

22 January 2021

SPOTLIGHT ON ROBOTS AT A DAY IN THE DAIRY

Primary Employers Tasmania is offering a unique opportunity for Tasmanian farmers to see first-hand the benefits of incorporating robotic technology into agricultural operations.

A Day in the Dairy will take place on 10 February from 10am – 1.30pm at Nick and Rebekah Dornauf's Gala Farm at Quamby Brook, near Deloraine, where robots have been utilised as part of a voluntary grazing system for more than a decade.

Attendees will view the eight VMS V300 robotic milk stations, gain a deep understanding of how the system has been designed for cow comfort and animal welfare benefits, and learn from other industry experts about a range of farming technology options.

Primary Employers Tasmania President Felicity Richards invited members, farmers, students, industry professionals and any other interested person to attend A Day in the Dairy.

"Our first event in this series – A Day in the Shed – was a huge success with more than 100 people joining us to learn about global best practice in the Connorville Shearing Shed near Cressy," Ms Richards said.

"This is all about ensuring Tasmanian farmers have access to the latest expertise and technology to enable them to run safe, compliant, efficient and best practice workplaces.

"Nick and Rebekah Dornauf run a world-class operation and we are extremely thankful that they are opening their farm gates to Primary Employers Tasmania to share their knowledge and experience."

Gala Farm is achieving less than one per cent incomplete rate with cows producing on average 600 kilograms of milk solids per year per cow. With more than 600 cows being milked each day, they are in and out of the robotic system in about six minutes.

Rebekah said a comparison of the cows that live on the robotic farm to the family's conventional dairy farms revealed the cows are more relaxed and have a longer life span.

"We look forward to welcoming everyone to Gala Farm to see how robotic technology can transform agricultural operations, how we train up to 25 new cows and heifers into the milking robots each day post calving and how this can be achieved remotely via Insight Vision for highly accurate cup attachment," she said.

"Introducing fresh cows to the robot via an iPhone has given us so much more flexibility in the way we manage our dairy operations."

Other A Day in the Dairy speakers and exhibitors include Safe Farming Tasmania, DairyTas, Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia, AgCard, Stay Chatty and others.

Any person wishing to attend A Day in the Dairy must RSVP to Primary Employers Tasmania at pet@primaryemployers.com.au by 4 February.

For more information, please contact:

-Felicity Richards, Primary Employers Tasmania President 0418 599 727