

## Better use of farm time with phone app

**Dairy farmers: Nick and Simone Renyard**

**Region: Western Victoria**

**Topic: HerdData**



Western Victorian dairy farmer Nick Renyard is making better use of his time on the farm thanks to DataGene's HerdData mobile phone app.

Nick is using the app to record information about his herd out in the paddock and in the shed, when things happen, rather than having to write records on bits of paper and then enter data into the office computer at the end of the day.

Nick downloaded the HerdData app recently after his wife Simone prompted him to have a look at what it could do.

As chair of WestVic Dairy, Simone had heard about the app and spoken to a number of farmers who had used it.

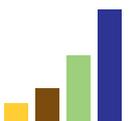
The Renyards milk 530 cows at Curdievale near Timboon in Western Victoria. The herd is made up of Holsteins and a number of Aussie Red crosses and calves from April through to June.

"Record keeping has always been important part of our dairy business and my parents always kept detailed records. Mum used to make up a card for each cow in the herd which included a photo, her pedigree as well as all her details," Nick said.

"In the 1980s we went across to keeping records on a computer – and now with changing technology we



*Simone and Nick Renyard appreciate just how much computing power there is in a mobile phone.*



have the ability to access and record cow details on the HerdData app on a mobile phone.

“The HerdData app really makes you appreciate just how much computing power there is in a mobile phone.”

Nick downloaded the HerdData app in July to see what it could do.

“The first thing I did was enter our herd health treatments and synchronise the data with Mistro Farm in the farm office,” Nick said.

“We have wifi in the dairy so synchronising data can be done whenever I am in the shed.”

Once the data is synchronised, the HerdData records are available on the mobile phone and are not dependent on having mobile phone coverage.

Nick said the HerdData app meant he now had constant access to his herd records because his phone was always with him.

“I can look up information or enter details about a cow wherever I am, whenever I want,” he said.

“There is so much potential with an app like HerdData. It can really support your ability to make more timely decisions on the farm.

“For example, I can look up a cow’s health treatment history on the phone when I’m making cow culling or treatment decisions and make a decision about a cow on the spot, rather than waiting until I get home to look up the information on the office computer, and draft the cow off the next day,” he said.

“At calving time I plan to be in the paddock with the cows and look up insemination dates and the sires so I know when cows are due and which calves are by which sires.”

***“There is so much potential with an app like HerdData. It can really support your ability to make more timely decisions on the farm.”***

**– Nick Renyard, Western Victoria,  
who milks 530 cows, Holstein with some Aussie Red crosses**

The HerdData app’s virtual drug cupboard allows Nick to select from a range of animal health products when treating animals. The app then automatically applies the selected product’s withholding period to the treated animal.

“If you are treating a calf which isn’t well, or a cow which has mastitis, then you can record the treatment straight way and know when that animal is in a withholding period.”

Other data which can be entered on HerdData includes dry off dates, pregnancy test results and sales.

“Having all this information on a phone in your pocket really supports your ability to make timely decisions and keep accurate records,” Nick said.

The HerdData app was developed by DataGene – an initiative of Dairy Australia and the Australian herd recording sector, with the assistance of participating herd testing centres.

The app is suitable for Android and Apple tablets or phones and can be downloaded from IOS AppStore or GooglePlay.

The annual subscription is \$99 a year, which includes data synchronisation and upgrades.

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