

Off-paddock shelters. Worth it, or not?

Building an off-paddock shelter is a big investment: in money, and in reworking your system to optimise its use. Considerations include their financial impact, and also their effects on animal and human welfare. Our host, **Dennis Dravitzki**, put in an off-paddock shelter last year.

Farmer experiences

Dennis and two other farmers will talk about their experiences installing and managing different off-paddock shelters. Why did they put one in, what benefits have they seen, what problems have they had and what were the solutions?

Managing the system

Dave Horne, Massey University, will talk about the pros and cons of off-paddock shelters, the opportunities they offer, and how they can fit into a smaller herd business. While **Neil Chesterton**, will discuss his findings after helping farmers to maximise the animal welfare benefits of their systems, including bedding management for best results.

The research

Dave will also talk about the research at Massey's No.4 Dairy, where they developed a housing system suitable for lower North Island conditions. Their aim was to explore the possibilities of combining high production and profit with soil and pasture protection, and lower nitrate leaching.

Dairy Trust Taranaki, will outline the research at their Stratford farm where they are in their second year of assessing the impact of using a covered stand-off pad on pasture growth; pugging damage; cow weights, condition, health and breeding; milk production, and nutrient losses.

Free event, all welcome. Morning tea and lunch provided.

When: Thursday 29th November
10 am for a cuppa,
main programme 10.30 am – 2 pm

Where: Dennis Dravitzki
136 Lepper Road Upper, Inglewood
S/N 43000 (see map on next page)

RSVP by: 26th November
register on-line at www.smallerherds.co.nz
phone Tracey Crawford 021 272 6422



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For the latest updates go to the SMASH website www.smallerherds.co.nz.

How to get there:



SMASH is supported by:

