meet with fodder supplier and discuss current and next seasons fodder needs
ACTIONS	Apply fertiliser based on most recent soil test and the Nutrient Management Plan	Enrol in a Dairy Australia's animal nutrition courses - contact your Regional Development Program	Talk with grain suppliers about opportunities to lock in prices for a proportion of your grain supply
	Check out Dairy Australia's FertSmart resources - Google FertSmart and go to the Dairying for Tomorrow web site	Be involved in a discussion group - contact your Regional Development Program to find out more	Have a team meeting heading into spring to highlight the approach to growing, grazing and conserving as much feed as possible
	Establish targets for annual fodder and/or irrigation water reserves	Talk to your team about how important managing feed is, including the need to minimise wastage	Complete Dairy-SAT (the Dairy Self Assessment Tool) - it's an environmental self-assessment and action tool. Go to <b>dairysat.com.au</b>



On this page write down your goals for this section and the actions you will take to achieve them. One to three actions is enough - remember there are six sections, so they will add up.

An important step here is to think about timelines, and also identify who will be responsible for making sure the actions happen and the goals are achieved.

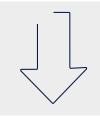
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### ANIMALS

This section of the QuickPlan is designed to assist you to translate your ideas into goals and actions. The final step of putting them into your Plan on a Page will make you prioritise which ones are the most important. The goals and actions below are provided as examples to stimulate your thinking. If any of them feel right to you tick the box provided so you don't lose them. Don't be locked into the examples given – feel free to come up with your own words.

The job is to write down your goals and actions on the next page.

	Health and welfare	Condition	Production
rs	Establish a farm system and reproductive program that allows the option of growth in herd size without buying replacement stock	Grow replacements to 90% of mature weight at 22 months	Cows will produce at least 100% of their liveweight in milksolids
GOALS	Animal health issues such as metabolic, mastitis, lameness, disease, do not limit milk production or business profit	At calving, cow condition will be 5 (5.5 heifers)	Profitably produce X kg milksolids X kg MS/cow and X kg MS/ha
	Take pride in the care we provide for our cows and exceed industry animal welfare standards	Strategically use supplements to complement grazed pasture and optimise cow performance	Establish the most suitable farm system to optimise production/ profit that aligns with our goals
ACTIONS	Talk to our vet about the value of using an InCalf trained advisor to fully assess our herds reproductive performance	Calculate the costs of feeding supplements and assess that against additional milk income and other benefits, such as cow condition	Herd test to get the performance data for your herd you need to make better decisions, including culling decisions
	Establish set dates in late lactation when cows of a particular body condition score are dried off	Visit replacements regularly to check progress – weigh monthly against set target weights and take action if below target	Go to the DataGene web site to get the latest information on ABVs (Australian Breeding Values) - datagene.com.au
	Get on top of current animal health issues by getting vet / consultant to fully assess all contributing factors	Get involved in a discussion group where you can discuss animal health and production with other farmers. If needed contact your Regional Development Program to find out more	Download the Good Bulls Guide app to use on your mobile phone or tablet - it's available for use on Apple and android devices
	Get the team to attend a Cups On Cups Off course through your Regional Development Program. This really helps get your cell count down and stay on top of mastitis	Contact your Regional Development Program about animal nutrition training - there are basic and advanced courses	Visit highest performing farms in the area to get ideas on the right system for us
	Have a team meeting to discuss animal welfare and what your expectations are. Industry guidelines can be downloaded from <b>dairyaustralia.com.au</b>	Use a consultant (with good references) to help us develop and meet key management targets during the season	Contact our Regional Development Program about Dairy Farm Business Analysis training to build farm performance analysis knowledge



On this page write down your goals for this section and the actions you will take to achieve them. One to three actions is enough - remember there are six sections, so they will add up.

An important step here is to think about timelines, and also identify who will be responsible for making sure the actions happen and the goals are achieved.

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### PLAN ON A PAGE

### How to put your Plan on a Page

You will have now thought about your vision and identified a number of goals for each key aspect of your farm, and the actions you plan to take to achieve those goals. The final step is to capture this on one page by writing your vision and the goals and actions from each section on the Plan on a Page provided in the Our Farm, Our Plan folder. Copies are also freely available from dairyaustralia.com.au.

