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WARRNAMBOOL CHEESE AND BUTTER FACTORY, BEGA CHEESE, MURRAY GOULBURN CO-OP, PARMALAT, and B.-D. FARM PARIS CREEK kindly support the distribution of the DairySA newsletter.

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Inside this issue

Diary dates

August
2  Upper South East Dairy Meeting: 11am  Bordertown Hotel
3  ‘Dairy Safely-Home Safely’ workshop  Meningie
4  DIAA (SA) Processor Awards dinner  Adelaide Showground, Wayville
29  Leading in Dairy celebration dinner  The Haus, Hahndorf
30  DairySA Energy Forum (Barossa Mid North DDG)  Niestchke’s, Moppa

September
1–10 Royal Adelaide Show  Exhibition Dairy, Royal Adelaide Show
1–5 Legendairy Farmer Tours: 2.30pm and 4pm  Research Farm, Hamilton Victoria
7  DairyBio Tour and Open Day

Further information on these events can be found at www.dairysa.com.au/news-events.aspx

DiarySA Chair Michael Connor was the proud ‘father of the bride’ at his daughter Chelsea’s recent marriage to dairy farmer Reece Donhardt. It was held at the Connor family’s ‘Nangkita Hills’ property, Mt Compass on a picture perfect day in April. Congratulations Chelsea and Reece!

Do you have a pic we’d love?
Send your dairy photos to katie@dairysa.com.au so we can share them with the DairySA community.

Remember to like us on Facebook (dairysouthaustralia and Young-Dairy-Network-SA) and follow us on Twitter (@Dairy_SA) to keep in touch and give us your feedback.

Pics we love!

Chelsea Connor with Reece Donhardt.
Call for ‘Legendairy Ambassadors’ for the Royal Adelaide Show

Dairy Australia and DairySA are calling for young dairy farmers who are willing to be dairy ambassadors to assist with the ‘Legendairy Farmer Tours’ of the Royal Adelaide Show.

Ambassadors need to be over 18 and be passionate members of the dairy industry. Designed to provide an insight into the dairy industry and its role, importance and history of involvement in the Show, the thirty minute tours will be held twice daily from Friday 1 Sept to Tuesday 5 Sept. Ambassadors are required to assist with these tours — either over the whole five days or according to their availability.

Each ambassador will be fully trained, paid a daily rate, and provided with a uniform and accommodation close to the Show if required.

For more information or to become involved, please contact Verity Ingham on 08 8766 0127 or 0428 660 127.

DairySA activity round up

As we head into a new financial year, each month we’ll profile a few of the DairySA team members highlighting who they are and what they do.

Each role aims to bring relevance and value to your dairy business through research, development and extension. Every member of the DairySA team is available to assist you.

Bec Hehir
Extension Officer, South East

With a background in animal health, nutrition and genetics, Bec is well placed to offer assistance and guidance across a range of areas in dairy. Amongst a raft of activities, Bec coordinates the Production and Fertiliser focussed DDG and steers the Young Dairy Network group which sees her identify learning opportunities and experiences for young dairy farmers (18–40ish) designed to provide them with valuable insights into a range of dairying operations. With feedback and ideas from farmers, Bec organises a range of extension workshops across the SE SA region and was instrumental in organising this year’s DairySA Innovation Day.

Monique White
Land Water Carbon (NRM) Project Coordinator

Monique has a passionate commitment to dairying and NRM and is responsible for ongoing projects including the Smarter Irrigation, Catch-Can testing and Mount Torrens Soil Moisture Monitoring projects in conjunction with the South Australian Murray Darling Basin and Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM. She provides a valuable link to the SAMDB Dairy Discussion Group and together with service providers, is instrumental in identifying energy cost saving measures across dairy farms. Monique is a committed advocate for the environment and is always keen to assist dairy farmers in identifying savings and opportunities.

Rick Hinge
Wellbeing Coordinator

Rick works with the Tactics for Tight Times program which is supported in South Australia by SADA and PIRSA. Rick supports the SA dairy community, the DairySA team and Board and strengthens focus on wellbeing within the TFTT program. He aims to create authentic connections with dairy farmers across the state by listening and connecting them with the most needed resources. Rick is always available to listen and enjoys getting out and meeting dairy farmers across the State. Give him a call on 0429 225 144, he’d love to hear from you.

DairySA takes to YouTube

As part of DairySA’s commitment to delivering the latest information and events to the SA dairy community, the team has begun creating a series of short videos that can be accessed through YouTube over the coming months. ‘Dairy Clips’ aim to bring relevant, timely and concise information through one of the fastest growing online platforms. Head to www.youtube.com to see interviews with Speakers from the recent DairySA Innovation Day and a feature on attendees from the day — you may be included! Just enter ‘DairySA’ in the search engine to learn what the SA dairy community have been up to.
Valuable lessons from large scale dairy operations

A ‘NSW Large Herds’ tour held last month — instigated and driven by SA’s South East Focus on Production and the central region TMR Dairy Discussion Groups — provided participants with valuable insights into the processes and systems of some of Australia’s largest dairy farms.

