



THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE

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# Collecting data on dairy farm performance

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# Discussion points

- **Article – The importance of record keeping**

*[http://www.publish.csiro.au/?act=view\\_file&file\\_id=9780643095168\\_C](http://www.publish.csiro.au/?act=view_file&file_id=9780643095168_C)  
[H8.pdf](#)*

- **Household survey**
- **Some ideas to consider**

# Some ideas

- **Pick farmers who have good records**
- **For farmers without good records**
  - **Think about all sources of information** e.g. Milk collection centres, suppliers of inputs, banks financial, tax agents.
  - Include multiple farm people in the conversation
  - **Weights and volumes are often inaccurate**
    - Take a bucket and set of scales.
    - Can you use a weight tape on cows?
    - Can you count the number of teeth to work out an animals age?

# Some ideas

- **Farmers will not accurately tell you feed quality** or when it changes
- It is human nature **not to tell accurate figures or show** you something if it is not good
  - Will tell you good news not the bad
- **Trust your eyes or take someone with you who knows cows!**
  - Heifer versus a cow,
  - Good health versus bad health,
  - Body condition - lean versus fat,
  - Pick up deficiencies or problems with farm management
  - Can work things out in reverse

# Some ideas

- Have a good idea of the range of data you should be collecting and review any data that falls outside of this?
  - we know that most cows in Indonesian herds don't average more than 12 litres per milk per day.