At this step you might even reduce the number of goals and actions to a manageable number. It's not about having a long list, it is about making it achievable. One key goal and action might be the thing that makes a big difference to you and your farm. Prioritising with the other people involved is also an important part of the planning process.

### Why the Plan on a Page?

Putting your vision, goals and actions on a single page will compel you to focus on the things that matter the most. It means you have taken the plans in your head and put them on paper, which also means you get the full picture of the things you'd like to achieve in one place. This gives all of the decision makers in your business the chance to see the vision, goals and actions and to make sure you're all on the same page.

Importantly it allows you to:

- Be confident that you have a shared vision and long term plan
- Communicate your vision and plan with other people, either inside or outside your business
- Refer back to your plans and track your progress.

### Keep it simple and SMART

The aim of the QuickPlan process is to keep it simple and identify where you are NOW, WHERE you want to be and HOW you're going to get there. It assists you to make sure it's achievable and to focus on the key areas that will make a difference to you and your business. Apply the SMART framework again to make sure that your goals and actions are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timeframes are understood.

### Track your progress

Having your plan documented on a page will allow you to track your progress. Checking in with the other decision makers who helped develop your QuickPlan is important. Good practice is to do an annual review as a minimum, and possibly check in more regularly.

### PLAN ON A PAGE EXAMPLE

A larger (A3) blank version of the Plan on a Page is included in the Our Farm, Our Plan folder and is also free to download at **dairyaustralia.com.au** 

FOCUS AREA: Farm saf <del>e</del> ty goals and actions:		FOUNDATION
		FOCUS AREA: <i>Growing our equity</i> goals and actions:
Goal: the farm is a safe working environment, with relevant policies and procedures in place that everyone understands and carry out. Actions: Michelle to use DA Farm Safety Starter Kit to develop policies and procedures for our farm by 30 Nov 2019. John to put safety as a standing item on our weekly tram meeting agenda to disouss how we work on our farm and get input from the tram, starting next week.	tioics and procedures in policies and procedures ing agenda to discuss prest week.	Goal: grow our equity from \$1.5 mill to \$2.5 mill by 2020. so as to achieve funancial freedow with encough equity to flund the lifestyle we want when we turn 55. Goal: generate an average \$708 each surplus each year for debt reduction or future investments. Actions: Nest with our encentent by the end of Oct 2013 to agree the inspirations: Nest with an encentent by the end of Oct 2013 to agree the inspirations encouldul.
Team to use mobile phones to allocate traces to staff, appure safety issues, track the completion of all jobs, get feedback and capture ideas - try VuhatsApp as a team communication tool. starting I Sept 2019. Have a team dimmer at the local pub once a month - our shout. First Tuesday of the month starting Sept 2019.	5	Use PairyBase annually to track and buchmark fruancial performance. VISION: starting with last fruancial year - Michell to register by 20/59/2019. To enjop life while stadily growing our buckiness. extending our knowledge and having the courage to take an wew challenges creating a secure balanced
FOCUS AREA: Lifestyle GOALS AND ACTIONS: GOAL: to be healthy anongh physically and mentally to undertake	futu	
farm activities and evology family and leave time - ongoing. Gaal: to complete one evolg family and leave time - ongoing. Gaal: to be active in our local community and make a contribution that methods has considered.		- Passion conserving the feat we grow on our farm. (nome farm, lease blooks, out blooks, out blooks) Initiative coal: we have clear strategies to deal with feed surpluses and periods of feed defait.
municies to use "ongoing". Actions: Michelle to book us both in for a check up with our GP by the end of October.	by the end of October.	Actions: Plan our feed requirements annually and plan purphasing needs post harvest to meet requirements and manage risk - John by end of November each year.
Decide between going to the Grand Final or a week in Queensland and book it. Maybe book both1 John to book by end of August.	nd and book it. Maybe	Ensure the farm is walked weekly, to generate a feed wedge, update grazing plan and discuss at weekly Monday morning meeting – Michelle to make this happen.
luwite the meighbours and newpeople to the area over for a bbq – do it after calwing and before harvest starts. Michelle to make this happon. Be more active with the fire brigade, starting with the next training day -John to	do ít after calving and úng day –John to	Have a team meeting heading into spring to highlight the approach to growing. grazing and conserving as much feed as possible – Michelle to make this happen by end of August.
contact brigade captain by end of Sept re training days.	) )	Talk with grain suppliers about opportunities to look in prices for a proportion of our grain supply John to dothis by end of September.

