Tickets now on sale for the DairySA Innovation Day: ‘Feedbase for the Future’

Wednesday 19 June, The Barn, Mt Gambier

In today’s dairy landscape, it’s vital to be efficient and sustainable. How can current technologies and innovations drive this? And what effect will an increase in pasture have on milk quality, essential elements and the environment?

- Hear from keynote speaker US-based Professor Santiago Utsumi, Professor in the Kellogg Biological Station and Department of Animal Science at Michigan State University, on the essential elements of forage base in pasture to enhance milk production.
- Delve into leading edge precision dairy and grazing technologies including robotics, sensors and acoustics.
- Learn about the advances in nutrition that will get you thinking differently about the what, how and when of diets, for recently calved cows.
- Get the latest on human “body positioning” for milking.
- Enjoy the chance to network and chat, with great food.

Join the relaxed Conference Dinner with guest speaker, beef producer Noel Ogilvie from the Ogilvie Group and explore the day’s presentations through conversations with friends, farmers and the broader industry.

**Book your tickets today!**

Discounts apply for three or more farmers from the same business.

A free bus is available from the Central Region should farmers wish to utilise. Cutoff date is June 7. Please contact Beck Burgess direct on 0438 262 966 should you wish to attend. A minimum number will be required for this service to run.
Have your say on what matters most

Dairy leaders have announced a nationwide consultation for the broader dairy community, calling on stakeholders to have their say on what is needed to shape the future of Australian dairy.

This is your chance to be involved in the consultation process of the Australian Dairy Plan.

There is alignment towards achieving a national plan with key stakeholders providing consultation including farmers, processors, service providers, Dairy Australia, Australian Dairy Farmers, Australian Dairy Products Federation/DairySafe, SADA, and the Gardiner Dairy Foundation.

SA dairy farmers and the wider SA dairy community – anyone with ‘skin in the game’ – are asked to come and have their say.

Farmers, processors, service providers and stakeholders of dairy are being called on to share their views through meetings in over 20 locations across the nation during May and June, 2019, as well as to contribute via online platforms.

The consultation will be a crucial input into the development of the Australian Dairy Plan, to identify key industry priorities for action to build on the opportunities and positively address the challenges faced.

The industry has a long and proud history of working together successfully through the tough times and it is critical we jointly tackle the difficulties and opportunities we face and create a future we can all believe in.

The aim is to work together to help create an industry that can adapt to a changing operating environment, provide dairy farmers and processors with further profit potential, boost confidence across the industry and its ability to be united, and compete at a global level.

Dairy Australia, Australian Dairy Farmers, Australian Dairy Products Federation and the Gardiner Dairy Foundation are jointly supporting this opportunity for people in the industry to voice their thoughts on what matters most for dairy.

BECOME INVOLVED!

Farmers, processors, service providers and stakeholders are asked to share their views on the future of the dairy industry and what matters most. This is your chance to be involved in the consultation process of the Australian Dairy Plan.

Two workshops will be held in SA in June:

Tuesday 4 June • Mt Barker
Australian Dairy Plan workshop, ‘Auchendarroch House’ (Robert Charles Room)
17 Adelaide Road, Mt Barker SA
10.30 am – 2.30 pm*
Details: Beck Burgess 0438 262 966
Register attendance via Eventbrite
bit.ly/190604ADP_Wshop_MtBarker

Wednesday 5 June • OB Flat (near Mt Gambier)
Australian Dairy Plan workshop, ‘The Apple Farm’
77 Clarke Rd, OB Flat SA
10.00 am – 2.30 pm
Details: Kylie Boston 0407 231 547
Register attendance via Eventbrite
bit.ly/190605ADP_Wshop_MtGambier

DairySA encourages all farmers to attend.

*DairySA will be holding two consultation meetings in South Australia in June and we strongly encourage you to attend.

Head to one of these workshops and have your say!
Find out more at dairyplan.com.au
New Regional Manager for DairySA

Michael Connor, Chair of DairySA is pleased to announce the appointment of Tom O’Grady to the position of Regional Manager, DairySA.

Tom joins the team with a strong background as regional manager and team leader for Accolade Wines, Lion Dairy and Drinks, and Mars. Tom is originally from Ireland where he grew up on a dairy farm. Tom’s focus on people, team culture, operations and commercial activities brings experience and capability to the broad range of roles in the Regional Manager position.

Tom is looking forward to leading and working with the DairySA team to provide the best outcomes for SA dairy farmers.

Tom can be contacted on tom@dairysa.com.au or 0417 218 263

In the meantime, please don’t hesitate to contact any of the DairySA team members who are more than happy to help with any part of your dairy business!

Dairy tour opens eyes to Tassie’s large dairy enterprises

DairySA sponsored three South Australia dairy farmers to attend the Don Campbell Memorial Study Tour in Tasmania last month, with participants coming home with valuable learnings and insights.

