

Introduction to Tocal farms and VR videos - transcript

[Paddock] Hello my name is Jo Hathway, I'm with the Department of Primary Industries Schools Program and based here at Tocal College. This video is just a quick introduction to the Tocal property and farms as well as our virtual reality video series.

So virtual reality ... if you're on a tablet you've probably already realised that if you swing around you can have a look around the scene that surrounds you ... if you are on a computer you might need to click on the image and drag it up or down or across ... there's also probably a circle up here somewhere with four arrows, you can use that to navigate around as well. But you should be able to follow me all the way around the back and back to where we started.

So the Tocal property is 2200 hectares in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales and includes a range of landscapes and a range of ecosystems and each of those are managed differently for sustainable food and fibre production. You're going to shoot off now and have a look at some of the farms - don't forget to look behind you while you're visiting the farms - you never know what might be happening behind you - and I'll see you back here in a couple of minutes.

[Cattle Yards] Hi I'm Mal Burke, I'm the Beef Manager here at Tocal College. I'm responsible for the beef cattle enterprise the sheep enterprise and horses. Basically we run cattle so we can have up to 1200 head on the place at one time a predominantly Brangus cattle which is $\frac{3}{8}$ Brahman and $\frac{5}{8}$ Angus. Angus we run brangus here because they're very suited to our climate which is prolonged wet periods and prolonged dry periods.

[Dairy] My name is Matt Brett, I'm the manager here at Tocal dairy. So we run the dairy as a commercial operation. So we milk at the moment

approximately 270 cows all year 'round and every day of the year. The herd is predominantly Holsteins so the black and white cows and we do have some Illawarras - the red cows - here in the herd and we do have a few cross-breeds as well like a Holstein Jersey cross. Our cows are actually producing around about 29 litres per cow per day and, you know, we're sending off about 7000 litres of milk every day off the farm.

[Horse yards] Hello I'm Warwick Lawrence we're here today at Tocal, I run the practical side of the horse course here at Tocal. We've got our stud here at Tocal which is an Australian Stock horse stud We we believe the stock horses it's just what they call a breed for every need. In that stock horse breed we have actually got a quarter horse blood in it so we can cross quarter horses with stock horses and we do that for temperament and training ability. Because our horses are sold by 3 year old, it's very important not to have a late maturing horse. We've got 24 mares in the broodmare plant, we AI with outside semen, we AI 6 mares, the rest of them get bred to our stallions here.

[Apiary site] Hi my name is Liz Frost I work here at Tocal ag college for the Department of Primary Industries as a Honey Bee Technical Specialist. My job is to provide research and development for the beekeeping industry. This colony lives here at the dairy site but sometimes they get a bit ah, I guess stressed if there is not enough floral resources - not enough flowers for them to feed on - so if that were the case here at the dairy site I would transport all these hives to another part of campus we're more flowers are blooming.

[Sheep yards] Hi I'm Elyse Parker and I'm Field Officer here at Tocal College. Here at Tocal we run a Dohne flock, it's a self-replacing herd that we just use for educational purposes for the students. There's about 300 ewes in total. So the ewes have just lambed down in the last of sort of ... they've still got the lambs at foot so they're about 5 months old.

[Paddock] So that's the Tocal farms if you would like more detail on any of those there is a video available on each of the enterprises and links will be in the description below this one
Thanks for dropping by.