



## Once A Day Milking - How Farmers are Doing It?

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### **Summary of OAD farmers in New Zealand**

- All over NZ
- Production average 270 kg MS/cow
- Range of farm types and farm management policy
- Generally low-cost/input systems especially from a feed perspective
- Low use of reproductive tools – CIDRs and Inductions
- Low empty rates – 5% or less (Half of national average)
- All say that mindset is the biggest barrier to going OAD
- All say they believe that OAD does not have a great effect, if any on profitability.
- All are enjoying the extra time they now have.

### **10 reasons where OAD might fit into your system:**

#### **1. When current resources put stress on a TAD system.**

For example, the stage of farm development, or farm quality, steep farms, farms with long walking distances and/or poor races.

#### **2. When climatic conditions put stress on a TAD system.**

For example areas like Northland, and many parts of the Waikato, where dry conditions often lead to significant stress on cows resulting in loss of weight which is hard to recover before the start of the next season.

#### **3. When cow numbers are at an awkward size for labour efficiency.**

With labour one of the biggest farm working expenses, the amount saved in this area will largely determine the profitability of OAD.

**4. When there are staff hassles.**

Some farmers struggle with the “people management” side of dairyfarming once herd size increases. These people might enjoy returning to a single owner-operator system.

**5. When purchasing “marginal” land.**

Relates to (2) above in terms of the farm system, but also the profitability need not be so high to achieve the same Return on Asset compared to prime land.

**6. When you are really tired of milking twice-a-day and are beginning to hate dairy farming.**

**7. When you have opportunities for off-farm income.** In a OAD system, there is scope to do a part-time job off the farm.

**8. When you desire more time with family, leisure, or off-farm interests.**

**9. Challenge of doing something different.**

**10. When you change your mindset.**

Farmers who are currently milking OAD believe that the biggest hurdle to get through in the change from TAD to OAD, is mindset. Farmers who really want to make it work, from either a practical or profit perspective, will do so.

**“In 20 years time will you wish you’d spent more time in the cowshed?”**