NAVIGATE DAIRY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Providing real-time per-cow information to increase efficiencies and outputs

Growing the value of dairy

waikatomilking.com
Are you looking for a better way to manage your herd, a system that takes out the guesswork, eliminates human error and provides accurate information at your fingertips in an instant?

You now have the ability to make better decisions for your farm by moving from a traditional pen and paper management system, to realising the benefits of automating your dairy.

The Waikato Milking Systems, NaviGate Dairy Management System can help you grow the value of your dairy, run an efficient milking operation, increase its capability and ensures you’re in control of your business.

NaviGate can provide information to help you solve problems and meet the challenges of the season, whether that be monitoring somatic cell counts, triggering alerts on animal health problems, making decisions on feed allocation, drafting and culling cows, keeping data on calving, mating and drying off.

The management system comes in three levels to suit your dairy’s needs. From NaviGate Access for entry level drafting technology, through to the agile NaviGate Premium where you can use EID technology to generate reports on your herd.

The intuitive NaviGate Premium represents the top level of dairy management, where you can record, review and set commands to manage individual cows or herds.

The Navigate Dairy Management System’s advantage is that it can be upgraded incrementally to match your herd size or your budget, and operates in both rotary and herringbone environments.

Why automate your dairy?
By installing NaviGate Access you’re on the first step to reducing your workload in the parlour. NaviGate Access will ensure the right animals are drafted every time.

Future and repetitive drafting is available with the system, and simple reporting such as cow count, animals drafted by direction and historical drafts give the operator a full view of all animal movements. Smart phone and tablet connectivity (within WIFI range of the parlour) allows the operator to connect with the system and add drafts as animals are identified.

The sort gate has been designed for optimum strength and durability, and its quiet movement minimises stress on the animals. Give yourself the time to focus on other parts of farming operation knowing your animal sorting is in a safe pair of hands.
The NaviGate Advance system is the next step up in dairy management for your milking operation. It takes all the benefits of the NaviGate Access drafting system and adds the vital herd management component.

The drafting function is enhanced through access to your herd records, giving the operator the ability to create individual or dynamic groups, based on selected attributes. This data is displayed on a console mounted in the parlour, as well as in the parlour office, allowing for decision making at the time of milking or later on at a time that suits.

The operator can enter specific cow data on the parlour console including calvings, heats and matings, culls, dry offs, health issues and the status of treatment regimes. An extensive range of reports can be generated and the ability to customise reports provides the

ADVANTAGES
• Easy three-way drafting
• Create your own dynamic draft groups from the herd management data
• Event recording to track animal’s health events, births, mating, pregnancy tests and more
• Review individual and herd data on console display inside the parlour
• Suited for herringbone or rotary parlours
operator will a full view of their herd and assists with decision making.

The in-parlour console is located at cups on for rotaries and row entry for herringbones. It displays a number of quick actions, or shortcut keys, for effortless event recording or drafting actions. Visual alerts are shown on screen ensuring milk vat withholds and drug therapies are accurately administered.

The sort gate has been designed for optimum strength and durability, and is made from galvanised steel. The gate opens and closes quietly to minimise stress on the animals and to make sure they don’t turn back.

This ensures cows can manoeuvre quickly and smoothly through the gate, reducing the time it takes to process the animals and eliminating the need for a labour unit at the sorting point.

Installing a NaviGate Advance gives you the freedom to automate a number of decisive actions and redirect your labour to other parts of the dairy farm.
The NaviGate Premium is our top level dairy management system. It builds on the technology of the NaviGate Advance and NaviGate Access systems to provide you with a powerful tool to efficiently manage your herd’s production.

The power of the in-bail identification feature, combined with a full herd management function, enables you to collect, record, edit and review data on each cow in your herd.

This information enables you to make better long-term management decisions for your dairy operation.

If information such as milking times, flow rates, pulsation and conductivity are important then adding products from our ECR Plus range to your NaviGate Premium system will provide production and health data in real-time.
Udder health problems are quickly identified by combining NaviGate with SmartD-TECT. By measuring the conductivity of each quarter, an accurate alert can be sent to the NaviGate system, automatically drafting the cow for treatment.

