





Dairy farmer boycotts daylight saving

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Robyn Turnor

June 20, 2008 11:00am

SERPENTINE dairy farmer Ros Hoskin was so against daylight saving she refused to change the clocks and decided to live on "our time".

The farming family from Mardella, about 60km south east of Perth, decided to put the welfare of their cows first -- not milk them during the hottest part of the day.

"We just totally aborted it. We did not do daylight saving. People could not come to grips with anybody who just did not do it," Ros said.

"As far as I was concerned, how dare anybody try and tell us how we should run our life and I wonder if there was a few more people who stood on their digs and just didn't do it."

"Apart from the fact that the cows have their routine and are used to getting fed at a certain time and you have to break their routine, we just didn't change and remained an hour behind the rest of the world for daylight saving."



NATURAL TIME: WA dairy farmer Ros Hoskin boycotted daylight saving, refusing to alter her summer-time clock.

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Article from: PerthNow

<http://www.news.com.au/perthnow/story/0,21598,23894422-951,00.html>

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That resulted in much longer days where the working day would stretch from getting up at 4.30am to feed and milk the cows before the hottest hours set in, to falling into bed about 11pm.

"We tried it once or twice and we started at the normal time and they were actually puffing. They tried to eat their grain and some of them started sucking it down because of the puffing. One of them definitely did and almost choked so that's when we aborted the whole thing, when that one started choking."

Ros, 46, who runs 120 Illawarra cows on the 300 acre property her father Steve McKay, 74, said keeping to their usual times meant milking would go from 7.30-9.30pm and not going to bed until as late as 11pm.

"You come like this introvert for the term of it. We go out and feed them earlier and get that over with so they can chill out under the trees. So the day was extended right out so it can be 10 or 11pm before you are getting to bed.

Ros is relieved to have emerged from the daylight saving sentence: "You can do things like make it to the farmer's meetings, go out for tea and even do family things again.

"We got to the stage where instead of having a birthday tea we would have afternoon tea before milking and then you would have your little party and then go and milk the cow. You couldn't socialise much with the outside family because you had to go back out milking."

"You are pushing yourself the whole time. I suppose if you had a nice air-conditioned house you could sneak off and have a bit of a rest, but it just didn't seem to happen that way you just kept on doing things."

Ros said even summer days without daylight saving were longer for farmers because they tended to work through until it was dark anyway. With daylight saving, they tended to work later at night but still get up earlier.

"It just throws everything out of whack. I expected it to be like that but you were constantly tired all the time because you didn't have that rest time. You just ate your tea, fell asleep in it at the table, wake up long enough to crawl to bed and then you look at the clock and its time to get up again."

Ros said not changing the clocks did not cause too many problems with what the rest of the world was doing, apart from almost missing a few appointments for her mother Thelma, 68. She also ensured son James, 17, made it to his job as an apprentice on time.

"I'm just lucky I don't have kids to get ready to go to school because any of those people would struggle.

"A lot of farming people can't afford to have labour any more so it's all down to Mum, Dad and the kids to do the work and that's another issue for them in the morning."