Over three days, eighteen participants travelled from South Australia and Victoria and visited three large dairies including Leppington Pastoral Company, Moxey Farms and Colin and Erina Thompson’s (Silvermere Holsteins).

All three farms were TMR farms with freestall barns, and had a big focus on cow comfort, nutrition and management of all stages of growth and development of cows. The bull calf systems in place were also interesting — each farm was rearing their calves for various niche veal markets.

According to tour coordinator DairySA’s Bec Hehir, the sheer capacity of Moxey Farms in particular left the participants in awe, and the infrastructure, feeding systems and milking parlours were an incredible experience.

“We were all blown away by the sheer scale of their operation, but essentially it is the processes and systems in place — regardless of the size of the business — that ensures its success and growth,.”

Some of the key highlights and take home messages of the tour included:

- managing people development is essential in all aspects of the businesses — particularly focussing on key roles and the structures around these roles
- each of the farms are built around well organised systems, and their strong attention to detail across all aspects of their businesses was inspirational
- each demonstrated a strong emphasis on business governance and giving people opportunities in their roles to be accountable for their decisions
- that it’s not necessarily about the system, but about the business principles that can be applied across the entire enterprise.

“There were so many lessons to be taken away from our visits that can be applied to a dairy business on any scale,” Bec said. “All of the participants were very appreciative of having the opportunity to see first-hand how some of these large herd dairies operate, and we were thankful of the time each business invested in us during our visit.”.

“And it was good fun staying on the Bathurst track and having a quick drive on it the following day — despite the below freezing temperatures,” she added. Thankfully Bec has decided to stay on at Team DairySA and not follow a career in fast cars.
Calf rearing workshop offers good reminders

A recent *Rearing Healthy Calves* workshop arranged by DairySA at Mt Schank led by SE Vet’s Andrew Hoare provided some timely reminders on rearing healthy calves. And according to Andrew, good calf management is based on common sense and is something most people are doing already, but reminders are useful.

Newborn calves need to be treated like a newborn baby — keep them warm and dry, be vigilant with hygiene by washing and sterilising teats and bottles, keep up to date with vaccinations, and check naval hygiene. Ensure adequate shelter and clean bedding in the shed when they are brought in. Remember to feed calves systematically starting from the youngest to oldest, and feeding/treating any sick pen calves last.

Andrew reminded participants that ‘Colostrum is King’ and that the three Q's of Colostrum — Quality, Quantity and Quickly — will optimise the best chance for a calf to thrive. A calf should receive colostrum within 4–6 hours to maximise immunity transfer and be fed at 10–12% of their bodyweight. Disease management in the cow and calf is essential for rearing healthy calves, with Andrew stressing the importance of a vaccination history and giving a booster approximately 5–8 weeks before calving. Whilst calves can be tested for selected diseases, issues like salmonella can only be effectively managed by identifying the particular strain. If you are going to vaccinate for salmonella, a vet or Coopers Animal Health can test for it to ensure the correct vaccination is used.

In terms of nutrition, keep in mind the ‘nutrition pyramid’ — water, milk, fibre and concentrates. The milk volume given to calves should represent 10% of bodyweight; a 43kg calf would need 4.3lt milk/day. If you’re using milk powder, the best calf milk powder should be based on animal protein sources rather than plant, because they curdle in the abomasum more effectively. In the early days, smaller feeds are best over a large feed at once, to reduce the risk of nutritional scours. After the first 10–14 days, once a day feeds are sufficient. Fibre should be given at a 10–25% ration, and fresh clean water is essential from birth.

Andrew also reminded participants of some of our animal welfare obligations on farm; disbudding / dehorning of calves can only be done up until 6 months of age, preferably with pain relief (and sedation if chosen). Older calves will require pain relief and potentially sedation.

By adhering to these simple common sense steps, farmers will go a long way toward rearing healthy calves this season.

If you require any of our calf rearing resources like the *Rearing Healthy Calves* manual or any information on sale calves, please contact one of the DairySA team.

Mt Schank a LEGENDAIRY finalist

The Mt Schank Tennis Club has been named a regional finalist in the national Legendairy Capital 2017 competition. This makes them one step closer to claiming the national title of Australia’s LEGENDAIRY Capital 2017.

As one of the eight finalists, Mt Schank Tennis Club receives $2500 to go toward upgrading the tired playground which now caters for a growing number of young families. In September, one of the eight Capital finalists will be announced as Australia’s LEGENDAIRY Capital for 2017 with an additional $7500 in winnings. All the best Mt Schank!

