



# PROJECT PROFILE



## Arizona Farming Trust

Apart from being the hospitable hosts of a very up market bed and breakfast in Port Elizabeth, Carel and Hilda Oosthuizen are the owners of Arizona Farming Trust, a substantial dairy farming operation 50km's from Port Elizabeth.

Located in the Sundays River Valley which is one of the largest citrus growing areas in the region, the farm is also just 10km from the World Famous Addo Elephant Park.

The property is 120 hectares. It is irrigated using a mix of permanent spray irrigation and two large pivots. One pivot servicing 24 hectares and the other 18 hectares. Water for the irrigation scheme is diverted from the nearby Orange River Canal system.

The farm employs a total of 12 staff with Carel and Hilda being very involved with the operation.

They currently milk 400 cows with 450 at the peak of the season. They are breeding a mix of friesian and jersey cows but are moving towards a total jersey herd. Production per cow is 9000 litres per lactation with a butter fat of 3.9 and protein of 3.5. They calve all year round.

Cows are fed a mix of grass and ration fed at the milking parlour.



### Farm Stats

**Farm Owner:** Carel & Hilda Oosthuizen

**Size:** 120 hectares

**Location:** Port Elizabeth, South Africa

**Number of Cows:** 400

**Farming Type:** Partial Mixed Ration

#### System Design referred to in this Profile

|                         | Ref Page |
|-------------------------|----------|
| • iXPRESSIA             | 6.12     |
| • iARM                  | 7.4.18   |
| • iNTELSKAN PRO LEVEL 4 | 7.3.13   |
| • iDATAFLOW             | 7.2.10   |



When looking at building the new parlour they wanted to stay with a herringbone system but wanted accurate identification at each milking point so they could feed each cow according to yield. Apart from milk metering, they were also focused on a complete management system and a heat detection system.

In the end they chose Milfos who offered a complete solution from Milking to Herd management. The system includes iNTELSKAN PRO with milk metering, output for feeding and link to iDATAFLOW Herd Management system.

Each cow has a collar with activity sensor and identification number. At each milking point a reader is positioned above the cows heads, when the operator initiates the milking point to put the cluster on the cow, the system identifies the cow. She is then feed according to yield, her activity information is also transferred from the collar to the PC. Cows on heat are identified at the milking point, they are also sorted automatically through the sorting gate. Any other alerts to do with the cow are reported on the screen at the milking point. The system can be set to lock the cluster if the cow is not to be milked, for example if she has a treatment with a withholding period, the cluster is locked.



According to Carel and Hilda the system has allowed them to optimise their feeding program and save money by feeding the right cows the right amount of concentrate through their lactation. The activity collars and iDATAFLOW herd management system has also allowed them to improve their mating program. With all year round calving, heat detection is almost a daily task and the system allows you to follow each cow from calving. Once she is ready for mating, the system lets you know. If she has not cycled since calving, she is alerted for attention.

The yield decrease report is another part of the iDATAFLOW software they use to pin point cows that may have health problems.

The installation includes iARMS which ensures the cluster alignment is perfect every time and the cow's milk out cleanly and evenly. Mounted on the iARM is a limit switch which lets the system know if they are milking the cow on the left hand side or the right. The system is very easy to use, the operators just get on with the milking and the system does the rest.

