

AFBI DAIRY INNOVATION 2018

Issues For The Dairy Industry:

- Uncertainty and volatility in global dairy markets
- Milk output almost doubled from 1980-2017
- Increased yield/cow (currently 7200 litres/cow)
- Increased herd size (currently 92 cows/herd)
- **Decline in milk from forage
(and profitability 3200 - 2500 litres/cow)**
- **Major environmental challenges – Phosphorus,
Ammonia, Greenhouse Gases**
- Plethora of new technologies and increase in automation

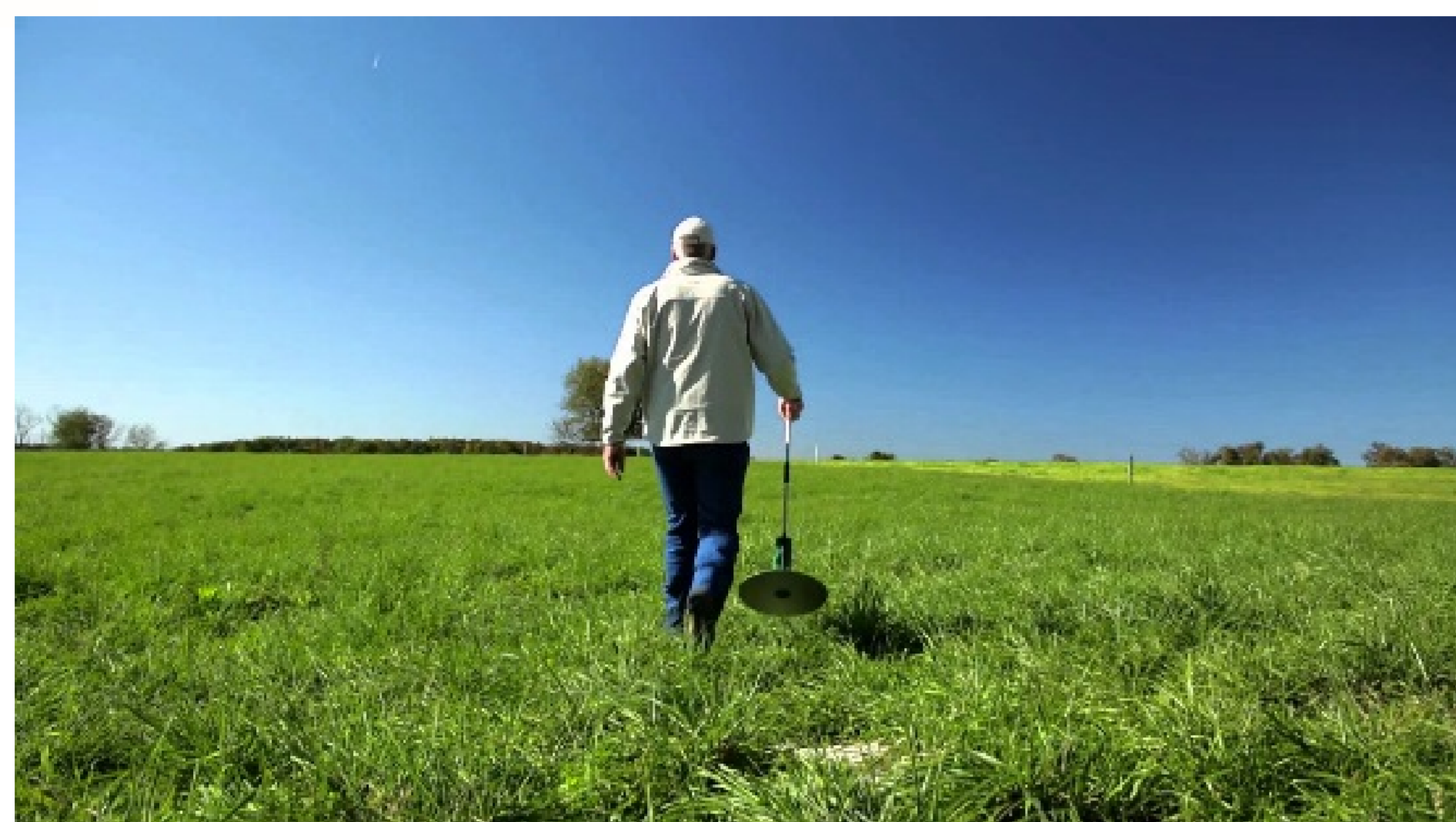


Aim of Today's Event:

- Share latest research knowledge and innovation on:
 - Soil management and soil fertility
 - Growing and utilising grass
 - Feeding at grass
 - Producing high quality silage
 - Addressing the ammonia challenge
 - Improving herd health
- AFBI is working with industry to ensure research results are being applied on farm to reduce costs and improve profitability.

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Measure



Analyse



Plan



Key targets based on research:

- Grow 12t grass DM/ha (Soil fertility pH, N, P, K + S)
- Utilise 10t grass DM/ha
- Produce 5000 litres from forage (Manage concentrate use carefully)
- Silage quality is critical for all production systems
- Milk fat depression a major issue at high feed levels
- New research examining options to reduce ammonia
 - grazing, covering slurry stores and trailing shoe all help
- Improving animal health – improves profitability.



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AFBI's Dairy Research Achievements

- Field Stop 2: **Soil Support – From the Root Up** Suzanne Higgins
- Field Stop 3: **Green Gold – Utilizing Grass** Debbie McConnell
- Field Stop 4: **Supplementing Cows at Grass** Steven Morrison
- Field Stop 5: **Feed Efficiency Driving Profitability** Conrad Ferris
- Field Stop 6: **Tackling Ammonia Emissions** John McIlroy
- Field Stop 7: **Protecting Herd Health** Terry Fodey

