



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3

Volume 2
Number 1 *January-February, 1953*

Article 25

1-1953

An open letter to dairyfarmers

H P. Schapper
Department of Agriculture

Follow this and additional works at: https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3

 Part of the [Dairy Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Schapper, H P. (1953) "An open letter to dairyfarmers," *Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3*: Vol. 2: No. 1, Article 25.

Available at: https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3/vol2/iss1/25

This article is brought to you for free and open access by the Agriculture at Digital Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3* by an authorized administrator of Digital Library. For more information, please contact library@dpird.wa.gov.au.

AN OPEN LETTER TO DAIRYFARMERS

By H. P. SCHAPPER, B. Com. (N.Z.), Dip. V.F.M. (N.Z.), D.D.A.

AS dairyfarmers, you are part of one of Australia's major industries—an industry which, according to the 1947 Census employed 106,526 persons in dairyfarming alone. As dairyfarmers, you contributed to the 1,200 millions of gallons of milk produced last year which incidentally was worth something like £80,000,000 net at the farm gate. Viewed from the nutritional standpoint, you are even more important. You contributed to the supplies of butter, milk and milk products which on a per head per day basis were the source of 21% of the total calories, 16.4% total protein, 44.6% total fat, 76.5% total calcium, 49.5% vitamin A, 14.3% total thiamine and 23.4% total riboflavine moving into the Australian dietary. These figures were calculated from Australia's 1948 annual report to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

Mr. H. P. Schapper, the author of this "open letter", is Senior Research Fellow in Farm Management at the University of W.A. Institute of Agriculture, and the views expressed in the article formed the subject of a lecturette given at Cowaramup, following upon a field day held at the Bramley Research Station.

Many farmers who heard Mr. Schapper speak were anxious to obtain a permanent record of his talk as they appreciated his outspoken comments, and he kindly consented to prepare this article for the Journal.

You will have gathered by now that, whether judged on an economic or a nutritional basis, you as a dairy-farmer play an important role in the Australian way of life. Just how important is this role, is probably seldom realised by either yourselves or the rest of the community. Both of you, the dairyfarmers as one group and the rest of the community as the other, have

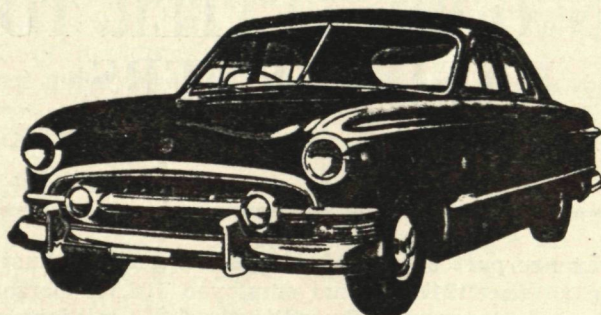
forgotten, I think, that the establishment of Western Australian factory-supply dairyfarming after World War I was of a political, rather than an economic nature.

These political origins ever since have been apt to cloud economic issues to the detriment of us all, but the industry in Western Australia is here to stay and is likely to expand. Let us, therefore, look ahead and not back.

CO-OPERATION NEEDED

I look ahead to more soundly based and greater prosperity on your dairy-farms. I do not want to see this greater prosperity based upon political situations such as margarine restrictions and political lobbying for higher prices. The path to a secure prosperity does not lie in this direction. Secure prosperity lies only in economic efficiency and to achieve this, you and the community must co-operate still further.

The Commonwealth Government has already acknowledged its previous neglect, by its recent announcement of an intention to increase agricultural extension service grants by £200,000.



FORD OWNERS

Repairs to Your Vehicles

by Ford Trained Mechanics

and

Prompt Replacement Parts Service

are obtainable from

DUNCAN MOTOR CO.
FORD DEALERS

**701-703 Wellington Street
and Harbourne Street, Leederville**

FOR HEAVY REPAIRS

BA 4919

BA 5534

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.," when writing to advertisers



Fig. 1.—Farmers inspecting the dairy herd during a field day at the Bramley Research Station.

This is in addition to the present annual £250,000 Dairy Efficiency Grant.

This is probably still inadequate, but I suggest that you give some thought to the achievements that can be won through co-operative efforts on your own part. The Milng Pasture Improvement Group is an example of successful self-help in the matter of pasture improvement and it is pleasing to know that its example is being followed in other districts.

EXTENSION WORK

Agricultural extension work such as that carried out by the Department of Agriculture in our own State is an expression of community aid to farmers, and represents large sums of money which are contributed by all taxpayers whether they live in town or country. The farmers too have a responsibility in using these services by endeavouring to improve their farming methods.

The staffs of the Department and the Institute of Agriculture include research officers who are constantly carrying out experiments to obtain information which will help farmers to achieve greater efficiency. District advisers endeavour to take such information to the farmers on their own

properties and their efforts are augmented by the Journal of Agriculture which is available free of charge to all *bona fide* farmers who ask to be placed on the mailing list. Despite the fact that the Journal is free, and even post free, 55 per cent. of you did not get this Journal in 1951.

