



Department of
Primary Industries

Total Farm- Meet the managers Virtual Farm Case Study

Supporting document

NSW DPI Schools Program



www.dpi.nsw.gov.au



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Total virtual Farm Case Study - Meet the managers

Property description

Total is 2200 hectares. The property contains a range of natural ecosystems, from rainforest remnants and wetlands to dry sclerophyll forests.

Rainfall

Mean = 972 mm, Median = 749 mm.

Soils

Soils form a complex pattern across the property. This can be simplified by looking at the soil landscapes, that is the uplands or hills with erosional soil landscapes, the floodplain with alluvial (made up of materials left by rivers) soil landscapes, the midslopes with colluvial (loose earth accumulated at the base of a hill usually moved by gravity) soil landscapes and the vestigial soil landscapes that remain as evidence of volcanic activity. Each of the soils represents different production and management opportunities.

Beef

Beef cattle are run over an area of 1790 hectares, made up of prime pasture, medium pasture and poor pasture land as well as bushland.

The average herd size is 1100 head – ranging between 800 and 1400 depending on the time of the year and seasonal conditions. The breeding herd averages 550 Brangus cows and four Angus, eight Brangus and two Charolais bulls. Our main market is the sale of weaners on local stores market – around 450 head per year.

Dairy

The Dairy covers an area of 260 hectares. The herd is 360 head (mainly Holstein Friesian) of which approximately 265 are milked twice daily. Our average weekly production is 37,500 litres/week. We supply to Murray Goulburn Co-operative Co. Limited. Milk is transported mostly to their Sydney processing operation for supply mostly to Coles.

The pasture on the dairy is Kikuyu based, oversown in early autumn with ryegrass, white cover and red clover with some chicory and plantain and fertilised with N+P+K regularly as well as selective use of nitrogen and poultry litter. Some paddocks are limed.

Eggs

Free-range eggs are produced under contract to Pace Farms on an area of 86 hectares. The hens are housed in five sheds covering an area of 8,762m². The sheds have the capacity to house 90,000 hens and we currently run Isa Brown hens. The hens have access to 11 hectares for free ranging.

Sheep

Total runs a self-replacing Dohne flock of 300 ewes on an area of 113 hectares. This is a demonstration flock used for student training. The flock produces over 1 tonne of wool per year as well as prime lambs. The sheep are guarded by a Maremma dog named Duneedoo.

Horses

Australian Stock Horses are bred at Total for student training and stock work. At any one stage Total will have over one hundred horses on the property from young foals, yearlings, breakers, work plant horses and broodmares. Foaling begins around August and the foals are weaned and handled at 5 months.

Pre or post virtual excursion activities

Either prior to or post the virtual excursion, students are advised to complete the following activities using the NSW DPI Total Virtual farm series.



Watch:

- [The dairy at Tocal](#)
- [Landscapes on Tocal](#)
- [One year at Tocal](#)



Explore:

[Tocal interactive ESRI maps](#) for info in soils, water, topographic landscapes, land capability and enterprise information



Complete:

- [Systems agriculture worksheet](#)
- [Calendar of operations worksheet](#)
- [Measuring ag finance and performance worksheet](#)
- [Methods of ag record keeping worksheet](#)
- [Soils worksheet](#)

Total dairy enterprise

Management

Enterprise description	
Manager/s	
Staff	
Enterprise size (Ha)	
Total number of head	
Description of production groups	
Infrastructure	
Other	

- List annual operations for the enterprise production cycle (students to make a calendar of operations using this information after the talk)

- Identify problems associated with production on the farm

- Describe the effect of demand and the role of consumer trends on enterprise production

- Identify management practices being used to address environmental sustainability

- Describe any plans for future farm/enterprise improvement

Marketing

- Identify and describe the markets for this enterprise

- Describe the marketing strategy used for the dairy enterprise and why they are used

Farm technology

- Identify technologies used for the enterprise and explain how they are used

Pastures and irrigation enterprise

Management

Enterprise description	
Manager/s	
Staff	
Enterprise size (Ha)	
Land to irrigation production	
Land to dryland production	
Description of production	
Species sown and how are they used	
Infrastructure	

Water	
Soils	
Climate	
Other	

- List annual operations for the enterprise production cycle (students to make a calendar of operations using this information after the talk)

- Identify problems associated with production on the farm

- Describe the effect of demand and the role of consumer trends on enterprise production

- Identify management practices being used to address environmental sustainability

- Describe any plans for future farm/enterprise improvement

Marketing

- Identify and describe the markets for this enterprise
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- Describe the marketing strategy used for the pastures and irrigation enterprise and explain why they are used

Farm technology

- Identify technologies used for the enterprise and explain how they are used