The Don Campbell Memorial Tour is a five-day tour of the northern Tasmanian dairy industry by a group of 10 to 14 young farmers, predominantly from Victoria.

The late Don Campbell was a dairy farmer from Yannathan in Gippsland and the first chair of the GippsDairy board. He was passionate about the development of young people within the dairy industry.

This year’s tour provided participants with the opportunity to visit four Tasmanian farms, attend the Tasmanian Young Dairy Network event, undertake a farm tour as part of the Dairy Tas Conference, and attend the Dairy Tas Conference and Awards night.

For SA participant Kelsey Adams from Meningie, a tour highlight was learning about different range of dairy operations, and seeing the pathways on offer within the industry.

“The tour made me realise that there is so much support and information surrounding the dairy industry, each leading to different paths,” said Kelsey. “It was really interesting to see how the advances in technology are being used in dairy operations, and highlighted how developments in biological farming will change the way we manage pastures,” she added.

“Virtual fencing is another technology that will increasingly be used in the future,” Kelsey said.

Kelsey also enjoyed hearing talks and seeing the results of ‘once a day milking’, proving that milk quality can be maintained while continuing animal care.

“It was explained to us that when it comes to production, for every one kilometre walked, there is a waste of one litre of production, highlighting the importance of improving laneways and distances to walk to and from the dairy,” she said.

“It can have a big impact on the productivity of your herd,” Kelsey added.

Also attending the tour was Kelsey Lewis (Tintinara) and Gemma Balog (Salisbury South).

DairySA Extension Office Beck Burgess said the tour offers a valuable opportunity for young people to get off farm and meet other like-minded people within the industry.

“We hear often from previous Young Dairy Network tour attendees that these networks still remain after many years,” Beck said.

“It’s a great opportunity for them to travel and see how other businesses undertake their operations, and to take home key learnings that may be suggested – or implemented – into their own workplaces,” she added.

Beck said it’s also important to acknowledge the tour participants’ employers for allowing them the time off farm to attend the tours.

“Tours like this only happen thanks to the support of the Young Dairy Network employers who encourage the young people to step outside their zone, to Gipps Dairy for organising the Don Campbell Tour, DairySA, Dairy Australia and YDNA,” Beck said.
Good effluent management is good business

Dairyfarmers across the state are being encouraged to revisit their effluent business practices to ensure they are compliant with the Code of Practice for Milking Shed Effluent.

Beck Burgess from DairySA says that a good effluent management plan is paramount to running a strong, healthy business – and there’s plenty of help available to achieve this.

“DairySA is committed to working with the State’s dairyfarmers to reach best practice when managing effluent,” she said.

“We recognise that this can be challenging – but DairySA is there to help farmers achieve this goal,” Beck added.

The SA dairy industry has developed a range of resources that are designed to assist dairy farmers with their effluent management plan – from initial set up to ongoing management. The DairySA website houses many SA-relevant manuals detailing good effluent management.

As a reminder there is an obligation to adhere and operate a milking shed to meet the requirements of the Code of Practice for Milking Shed Effluent (the Code).

Whilst there is no definitive rule with regard to odour, dairy farm managers should manage effluent systems to reduce the risk of offensive odours impacting on site. For example this could include discharging on paddocks downwind of neighbours properties (if possible), rotating paddocks used for discharge, and ceasing the stockpiling of effluent.

To reduce the risk of complaints or a review by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Beck encourages dairy farmers to ensure effluent is not discharged onto roads or stormwater drains, adhere to setback distances from neighbouring properties, minimise odour, and maintain backup systems.

**Setback distances**

Milking shed wastes should not be applied or discharged onto land:

- within 50 m of an irrigation channel containing water or a watercourse, bore or sink hole
- within 10 m of a dry irrigation channel
- within 100 m of a house on land not owned by the owner of the milking shed
- within 10 m of land not owned by the owner of the milking shed.

**Type of land**

Milking shed wastes should not be applied or discharged onto land that:

- has a tendency to become waterlogged (i.e. classified as poorly drained or very poorly drained)
- is subject to flooding more than one in every 10 years
- is steep sloping (i.e. greater than 1 in 5, or 20%)
- is rocky or has a very shallow soil depth (i.e. less than 30 cm)
- has no vegetative cover
- lies above an unconfined groundwater aquifer in any area where soil permeability exceeds 300 mm/year.

But according to Beck, whilst the EPA monitor and audit effluent management for compliance with legislation, it should not be the motivating factor for farmers.

“It is important to remember that effluent is in fact a valuable farm product – and with advances in technology it is easier to manage, reducing time and hassle involved,” Beck said.

Further information can be found at the following websites with a selection of videos and information covering a range of topics:

- dairyingfortomorrow.com.au
- dairyaustralia.com.au/dairysa/farm/dairysa-farm/dairysa-land-water-carbon

Disclaimer: Although DairySA has taken all reasonable care in preparing this advice, neither DairySA nor its officers or agents accept any liability resulting from the interpretation or use of the information set out in this document.

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