**Climate and Weather at Number 9 Dairy**

Seasonal weather conditions are a major limiting factor to production on all farms that depend on then growth of crops and/or pastures. Rainfall and temperature are the two most important components of the weather when it comes to farm production.

The table below shows the average temperature and rainfall at Camden Airport, the closest weather station to the farm and approximately 10 km away. These are averages for the past 39 years.

You can view the climatic data for Camden Airport at <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_068192.shtml>

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sep** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** | **Annual** |
| **Mean rainfall (mm)** | 78 | 101 | 86 | 67 | 58 | 62 | 38 | 42 | 40 | 65 | 77 | 55 | 768.4 |
| **Mean temp (OC)** | 23.7 | 22.7 | 21 | 18 | 14 | 11 | 10.1 | 11 | 14 | 17 | 20 | 22 |   |

**Activities**

1. Transfer these figures into a Microsoft Excel spread sheet and then use the chart facility of the program to construct graphs of the average annual rainfall and average monthly temperatures for the district.
2. Discuss the ways in which seasonal weather conditions are likely to impact on production at Number 9 dairy.
3. Suggest management strategies that could be used to help alleviate the effects of unfavourable seasonal weather conditions on the farm

Recently weather monitoring stations have been installed at three locations on the farm. Data from them is available to you the following website:

[www.usee.com](http://www.usee.com)

The user name and password required are both camdenpark (lower case and one word)

Data available at the three sites include;

* temperature (including maximum and minimum temperatures)
* rainfall
* humidity
* wind speed
* wind direction
* air pressure
* soil temperatures (at 0, 15 and 30 cm)

These parameters can be viewed over various lengths of time.