

FROM FARM TO TABLE

Farm Stories



Woorra Park Farm

Could you tell us a bit about yourself and your organic farm?

We are Scott and Suzanne Wightman from Woorra Park in Gippsland, Victoria.

What do you do?

We are certified organic dairy farmers. Most of our cows are Friesian cows which are the most common dairy cow in Australia, and one of the biggest. Cows can stand over 150cm tall and weigh over 600kg, while bulls can weigh over 1,000kg which is about the same weight as a small car!

Our milk is collected by truck every day, or every second day, to supply milk for drinking, making cheese, butter, and cream. Our milk is also the base ingredient in five:am organic yoghurt. One cow produces about 27 litres per day, and during spring when grass is in abundance, we can produce about 6,500 litres of milk a day. We have around 250 dairy cows that produce milk at our farm.



Tell us a bit about the processes you use to farm organically.

We do not use chemicals or pesticides on our farm, and our cows are fed on naturally growing herbs and grasses. Our cows are not treated with antibiotics or hormones, and if a cow gets sick they are treated naturally. Being a dairy farmer is one busy job! Our day starts very early in the morning. We usually get up at 5am to check on the cows due to give birth to their calves. Then we start milking. We continue milking until 7:30am, and then we have to clean the milking plant. Afterwards it's time to feed our calves. From there, we spend the rest of morning doing other jobs like fixing fences and equipment, and shifting fences to give the cow's access to fresh grass. In the afternoon we collect the calves and feed them again, milk the cows again, wash the milking plant again and then bring new calves to the calf shed.



Describe a problem that you have had to face or tackle.

During the calving months, April and October, we have to head out into the dark at 1am to check on cows that are giving birth. We might even have to help deliver a calf if a cow is struggling.

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Do you have an interesting fact or story to share?

All of our cows have names. In April and October about 25 calves are born, and we have to think up a new name for each one. Once they are named, a tag attached to their ear shows their first name, family name and father's name. That's amazing!



What is the best part about your job?

We are part of a cooperative of organic dairy farmers and we think farming organically is the most natural thing to do. We can guarantee our milk is healthy because it comes from healthy cows on a healthy farm, which is better for the animals, the environment and better for people too.

