

Case study: Allard's Dairy



Improving dairy wastewater and effluent storage and reuse

Deb and Jim Allard farm dairy cows on the rich alluvial soils and hillslopes on the upper reaches of Burringbar Creek, a property that has been in the family since 1895. The herd of 80 jersey cows supply milk to Norco and a small artisan cheese making business, Cheeses Loves You, contributing to the local food economy.

While the discharge of effluent and wastewater from dairies is heavily regulated, there are often additional improvements that can be made to effluent management systems to reuse the waste and reduce impacts like soil erosion and nutrient runoff.

A review of the farm's effluent management system identified the need for additional wastewater storage in case of breakdowns, and during times when maintenance on equipment increases the risk of spillage into the nearby creek. Council's grant provided funding for a new storage tank while Jim and Deb purchased a new pump and irrigation line to enable widespread distribution of waste to the paddocks.

Improved effluent and wastewater storage and redistribution onto the land has improved pasture production by keeping nutrients on the farm and out of the waterway. These changes have reduced reliance on synthetic fertilisers and other pasture inputs.



Additional waste water storage tanks installed as part of the project.

The project demonstrates the importance of reviewing farm operations to identify improvements. These innovations not only streamline costs but have significant environmental benefits.



“Support from Tweed Shire Council to find small pockets of money to keep us on track with our sustainable projects is comforting. The small grant enabled us to make this happen.”

Deb Allard, Cheeses Loves You.