For more information, head to a story in the Stock Journal online including the Mt Schank Tennis Club submission video: [http://bit.ly/MtSchank](http://bit.ly/MtSchank)

The Mt Schank Tennis Club playground needs an upgrade.
Want to drive down your farm energy costs?

A whole farm energy audit is vital for your business to help drive down costs, particularly if your farm has seen significant changes in infrastructure or systems.

That’s the message Meningie dairyfarmers Brad and Karin Fischer shared at a recent DairySA Energy Forum in Murray Bridge. The Fischers recognised that, together with rising electricity prices, system developments on their farm left them exposed to costly electricity tariff penalties.

“Over the past few years we have made several changes to our farm including building a new barn, installing a new effluent system and upgrading irrigation, all of which had the potential to impact our electricity costs,” said Brad.

Brad and Karin employed the services of an energy auditor who understands farm businesses, setting him the task of identifying options for reducing their power costs.

“The first step was to understand exactly what is running off each meter, and at what times,” Brad explained.

“You’re then able to identify what can be minimised in order to manage peak load charges,” he added.

By working closely with the energy auditor, the Fischers implemented a range of devices designed to reduce energy demand. They also viewed it as an opportunity to look at other ways to reduce energy costs.

Brad notes that it’s important the auditor is ‘nimble’, by considering the implications and solutions for alternative options.

“We were keen to see what savings could be made with different scenarios, including three times a day milking and twice a day milking,” said Brad.

Options such as small solar to reduce peak loads, and installing LED lighting across the farm have been successful in reducing demand. And the energy audit also helped get the best deal for solar feed in.

“We found that we could get 16c feed in, and as our off peak is lower than 16c, we were better off using off peak to heat water, then feed solar back into the grid during the day,” Brad said.

A DairySA Energy Forum will be held at Jamie and John Niestchke’s, Moppa on Wednesday 30 August, hosted by the Barossa Mid North Dairy Discussion Group. To register for this please rsvp to David Kuchel on 0427 006 233. To find out more about how to get an Energy Audit undertaken for your farm business, contact DairySA’s Monique White on 0400 972 206.

‘Leading in Dairy’ wrapping up soon

DairySA’s ‘Leading in Dairy’ program is nearing its conclusion, with four out of five workshop days now complete.

Twelve dairy farmers from across the State — passionate advocates of the dairy industry who are committed to driving its future — have attended the ‘Leading in Dairy’ program at sessions held in Strathalbyn, Mount Gambier and Murray Bridge.

With a focus on leadership and sustainability, participants covered a range of topics including communication skills, managing conflict, effective industry leadership through collaboration, building industry networks, personal goal setting and action planning, and industry sustainability leadership in action.

A final workshop session and a celebration dinner in Hahndorf for participants, partners and program supporters will be held on Tuesday 29 August at The Haus.

For more details, please contact Leading in Dairy Facilitator Louise Stock at louise@dairysa.com.au or on 0407 711 576.

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government.

DairySA seeks recycling solutions

As part of its commitment to assist farmers with recycling farm waste, DairySA has been working to identify local council and recycling facilities who will accept silage wrap and baling twine. Unfortunately there are currently no SA based options available but DairySA will continue to keep farmers informed of developments as they arise.
Cows Create Careers program a success

The six week Cows Create Careers — Farm Module program has come to an end, with winners of the regional awards being announced in late June. The program aims to increase the awareness of dairy industry careers in a very hands-on way with Secondary students rearing two, three-week-old calves at school.

The winners for each region were:

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New award created

A new award has been created as part of the Cows Create Careers program in the Barossa region. Named after a passionate advocate of the program who tragically passed away last year, the inaugural Jeff Kernich Student Encouragement Award is open to students from the Barossa region who have demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment to the Cows Create Careers program. Rather than particularly being linked with academic success, it is instead awarded to the student who has demonstrated engagement, motivation and enjoyment in undertaking the CCC tasks.

This year’s deserved winner is Natasha Torrans from Gawler and District College. Together with her attention to detail and caring approach to feeding calves, Natasha showed strong mentoring skills with her peers. In teamwork with another student, Natasha’s commitment to producing a quality project of a 3D model of the ice cream industry was a worthy project for the CCC dairy day. Congratulations Natasha!

Are you aware of the changes?

Last month the Fair Work Commission announced a minimum wage increase.

What changes and from when?
The Fair Work Commission has announced a 3.3% increase to minimum wages which will apply from the first full pay period starting on or after 1 July 2017. The new national minimum wage will be $694.90 per week or $18.29 per hour.

(For WA: $708.90 per week or $18.66 per hour).

What do you need to do?
Dairy Australia have pulled together the changes from July 1 2017, along with information on how to easily update your ESkI and information specific to WA.

For more details, head to the The People in Dairy website on thepeopleindairy.org.au/announcements/pay-rates-july2017 to ensure you know what’s changed.