

## *University of Melbourne (Dookie) Dairy Trial Using Performance Direct Fed Microbials (UNI-01)*



The Dookie Farm management team is proud of how the year has turned out.

### Spotlight VICTORIA



VCAH Dookie Dairyfarm, Dookie,  
Victoria  
45 hectares irrigation  
192 cows  
Pasture utilisation: 10.4 tonne  
DM/ha

**Table 1**

	Week end April 8	Previous week	Last year
Cows	192	192	165
Average daily milk litres	3619	3669	3185
Av daily fat (kg)	155	156	134
Av daily protein (kg)	117	118	102
Litres/cow (10 day av)	18.8	19.1	19.3
Milk value per cow per day	\$4.23	\$4.20	\$4.21
B/F test (10 day av)	4.30	4.24	4.19
Protein test (10 day av)	3.28	3.20	3.19
Pellets/cow (kg)	6.0	6.0	6.0
Silage/cow (kg DM)	4.2	3.3	3.6
Estimated pasture/cow (kg DM)	4.4	5.2	5.0
Year to date milk (L)	997,902	973,180	825,515
Year to date fat (kg)	37,998	36,927	31,218
Year to date protein (kg)	29,996	29,184	24,219
Last bactoscan	40,000	28,000	37,000
Last sediment	A	A	A
BMCC (10-day av)	235,000	234,000	257,000

**Dookie Dairyfarm 1997/98 summary**

	1996/97	1997/98
Cows milked	168	192
Milking areas (ha perm past)	45	45
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	3.8	4.3
Total milk solids (kg)	70,053	83,000
Milk solids/cow (kg)	417	432
Milk solids/ha (kg)	1574	1865
Pasture utilised (tonnes/ha)	9.3	10.4
Nitrogen fert (kg N/ha)	200	202
Phosphorus fert (kg P/ha)	80	80.9
Olsens P (Ave over 24 pdks)	24	28
Pellets/cow (tonnes)	1.70	1.56
Hay/cow (tonnes)	0.54	0.09
Silage/cow (tonnes)	0	0.49
Income/cow (\$)	1587	1604
Gross margin/cow (\$)	627	599
Cash operating surplus/cow (\$)	427	
Income/ha (\$)	5992	6921
Gross margin/ha (\$)	2367	2586
Cash operating surplus/ha (\$)	1612	1831
Total cash operating surplus (\$)	71,753	81,498

**Protocols:** The trial protocols were prepared by the University of Melbourne and approved by the efficacy board. The trial was carried out under veterinarian supervision. The aim of the trial was to measure the basic commercial benefits of feeding Performance to lactating dairy cows. There were two trials conducted by the University as follows:

- a. **Transition trial** to determine the commercial benefits of using Performance from 20 days pre-partum through to 10 days post partum. In other words, to view the benefits of using Performance Direct Fed Microbial powder in the 'lead feed' and early lactation ration.
- b. **Early lactation trial** to determine the commercial benefits of using Performance Direct Fed Microbial powder mixed into an average of 6kg of grain fed daily.

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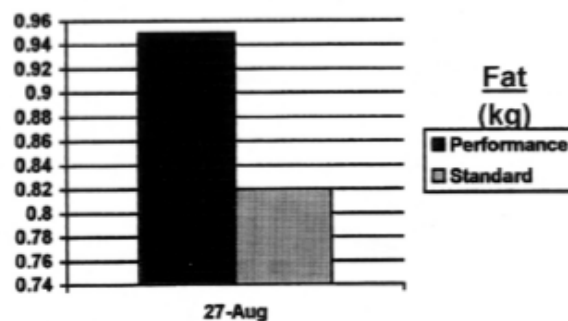
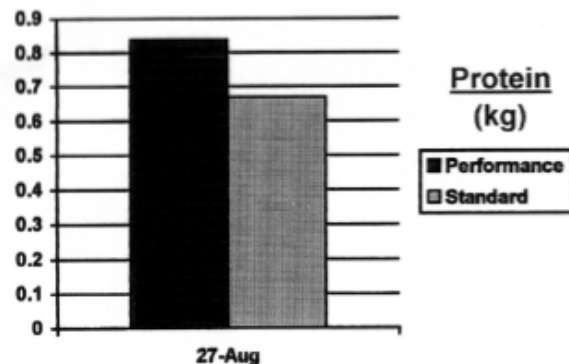
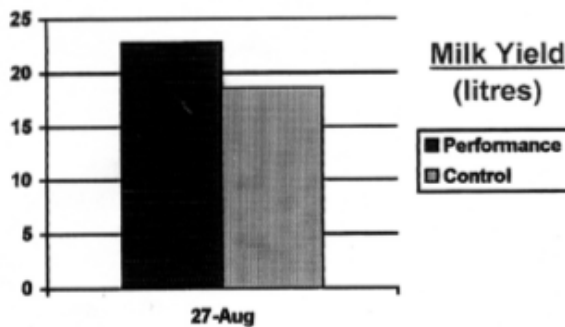
## Transition Trial - Summary of Results (UNI-01)

The transition trial was conducted using 18 cows in the treatment group (Performance) and 24 cows in the control group.

Each cow was fed 3kg of grain from 20 days pre-partum until 10 days post partum. Both groups were run together with the only difference in their treatment being the daily inclusion of 1 ounce (28.4 gms) of Performance Direct Fed Microbial powder with the grain of the treatment group. The Performance Bovine Microbial Gel was also given to each cow in the treatment group on day one of the trial at 5cc / head and again 5cc on the day of calving.

The following benefits were observed in the Performance group over the control group:

- a. 18% increase in milk yield (L).
- 20% increase in total Protein (kg).
- 14% increase in total butter fat (kg).
- 102,000 reduction in SCC



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***Early Lactation Trial - Summary of Results (UNI-01)***

The early lactation trial was conducted using 36 cows in the treatment group (Performance) and 36 cows in the control group. The average days in milk for each group at the start of the trial was 10 days.

Within each group there were three sub-groups each of 12 cows. The sub-groups were fed either 3kg, 6kg or 9kg of grain for 90 days, with the average grain consumption being 6kg.

Both groups were run together with the only difference in their treatment being the daily inclusion of 1 ounce (28.4gms) of Performance Direct Fed Microbial powder with the grain of the treatment group (irrespective of 3, 6 or 9kg of grain). The Performance Bovine Microbial Gel was also given to each cow in the treatment group on day one of the trial at 5cc/head and again 5cc on the day of calving.

The following benefits were observed in the Performance group over the control group after 90 days:

- a. 15.5% increase in milk yield (L)
- 16.8% increase in total Protein (kg)
- 13.3% increase in Protein %
- 18.3% increase in total Butter Fat (kg)
- 14.3% increase in Butter Fat %

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*Early Lactation Trial - Summary of Results (UNI-01)*