### **REVIEW AND RESET**

A key part of strategic planning is to check in and review your progress and then reset your plans based on what you learn from your review.

Our Farm, Our Plan is no exception, with the need to review and reset your plans an important part of the process. Make your review work for you by asking:

- How often will you review your progress?
- Who needs to be involved?
- How much time will it take to do?
- What information do you need to have on hand?
- Where will you do this?
- When will you do this next?



In the 'Business' section of the Farm Fitness Checklist, how did you rate yourself on the following questions?

	Yes, we've nailed it	Ok, but we could do better	No, and we should do something about it	No, and it's not relevant to us
	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
We have key measures and targets for the financial performance of our farm business				
We review our performance and progress at least annually				

### **REVIEW CHECKLIST**

Decisions	Suggestions	Our Plan, Our Review – what are we going to do?	Who's responsible?
How often?	<ul> <li>Annual as a minimum for the business as whole</li> <li>Quarterly is good practice for tracking progress within a season</li> </ul>		
Who?	<ul> <li>Partners and key decision makers</li> <li>External people if required, eg. consultant, advisors</li> </ul>		
Time?	<ul> <li>Your call, but allocate enough time</li> <li>Many farmers allocate a day for annual reviews</li> </ul>		
Information?	<ul> <li>Our Farm, Our Plan - plan on a page</li> <li>DairyBase reports</li> <li>Farm financial and production information</li> <li>Balance sheet</li> </ul>		
Where?	<ul> <li>Ideally somewhere without distractions</li> <li>Try to get off farm, or park the kids?</li> </ul>		
When?	• Your call, just make it a regular thing and plan for it by setting dates		

### Celebrate the successes!

Don't forget to celebrate the success when goals are achieved. This is important to motivate everyone involved, especially yourselves.

### YOU, YOUR PERSONALITY AND YOUR TEAM

Good farmers need good teams. It is important to recognise that individuals have different needs, capabilities and personalities and to treat each person according to their needs.

People who make an effort to understand personality and working style differences will have more effective communication, satisfaction and success.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The 'People in Dairy' Working Styles Questionnaire is a tool that can be used to help understand working styles. Go to **thepeopleindairy.org.au** and click on 'Working Together'.

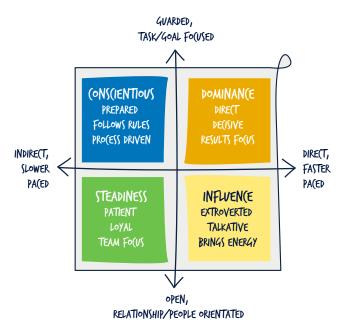
#### **DiSC** profiling

The DiSC profile is a non-judgemental tool used for discussion of people's behavioural differences.

If you participate in a DiSC program, you'll be asked to complete a series of questions that produce a detailed report about your personality and behaviour. You'll also receive tips related to working with people of other styles.

There are many online DiSC profiling tools which can be fun to have a go at. Try it with your team – while they tend to be general in nature they can highlight different preferences that you and your team have. Sometimes this provides a point for discussion about underlying issues that can be positive and constructive.

One that we have tried is the 123 DISC Personality Test\*. Go to **123test.com/disc-personality-test** 



Please note, Dairy Australia in no way endorses any particular product. We only
point to DiSC profiling as an approach that you may consider for yourself or to
use with your team.

### WHAT ELSE?

Other Dairy Australia programs that might be of interest include:

#### Our Farm, Our Plan for groups

Dairy Australia is delivering group workshops to assist farmers to get their long term plans down on paper. Workshops utilise the key Our Farm, Our Plan resources the Farm Fitness Checklist and the QuickPlan workbook.

