



PROJECT PROFILE



Rod & Philippa Baird

When Rod and Philippa Baird decided to upgrade the milking parlour on their Whakatane farm, the Rangitaiki Plains said goodbye to a piece of history.

Their new 40 unit iXPRESSIA system replaced three other parlours including one that first came into operation in 1959. This was one of the oldest parlours on the Rangitaiki Plains and Rod says it was definitely time for a replacement. The property has been in the Baird family since 1918 and Rod is the third generation to farm it.

The farm's expansion has allowed them to increase cow numbers. They now run 480 cows, mainly Friesians and a few crossbreeds, in two herds of 240.

Rodney Lambert is employed as farm manager. The new parlour is in the middle of the farm, which Rodney says makes it very easy to bring the cows in. "It's perhaps, out of all the parlours I've milked in, one of the best to work in," says Rodney.

So what is it that makes this new system so good? According to Milfos Dealer Manager Brian Dunn it's all about good design. The classic swing over herringbone design with new iNTELARM allows the whole cluster to be brought straight under the cow. "When you've finished one side, you just swing it around to the other," says Brian. "It also leaves the centre of the pit open. It's a big advantage and it's becoming more popular. There's no drag on the cluster and the cows' udders."



Farm Stats

Farm Owner: Rod & Philippa Baird

Size: 129 hectares

Location: Rangitaiki Plains, Bay of Plenty, North Island, New Zealand

Number of Cows: 480

Farming Type: Partial Mixed Ration

System Design referred to in this Profile

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• iXPRESSIA Milking System		6.12
• iNTELARM		7.4.18
• iNTELSAN PLUS Level 2		7.3.11
• iNTELWASH		7.4.14
• iCIP		8.10

The system includes a Milfos iNTELSAN Pulsation Arrest System. When the cows finish milking the pulsators slow down and pulse only once every ten seconds, which retains the cluster on the cow without any harm, so you can't over-milk the cow. The iNTELSAN system includes Flow Controlled Pulsation which automatically adjusts the pulsation rate and ratio depending on the milk flow from the cow. This reduces milking time and flexing of the liner against the teat.

A digital display gives the farmer a read-out of how much milk each cow is giving and a total at the end. It is then reset for the next cow.

"Usually the only way to pick up low-producing cows is by herd recording, which is only about once a month. This way you can pick them up earlier."

For ease of cleaning the Bairds chose to install an iNTELWASH system. Swing out arms are also used for the jettors so they don't get in the way in the pit, leaving more room to manoeuvre.



To operate the iNTELWASH system all the farmer has to do is put the clusters on the jettors and push a button. All the detergents are automatically added to the water and then washing takes place. A full weeks wash can be programmed so that acid and alkali washes are alternated. Brian says this is a great time-saving device. "If you have to wait around to do everything normally, that's another half an hour."

A large concrete feed pad was installed near the parlour and is designed for up to 300 cows. "We installed the feed pad because this farm can be quite damp in spring and we need to be able to feed the maximum amount of maize silage. We also mix it with palm kernel," says Rodney. "We also use the feed pad if the paddocks are wet."

Rodney uses a rotation system when feeding supplement on the feed pad. One herd is fed while the other is being milked and then the order is swapped at night time.

Increasing cow numbers is an option in the future and the feed pad will be useful if they go down that path.

