Life on
Brigalow Farm

The Dohnt family

Brigalow Farm is 15 kilometres north of Katherine. The Dohnt family are experienced dairy farmers from South Australia. They manage and live on Brigalow dairy farm. Wayne and Louise Dohnt have three sons. Christopher is 11 years old, Matthew is 8 and Alex is 6. The family moved to Brigalow Farm from South Australia, in 1998.

Top End dairy farming is hard and is often not profitable. At the moment Brigalow dairy farm is the only dairy farm in the Northern Territory and is 3600 hectares in size. Brigalow is a feedlot dairy with 1500 cows on the farm. The cows are milked twice every day to supply dairy produce to people living in the Northern Territory.

There is lots of work to be done, so up to 12 workers are employed on the farm. These employees live in Katherine and travel out to the dairy most days. Some workers do simple jobs, such as cleaning out the cowsheds and feeding calves. Other jobs require more experience, such as running the farm and using computerised milking equipment.

\[\text{The Brigalow Farm milking shed is on the right. Behind the milking shed are the cowsheds. The house is behind the big building on the left.}\]
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(From left to right) Matthew, Wayne, Alex, Louise and Christopher Dohnt