

## David Altmann's Dairy Farm Murray Bridge, South Australia



**David Altmann's Dairy Farm** located in South Australia milks up to 500 cows, 3 times a day from only 26 hectares of land. David who is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation dairy farmer has never been afraid to try anything different and adopts many of his dairy farm practices from methods used in Europe and America, and applies them to his farm located at Murray Bridge in South Australia.

His herd of 500 Friesian cows walk no more than approximately 150 metres to be milked and feed 3 times a day. David works closely with a nutritionist to ensure his herd is performing at its best in order to produce optimum milking rates which many producers would only dream about.

As part of ongoing farm and animal welfare improvements David first introduced the SureFoot® Mat into his dairy about 3 years ago after seeing it at an industry trade show

David Altmann & herd manager Rob had this to say;

**"Our cows comfort is most important to us as it directly affects their production.**

*As soon as we began installing the SureFoot® mats in the feed shed the cows would walk to the furthest side to stand and feed from the mats. They also give us absolute peace of mind knowing the cows haven't fallen over especially in summer (from hard feet).*

*The mats are 99% foolproof against the cows falling over whereas in the past they would fall over at the slightest amount of noise. Now it is nice knowing when we go up to the feed shed the cows wouldn't have gone down.*

*We would absolutely recommend the SureFoot® mat to others which we have already done".*



Prior to using the SureFoot® Mats the cows would mostly walk around the edges of the dairy entrance where the concrete wasn't so worn and shiny. During the 2 week mat installation period in the feed shed, the cows walked and ate from the areas where the new mats were placed. Immediately after the installation of the SureFoot® mats David and his herd manager Rob noticed a significant difference in the herd's behaviour. The cows entered the areas with utmost confidence and were incredibly more content from the comfort the new SureFoot® surface was providing.

Previously in the 'feed shed' they would lose up to 4 cows a year, now the cows are calmer & more confident, and are happy to walk over the 'cross-overs'.

Since the beginnings David has installed approximately 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> of SureFoot® soft flooring and is more than happy to recommend it to others.



**Sales Hotline: 1800 255 943**

[www.rpsindustries.com.au](http://www.rpsindustries.com.au)

4 Wills Street, Warragul, Victoria 3820

Fax: (03) 5623 3397