NaviGate and SmartD-TECT can identify signs of udder health problems up to four days before any visual signs appear in front of the operator.

Early detection and diagnosis means you can apply the correct treatment before the animal’s health deteriorates, saving on further health treatment costs and loss of milking production.

When combined with Electronic Milk Meters, NaviGate can also generate a report showing the production profile of each cow at milking time. The operator can fine tune the settings on their ECR Plus units to make sure the cups are being removed at the correct time, for each cow.

Electronic Milk Meters provide enhanced production reporting such as group comparisons, allowing you to benchmark your herd’s performance.
Simply choose the period of interest, whether a single milking or through the entire season.

The addition of Electronic Milk Meters allows for a true feed-to-production environment, and the large array of reporting options enables the operator to ensure they are getting the very best production from each animal in their herd. The feed-to-animal feature allows the operator to tailor rations and the ability to create feed groups, meaning every animal gets the right nutritional allocation every time.

It also enables the operator to scale the feed rations up or down, depending on the period of the milking season. Installing NaviGate Premium opens up numerous other options to further enhance the measures you can use for herd reporting from within the parlour using our ECR Plus system.

By installing SmartSPRAY at each stall, NaviGate Premium is able to control the application of teat spray either pre or post milking. There is also BailMate, which independently controls cow retention on a rotary. Other options include our Bail Display, a large easy-to-read LCD screen at every bail showing milking status and alerts.

Automation eliminates the need for a worker at the sort gate, enabling you to redirect labour elsewhere on the farm.

Audible and visual alerts are triggered as the cows enter the platform, or row, alerting for milk withhold period, health treatments or making sure drug therapies are well managed.
Even more functionality is available through the integration of other options such as our walk over weigh system and our heat detection technology. Our weigh system allows you to record daily weights of your herd and to help you manage your feed regime for your animals.

Automated heat detection is achieved through integration with the NaviGate Collars, which has the added benefit of activity monitoring.

This provides you with early detection of health issues, and allows you to apply a solution immediately, rather than relying completely on visual inspections later at milking time. The collars can be easily fitted and need little maintenance while in operation.

All of the data gathered from these products can be integrated with the NaviGate Dairy Management software to help you make timely decisions about your herd.

A large display screen at the Operator Console allows for simple, real-time data entry and animal management. A parlour office environment complements the diary management system for a more in-depth analysis or refining automated actions and reporting.
The Navigate Collar improves the efficiency of your on-farm breeding program and reduces health care costs across your herd.

Initially the NaviGate collar will help the operator understand the herd’s readiness for mating so non-cycling cows can quickly and easily be identified allowing for early intervention pre-breeding to maximise submission and pregnancy rates.

Time previously spent in the dairy or paddock, picking heat animals is eliminated as the NaviGate Collar picks silent and standing heats, providing user friendly oestrus alerts through text message to the operator.

Through integration with NaviGate Premium, heat detected cows are drafted post milking, awaiting operator decision regarding insemination. The timing of AI is critical in getting a cow in calf.
NaviGate Collars establish the optimum time for insemination, reducing your AI costs, tightening your calving pattern and achieving more days in milk.

Furthermore, the seasonal staff pressure of picking heats over the mating period is reduced, eliminating fatigue across the farm staff. Many farms look to extend AI and eliminate the use of bulls.

The collar is powered by a replaceable battery with a five-year life. An alert signals when the battery needs to be replaced.

**HEAT MANAGEMENT**

The NaviGate Collar is recognised as one of the most reliable and accurate heat detection systems in the world. Its big advantage is that it enables you to avoid using heat detection patches, which can fail off the animals when they’re out in the paddock.

Instead, the NaviGate Collar is securely fitted around the animal’s neck. Its software technology automatically detects fertility events on each cow and the data can be transferred to a console in the parlour for you to review and make management decisions.
The NaviGate Collar also reduces staff fatigue by eliminating the need to have a labour unit spending a lot of time identifying cycling cows in the paddock or parlour during the mating season.

