

Topless dairy farm, Strathmore



About the Topless dairy farm

Greg and Hannah Topless have a 150ha dairy farm and milk 220 cows once a day. They also stock 100 sheep and 20 to 30 hold-over cows.

What used to happen

When Greg and Hannah first went sharemilking, there was no recycling of farm waste or household waste. It all went into a pit to be burned.

What changes were made

At their next sharemilking job, the owners were recycling silage wrap and Greg and Hannah continued doing this when they moved to their own farm. They also store agricultural remedy and dairy hygiene product containers until a collection event, or until another recycling solution is found. Waste minimisation is now part of their routine. Recyclables and food waste are separated from household rubbish, with recyclables taken to Stratford Transfer Station and food waste is fed to animals or composted.

Greg and Hannah have developed a different way of thinking. For example, they make washing powder from simple ingredients, and have cut down on the need for cleaning products by using reusable cloths, baking soda and vinegar.

The outcome

On average, around 225 silage wraps are recycled each year – that's more than 400kg of plastic not being burnt or buried.

About 70 litres of recycling is taken to the Transfer Station monthly, along with one or two ute-loads of farm rubbish each year.

New ideas for cutting down on waste are always looked at, with recycling of drums, magnesium bags and twine being investigated at the time this case study was written.

Hannah and Greg have also taken their waste minimisation awareness to community organisations they are involved with.