

Dairy upgrades a revelation for SCC and milk out

Fourth generation Gippsland farmers Rod and Lyndell Cope have been milking 430 cows through their 50 - stand rotary, contributing 3.3 million litres a year to the nation's milk pool. However, their dairy was limping, and the repair-and-maintenance bills were heading towards \$1500 a month!

Rod said, "Our dairy was about 12 years old. We were starting to have trouble with the Automatic Cup Removers (ACR) failing, and that was frustrating because we were having to send some cows around a couple of times because they weren't being milked out properly. We had a lot of cup slip, which is frustrating on a rotary and it makes mastitis management challenging. We couldn't go on like that, so we decided to push on with the changes."

It was a no-brainer to take advantage of Daviesway's cutting-edge and flexible product range, coupled with the company's extensive local technical support network.

They decided to update the ACRs with the Flo-Tek CDA system – an Australian-designed electronic cluster remover with milk yield and conductivity, which is manufactured at Warragul.

The Copes were also drawn by the lighter Milkrite InterPuls shell and liner combination. They were able to use their existing claw bowls, and Daviesway then added the world's only internally triangular moulded plastic shell (which is specifically designed for the mouthpiece-vented triangular liners).

With 40% of US dairy farmers and 5 of the world's biggest dairy farms using Milkrite InterPuls shells and liners – the recommendation for the liners was high. Coupled with its "worldwide innovation-awards", it's no surprise that more than 200 farms throughout Australia have made the switch since they were introduced to the Australian market 4 years ago.



Daviesway Area Manager Brendan McGrath shows Leongatha dairyman Rod Cope the latest Milkrite claws.

The result was a revelation.

"I wasn't convinced on the cup liners initially," Rod said. "Our SCC was sitting at about 150,000, so we weren't having issues but, in the end, we decided to give them a go, and do the lot."

"We're glad we did because I didn't think the SCC or teat condition could improve much more on the number of cows we were milking, but they did: our SCC now sits around 80,000-90,000."

"That certainly won me over. We didn't see the vet between December and February and milking was definitely quicker. We used to get through around 240 to 250 cows in an hour. Now we consistently do up around 270 or 280."

Lyndell added *"The cows are milking out much better too. Before, we had some cows that were still pouchy in their udder after milking, and that's just disappeared."*



Gentle 3-sided massage of the teat during milking process





Photo Caption: The decision to install Mouthpiece Triangular Vented Liners in Rod and Lyndell Cope's dairy has reduced their SCC average to between 80,000 and 90,000 – in addition to stopping cup-slip and kick-offs.

The liners have a clear and logical advantage in that the pulsation pressure is evenly distributed from three sides, and therefore gentler on the teat. In addition, the air vent, which is positioned in the mouthpiece at the top of each liner (instead of the claw) has a two-fold, and again logical, impact: it introduces air above the milk flow, thus eliminating splash-back and cross-contamination, while it also makes automatic take-off seamless.

"In the past, when the cups came off, it was pulling their teats and they would kick the cups off," Lyndell said. "Now, because of the air vents being re-positioned, the cups drop a little bit, and then they come off. The cows don't move, and it's much quieter in the dairy."

Powering on

The final piece in the puzzle was the dairy's vacuum pump, which was being pushed to the limit. Rod and Lyndell installed a Boumatic blower vacuum pump with variable speed drive. Today, it is saving them 33% on their power bill.

Rod said, "The vacuum pump was just the best thing. It was unbelievable the change that decision made for us."

The couple also used Daviesway when they decided to upgrade to an automatic calf feeder three seasons ago. They bought three stalls second-hand and one new one. Calving 400 head through the winter is Lyndell's solution to having a more relaxing autumn.

"The automatic calf feeders are the best thing since sliced bread," she said. "We use milk powder, and what I love is that the calves all get exactly the right amount, at exactly the right temperature and the quality is always the same. While we know that automatic calf rearers don't rear the calves on their own, they have an been incredible help for us."

It may have been a tough 12 months, but today Rod and Lyndell are enjoying getting on with the business of supplying quality milk to their new processor.

Dairy Type:	Rotary 50 - stand
Cows Milked:	430
Milk processor:	Fonterra
Owners:	Rod and Lyndell Cope
Features included:	

Adding Daviesway's Flo-Tek CDA System, Milkrite InterPuls shells, and IP 15 Mouthpiece Vented Triangular Liners to existing claws. Installed new Boumatic blower vacuum pump.

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