GREATER EFFICIENCY

There is a tremendous scope for greater technical efficiency on the farm. A recent survey showed that eight per cent. of dairyfarmers in the far South-West did not cut any hay in either 1950 or 1951; 23 per cent. of those whose herds were tested last year did not know the butterfat backing of their new herd sire before or at the time of purchase; 21 per cent. of you run your bulls with the herds all the year despite recommendations to the contrary; 35 per cent. of the dairyfarmers still use hand-stripping methods which have long been shown to be out-dated and uneconomic. These are a few very simple examples of unsatisfactory farming methods which can be rectified only on the farm and are quite independent of governments.

But there is still room for more Government help. Effective average farm sizes must be increased. Labour is

PRIMARY PRODUCERS!

Railway wagons are YOUR ASSETS DON'T WASTE THEM



PROMPT LOADING and UNLOADING means quicker turnround of wagons.

QUICKER TURNROUND means increased effective wagon loading capacity.

INCREASED CAPACITY means faster and better railway service for all.

BETTER SERVICE is our aim and your need. YOU CAN HELP yourself by helping Railways to keep the wagons moving.

- ★ USE Government Railways Insured Parcels and Cash on Delivery Parcels systems
- ★ ALSO, consign your goods at "Commission's Risk" and safeguard yourself

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

An outstanding non-arsenical Sheep Dip



SHEEP LOUSE



SHEEP KED

Cooper's Gamatox Sheep Dip depends for its efficiency on the powerful wartime discovery, "Gammexane" Gamma B.H.C.

- ★ Controls both the Sheep Louse and Sheep Ked (Tick).
- ★ Gives long residual effect in the fleece.
- ★ Mixes easily in any type of water.
- ★ Economical.
- ★ Provides highly efficient treatment for bodystrike at concentrations of 4-8 times dipping strength.

COOPER'S
GAMATOX
SHEEP DIP



WEST. AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTORS: ELDER SMITH & CO., LIMITED, PERTH & BRANCHES

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.," when writing to advertisers

C79.HP



Fig. 2.—The Superintendent of Dairying (Mr. M. Cullity) addressing farmers during a field day at the Wokalup Research Station.

likely to be scarce for a long time to come and larger farm output will thus require more capital equipment in the form of mechanised aids.

Here is an outstanding opportunity for useful Governmental action; to assist in raising effective farm sizes and to bring mechanisation within the reach of the farmers who are at present unable to obtain it for themselves. It must be admitted, however, that many of you are not helping yourselves to the best advantage. Your farms are underdeveloped and you are rapidly repaying debt. Many of you who are credit-worthy, refuse to use or extend credit because you fear a repetition of past experiences and the uncertainties regarding the future. This means that much profitable expansion is not undertaken. Here again, the Government could help by easing agricultural credit, outlining plans of action, and giving details of agricultural policy so that farmers may have more confidence in the future.

FARMING AS A WAY OF LIFE

Finally, it appears that far too many Australians regard the farm as merely a place on which one labours from 14

years of age to 60 and then retreats to the city to enjoy the remaining years. This is partly the explanation of the temporary and unattractive appearance of many farm homes.

The farm should not only be a place of work. It can also be a home, a place wherein to live and rear a family, and to do this satisfactorily the farm homes require more amenities and more colour.

This style of living in the rural South-West is also reflected in the low level of social organisation and leisure-time participation in communal affairs. Here again, a little more ingenuity, a little more organisation and more hard leisure-time work could succeed in injecting a much greater spirit of pride and quiet satisfaction into the dairy-farming way of life.

All this is possible if you want it to be. You will almost certainly find the rest of the community willing to help you, providing it can unmistakably recognise evidence of your own sustained and well-directed efforts. Farming here in the South-West need not be merely a means of earning a living, but a full, rich, and varied way of life.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the field days now being held in the South-West are excellent examples of successful local community effort. I have attended several of them during the past year and find it very pleasing to note how well the various com-

munities have attended the field days and co-operated with officers of the Department of Agriculture and other institutions. After all, these officers are merely special representatives of that larger community, the general public.

SPECIMENS HELP DIAGNOSIS

WRITTEN descriptions of plant diseases are often insufficient for accurate diagnosis. Send specimens, preferably several, showing the disease at various stages. They will usually carry well if wrapped in moist newspapers and enclosed in well-ventilated containers.

'PHYOMONÉ

anti-drop hormone

**FINE
FOR
FORESTALLING
FRUIT
FALLING**



PHO.3.X.2384

West Australian Distributors:
WESTRALIAN FARMERS' CO-OP. LTD.
596 Wellington Street, Perth



Breeders:—Australorp, W. Leghorns, and First Cross . . . Now booking orders for my 1953 Season

DAY-OLD CHICKS—First hatch ready April 15 . . . Unsexed, Pullets & Cockerels.

STARTED PULLETS—June to November delivery . . . Government Blood Tested Stock . . . Permit to send anywhere in W.A. by Rail, Road or Airways.

All Chicks from guaranteed 2 oz. eggs from **PROVED SECOND SEASON HENS.**

HATCHERY:

**Cnr. EPSOM & SMITH AVE'S
REDCLIFFE PARK — ML 543**

Farm: FORRESTFIELD — — MW738

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture, W.A.," when writing to advertisers