

Heath & Jo Cook's Dairy Farm Dorrigo, New South Wales

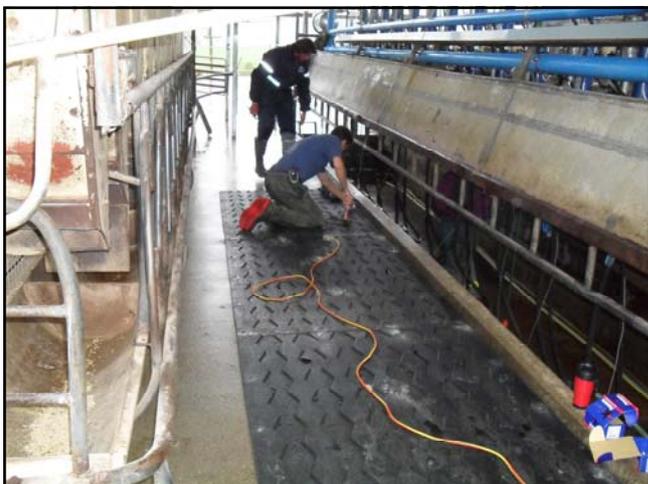


Heath Cook Dorrigo dairy farmer had this to say;

"We had a major issue with our slippery dairy floor & searched every where for a solution, but it was only when we discovered & tested RPS' SureFoot® Cattle mat that we knew had solved the problem.

Initially the cattle balked at the matting, but within 2 days they began to enter the dairy quicker & quieter because they were now **sure footed** and confident. Even the smaller cows which normally get pushed around now enter the bails more confidently. As a result of the cows entering & exiting the bails quicker our milking time has reduced and the time to hose out the dairy & water usage has halved.

Since the SureFoot® Cattle mat installation I haven't lost a beast, so my **\$7,000** mat investment has paid for itself in just 6 months".



About 3 years ago the **Cooks** had a new concrete floor laid in their dairy and learnt very quickly that it **was far too smooth causing their dairy cows to slip**. Over the next 2 years **they lost 6 milking cows** which was both upsetting and costly each valued at \$1,500. Combined with the loss of milk production of \$3,000 per head (6,000 litres p.a. x \$0.50 per litre) the **Cooks valued this at a total herd loss of \$27,000 for the 2 years** (not including lost future lactations).

The Cooks looked around for solutions to their problem and initially could only find concrete etching or grinding, used conveyor belting which was just as slippery as the concrete, and some other rubber matting of lesser quality. Finally after seeing an RPS SureFoot® Cattle mat advertisement in the Land newspaper they made contact.



Firstly, a small number of mats were purchased & installed for testing. For the first 2 days the cattle balked at the new surface, but once the animals became familiar with the new flooring it became evident the mats had made a remarkable difference.

Since the installation of the RPS SureFoot® Cattle mat (which is now over a year ago) the Cooks have not lost one cow. Heath states that the mats are extremely 'user friendly and versatile'. The installation can happen between milking & if you ever need to replace a damaged mat it can be done quickly & easily. Heath especially likes the speed in which the mats' can be hosed down & cleaned.

The Cooks are an example of another satisfied RPS SureFoot® Cattle mat user & Heath has said if he had more areas to install the mats he would not hesitate.

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