Western Port Greenhouse Alliance Agricultural Emissions Project

Idea No: 52 **Footprint Rating:**

Feed Pads

Description: The use of a dairy feed pad cuts down on the amount of hay/silage that is trampled on and that is spread about by the herd and wind. A feed pad can have individual feed spaces to prevent bullying. Feed pads are capable of reducing fodder wastage from over 20% to less than 5%. The use of feedpads can also prevent pasture damage due to trampling and pugging, and can prevent health problems that are more likely in a muddy environment such as mastitis.

Environmental Benefits as opposed to the current system

% reduction in GHG emissions:	9.68%
% increase in water efficiency:	4.09%
% reduction in waste to landfill:	0.00%
% increase in production:	10.00%

Benefits: Hay and silage savings, increased milk production and less manual work.

Costs: $6,250

Savings: 10% savings in hay and silage
10% increase in beef production
21t of equivalent CO2 per year

Implementation/Monitoring/Reporting:
Feed pads (particularly for beef cattle) will need to be moved around with a tractor whenever cattle are moved.

For more information see the following websites:

http://www.dairyinfo.biz/default.asp?PageID=120&n=Feedpads+Downunder

http://www.wastenot.com.au

http://www.dairyextension.com.au/edit/wet_soils/Managing%20Wet%20Soils%20Case%20Study%20Feedpad%20Use%5B1%5D.pdf

http://www.dairyinfo.biz/images/Content/PDF/feedpads_downunder.pdf

http://www.wastenot.com.au/images/stories/dairy/dairypad-small.jpg
http://www.wastenot.com.au/images/stories/beef-feeding.jpg
http://www.wastenot.com.au/images/stories/dairy1.jpg