

Acknowledgements

Throughout the humid tropics, small holder dairy farming was established as part of social welfare and rural development schemes, to provide a regular cash flow for poorly resourced, and often landless, farmers. Now it is an accepted rural industry and requires a more business-minded approach to farm management. One such method of increasing the cash flow of small holder dairy farmers is to improve the feeding and herd management of their livestock through rearing better quality young stock. This is the goal of this technical manual.

The manual is based on one I wrote in 2002 for Australia's dairy industry. It has been extensively modified to ensure its relevance to small holder farmers in the humid tropics. I would like to acknowledge my colleagues in the Dairy Extension Centre of Victoria's Department of Primary Industry for their discussions and advice over many years in the fields of calf and heifer management.

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