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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

October
4   Energy Forum, Mt Compass Hall
    Contact Beck Burgess 0438 262 966
17  DairySA AGM, SADA offices Glandore
    Contact Verity Ingham 0428 660 127
19  Smarter Irrigation Field Day, Mt Gambier
25  Production Focus DDG – ‘Kurleah’
31  People in Dairy DDG SE
    Contact Kylie Boston 0407 231 547

November
2   Lakes DG, ‘Calf Rearing’
    Contact David Kuchel 0427 006 233
7–8  TAFE Cups On Cups Off
     Mt Gambier
9–10 TAFE Cups On Cups Off
     Victor Harbor
14  People in Dairy DDG Central
16  DairySA Ladies Lunch
30  DairySA Ladies Lunch


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

DairySA Annual General Meeting

The DairySA AGM will be held at the SADA offices, Glandore on Tuesday 17 October. All welcome.
For further information please contact Verity Ingham on 0428 660 127.

Pitch your fabulous dairy idea

The hunt is on to find the nation’s most ingenious and creative dairy innovation or idea in a new initiative ‘The Pitch’ as part of the Australian Dairy Conference to be held in Melbourne 13–15 February 2018.

Finalists in ‘The Pitch’ receive complimentary Conference entry to the value of $600 with winners receiving full registration for the 2018 Australian Dairy Conference. For more details head to www.australiandairyconference.com.au and follow the link to The Pitch.

Entries close early October so get inspired and contact Carlene Dowie on 0475 962 221.

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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.
Join a Ladies Lunch!

A DairySA Ladies Lunch offers the perfect opportunity to unwind, enjoy a delicious lunch amongst friends and colleagues and be inspired through story. This year two Ladies Lunches will be held in both the South East (OB Flat, near Mt Gambier) and Central regions (Langhorne Creek). In relaxed surrounds, enjoy a delicious two course meal with a complimentary drink on arrival, and inspirational insights from a carefully selected guest speaker.

‘Bellwether (noun): the leading sheep of a flock, with a bell on its neck, something that leads or indicates a trend.’

Winemaker Sue Bell takes us on her journey of creating Bellwether Wines, which started life in the historic 1868 Glen Roy Shearing Shed north of Coonawarra. Over the past eight years, Sue and her community of supporters have transformed it into a boutique winery, community kitchen, cellar door, produce garden and campground. Sue’s warm and insightful observations on life, women in wine and the challenges she’s tackled along the way will show what can be achieved with passion, a strong vision and sheer determination.

When Thursday 16 November
11:45 for a 12pm start
Where Apple Farm Tearooms
77 Clarke Road, OB Flat
Cost $20.00 Dairyfarmers (including farm employees and family members)
$50.00 Service providers

The ‘Invisible Farmer’ project began in 2017 and is the largest ever study of Australian women on the land. Based at Museums Victoria, Project Curator Catherine Forge will reveal some of the hidden stories of women on the land, demonstrating their contribution, passion and everyday ‘can do’ attitude that make up the fabric of women in Australian agriculture. A look at the power of story and its potential to change the landscape of the future – and a reminder that we all have a story to tell.

When Thursday 30 November
11:45 for a 12pm start
Where The Winehouse
Langhorne Creek

Everyone has a story... what's your story?

To keep up to date with the latest DairySA workshops on offer, head to the DairySA website / News and Events.

Downer Cow workshop highlights commonsense approach

A recent ‘Downer Cow’ workshop led by SE Vet’s Andrew Hoare in Mt Gambier was a good reminder on the best approach to downer cows, with a commonsense approach at its core.

Some key take home messages from the workshop included:

**Diagnosis**
- Ensure you know why they are down
- If not, call the vet

**Treatment or euthanasia**
- Ensure they are worth treating
- Ensure they are treated correctly
- Secondary damage often the reason they stay down so vet may be needed to ensure they’re being treated for the correct syndrome

**Nursing**
If you are going to nurse downer cows:
- Do it properly or don’t do it at all
- If you can’t nursed them well, for whatever reason, it is better for the cow’s and your welfare to euthanase them promptly
- If you are going to nurse them you need a dedicated nursing area.

