

# Acknowledgements

Over the last 10 years, increasing numbers of Australian dairy stock have been exported to overseas markets, many of which are in South and East Asia. The rationale of such countries seeking genetically superior, but poorly adapted, dairy stock has frequently been questioned.

Unfortunately, there are increasing instances where such exercises have led to unacceptably high mortalities rates and poor performance once these imported stock have entered the milking herds, particularly those of small farmers. The major oversight by both the importers – whether private investors or government organisations – and the farmers for whom these stock are destined, is not ‘preparing the environment’ for the imported stock.

In collaboration with the importing country, the Australian Government has instigated strict animal selection and quarantine procedures prior to transport, while the exporting agencies are developing post-arrival protocols to reduce stresses on the newly arrived stock. The success of such programs depends largely on the awareness and ability of new owners of these stock to improve their feeding and general herd management. Unfortunately, such programs appear to be very *ad hoc*, with very variable success.

To improve the awareness, and hence the ongoing herd and farm management practices of traditional farmers in these countries, a more structured education program should be considered. Each importing country would have their specific problems facing newly arrived exotic dairy stock. Rather than producing a post-arrival protocol for each country, it is desirable to develop a generic one highlighting the common key issues. This manual highlights the important dairy herd management practices required to reduce undue stress on high genetic merit, but unadapted, dairy heifers once they arrive at their new destination.

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