

Our Farm, Our Plan

success stories



Sammie Smith has grown up on a dairy farm at Greendale, near Bega in NSW. For the last three years, she has worked full time on a neighbouring farm to gain more experience with different farming operations and practices.

Her employers have given her some great opportunities to develop her skills and knowledge. When she has time, she also works on the home farm with her parents and sister.

Sammie became aware of Our Farm, Our Plan through Dairy Australia's Greg Duncan and decided to do it. "I had this thing where I was sitting on the motor bike getting the cows in and wondering about things like where we go as a family from here, who's going to be involved in the farm



Greendale, NSW

"I work on a farm where we milk 1,100 cows which keeps me pretty busy, but I help out here at home when I can. I've been working there for three years, typically working a 3am start and finishing up by midday," Sammie said. "One of my personal goals is to build up my own wealth, through livestock and other assets. I think there's more to be involved with on the family farm too."

"Our Farm, Our Plan helped me to take the ideas that were in my head and get them down on paper. It's great, and has meant I am able to add to it and tick things off as they're achieved. That is really satisfying when you do that," she said.

Through the program farmers are introduced to SMART goals, which are goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound. "SMART goals were a whole new thing to me, and it was hard at first, but it helped heaps," Sammie said. "It made my goals much clearer. I think making the goals realistic and breaking the big things into achievable bite size chunks was great."

One of the aims of Our Farm, Our Plan is to help farmers feel more in control. Sammie said, "I didn't feel out of control, but the process has helped me to clarify my goals and give me something to aim for."

When asked if she would recommend Our Farm, Our Plan to other farmers Sammie didn't hesitate. "Yep, 100% - I already have. And I will be pushing it along with the Young Dairy Network group down here in Bega that I'm involved with. The Young Dairy Network is great and gives me the chance to build a connection with like-minded people and do things together. There's a lot we can learn."

"At the end of the day sometimes you have to be pushed to do things like this, but farmers should have a go – they'll get a lot out of it. I would 100% recommend Our Farm, Our Plan to other farmers."

"For people my age it's worth doing just to think through where you want your career to take you. The Now, Where, How process is good value."



The Our Farm, Our Plan program is provided at no cost to all Australian dairy farmers as one of the service benefits delivered through the Dairy Australia's dairy levy funding. The program is delivered with the support of the Gardiner Foundation and the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, through Agriculture Victoria, NSW DPI, Tasmania's DENR and PIRSA in South Australia.

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