The collar continuously monitors each cow’s behaviour, comparing this to the animal’s normal behaviour patterns and those of the cow’s peers. It correlates any change from the cow’s normal pattern to a cause, for example, increased movement is one indicator of oestrous.

It will alert the operator when there is a negative variance from the cow’s normal activity, accurately detecting metabolic disorders, udder health problems and lameness, for example. The collar downloads the data to the reader when the cow comes within range of the parlour.

An audible alert, as the cow enters, signals the operator to any change in behaviour, enabling automatic drafting.

NaviGate Collars will identify cycling and non-cycling cows, silent or standing heats, short and long returns.

Unlike visual observation, the NaviGate Collar’s six-hour observation window enables identification of the peak of the cow’s oestrous cycle, such as the optimum time for insemination, thereby improving your farm’s pregnancy rates.
HEALTH MANAGEMENT

NaviGate Collars provide an unparalleled level of recording accuracy for health events within your herd.

Its big advantage is that it can reduce health costs and improve the overall health, production and fertility of your herd.

For example, if a cow has spent a large part of the day lying down, the system will identify a range of possible causes, such as lameness or illness. Similarly, increased activity is one indicator of oestrus.

The collar can download the cow’s activity to the reader when the animal comes within range of the parlour, for the operator to review on a console.

The ability to monitor the health of each cow in the herd enables you to maximise production and also ensures each animal comes forward for breeding in optimum condition, improving your in-calf rate.

All health treatments are easily entered by selecting the appropriate drug from a veterinary drug list and can be customised to suit your unique dairy farm requirements.

In conjunction with best on-farm practices for managing treatment cows, you will have the ability to block vacuum for withhold cows as an added precautionary step.

Drug withholding times can be added for each drug type, to help manage an animal when it is ready to return to the main milking group.

The system can also manage your drug inventory to provide you with an up-to-date list of all drugs and treatments used on the farm.

The identification and monitoring of health conditions is vitally important, and closely linked to fertility performance.

The effects of health problems can persist through the entire lactation and have a profound effect on the animal’s overall fertility and production.

Early detection of health issues can reduce vet and antibiotic costs, as well as a faster recovery rate gaining more days in milk.
MILKING AUTOMATION: MILKING DATA

ADVANTAGES
• The ability to monitor the milking productivity of each animal
• The data can help measure improvements to your milking operation
• Alerts are activated in real-time when the system encounters problems with animals

The NaviGate Dairy Management System collects information from our ECR Plus suite of technology options, to give an accurate account of how each cow is performing, in terms of milk production, milk profile, milk conductivity and more.

The information can assist the operator when it comes to improving feed recipes, remove underperforming animals or show potential problems with a specific cow.

EXTERNAL OF DAIRY: WALK OVER WEIGH SYSTEM

ADVANTAGES
• View of individual and herd weight results and trends (10-day average)
• Wide selection of weights reporting available through Premium integration
• Manage feeding levels and support dry-off decision making
• Draft to weights

Installing walk over weighing with your Premium suite gives you another tool to manage your herd’s performance.

Whether you want to measure the results of differing feed regimes or ensure your herd is at its best for those critical points in the season, a weigh system provides the data to adjust as you need.
“Life is so much different now. The time difference is incredible - three hours (pre-NaviGate) to a couple of minutes with NaviGate!!”

Jason Checketts  
(Lower Order Sharemilker)  
Mossburn, Southland  
Navigate Dairy Management System

DAIRY MANAGEMENT: UPGRADE

ADVANTAGES

- Ability to integrate NaviGate software with existing farm automation products
- Mitigate existing product upgrade costs and loss of functionality
- Eliminate ongoing annual license fees

NaviGate offers a full selection of drafting and herd management options and can often integrate with your existing hardware on farm.

Sensor products such as milk meters and walk over weigh systems can also be integrated, ensuring you maintain the full functionality that might otherwise be lost through an upgrade scenario.