Support will be provided to farmers taking part to pressure test their plans and to review their progress.

The Our Farm, Our Plan workshop for groups is ideal for discussion groups and other farmer groups, including Young Dairy Network groups.

#### **Farm Business Fundamentals**

Build your skills and knowledge to pull together farm financial and physical information.

Farm Business Fundamentals covers getting organised, budgeting and farm financial systems and introduces the Dairy Standard Chart of Accounts and Cash Budgeting Tool.

#### **Dairy Farm Business Analysis**

Better understand and analyse farm business performance using DairyBase. This training covers the importance of getting annual farm financial and physical numbers right, how to interpret farm performance data, and to understand business performance on the basis of cash, profit and wealth.

#### Business Governance and Investment workshop

This two-day workshop takes farmers to the next level in their strategic planning. It assists people running larger and more complex farm businesses to think strategically and develop policies and systems to be more efficient, more effective and better manage their farms.

#### Stepping Up, Stepping Back

Dairy offers a lifelong career with a real sense of value, purpose, flexibility, stimulating work and work-life balance. Many employees aim and succeed in buying a dairy farm or land, growing their business and being highly successful business owners.

As in most industries, many dairy farm owners and managers are aging and considering their options to scale down their involvement or 'step back' from the day to day of the business. This opens up a range of opportunities for both groups to consider including share farming, leasing, selling, scaling back or expanding operations and business partnership models.

#### CONTACT YOUR RDP

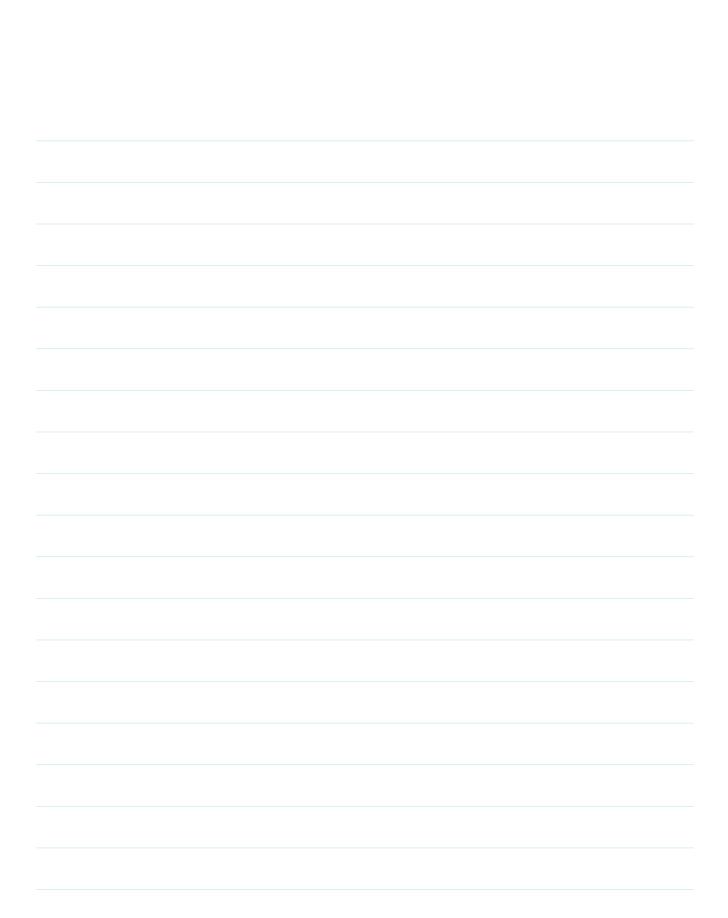
Contact your Regional Development Program for more information about any of the above, and what else is happening in your region.

See inside front cover for contact details.

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Dairy Australia Limited ABN 60 105 227 987 Level 3, HWT Tower 40 City Road, Southbank Vic 3006 Australia T +61 3 9694 3777 F +61 3 9694 3701 E enquiries@dairyaustralia.com.au dairyaustralia.com.au