Register with Eventbrite at

LEGENDARY
Timely irrigation is still essential after wet start to season

After the heavy to excessive rainfall in many areas of SA during the winter and spring, you may ask ‘Why a story on irrigation management?’

Irrigation is a significant cost to the farm business but also brings great benefits. It is important to manage irrigation to maximise potential crop production and avoiding delays in commencing irrigation is the first important step to take. The key to success is applying the right amount of water at the right time, and with improved irrigation management comes increased productivity and profitability.

Applying the right amount of water at the right time, results in:

• increased yields
• improved quality
• reduced disease incidence
• minimised waterlogging
• reduced nutrient run-off
• reduced leaching below the root zone
• reduced soil erosion
• minimises build up in salinity and reduces the amount of groundwater that ends up in rivers and streams.

Economic benefits can be gained through more efficient use of water and energy (applying the right amount of water at the right time). Improved water use efficiency means reducing applications of water not used by the crop or in excess of what the soil can hold, which minimises system losses and reduces unnecessary pumping.

The amount of water held and the quantity available to the crop varies with soil type.

Having an understanding of the water holding capacity of your soil can be helpful in planning irrigation and may help to improve efficiency, regardless of the type of irrigation equipment being used to deliver the water.

Therefore it is useful to know how much water the different soil types in paddocks will hold. Soil texture – determined by the proportions of sand, silt and clay in the soil – determines how much water is available to the plant. Soil structure impacts both the amount of water available to a plant, and the bulk density of the soil – the weight of soil in a given volume.

Bulk density is an indication of the quantity of pore spaces and therefore influences the amount of water that can be held in the soil.

Good soil structure for any given soil type can potentially hold more water than a poorly structured soil of the same type. Compaction (high soil bulk density), may have been increased by wet soil conditions during winter.

The conditions experienced this season mean that paddock conditions are not ideal – timely irrigation is a strategy that can help overcome these and improve crop yield and quality.

To get some more ideas on pre-season start up checks, head to DairySA’s YouTube Channel and view the clip ‘Pre Season Irrigation Check’.

To hear from a range of speakers on the latest information on scheduling tools, research and technology and prepare for the irrigation season ahead, head to the ‘Smarter Irrigation Field Day’ on October 19, at Donovan’s Dairy

RSVP: by Tuesday 17 October to Kylie Boston on 0407 231 547 or kylie@dairysa.com.au Lunch provided by DairySA.

Many leadership lessons learnt from Leading in Dairy

The future of dairy is in strong hands with twelve participants of the recent ‘Leading in Dairy’ program committing to working on doing things differently in their own business and the industry at large. At the recent celebration dinner, participants highlighted that they had learned valuable skills and ideas, and had gained greater confidence to step up and speak out on issues they’re passionate about.

As a result of the program, participants are keen to work on:

- understanding that everybody is different and adapting behaviour accordingly
- listening better and seeking to understand the full situation before reacting
- focusing more on longer term goals rather than just day-to-day and seasonal farm operations, and
- having a say by joining more local groups and committees.

At a celebration dinner at the conclusion of the program participants explained why they became involved in Leading in Dairy, what they learnt from the program and how they plan to apply these lessons.

“It has taught me that to lead others you must lead yourself. That’s not an easy thing to do – I’m just a dairy farmer!” said Mount Torrens participant Michael Kowald.

“I’m speaking up more, letting people know my thoughts and encouraging others to step up.”

Special guest speaker at the celebration dinner was the Honorable Karlene Maywald, former Member for Chaffey in the SA Parliament and a recognised leader in water policy development and reform over many years.

Her key messages related to making good policy and building consensus: grow trust by being communicative, friendly and trustworthy; find the threads of commonality between different groups’ positions and build on those to bring people together; and develop strong networks.

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government.

Pain relief key to disbudding

Using pain relief not only reduces pain and recovery time of disbudding calves, but also avoids a growth check according to research by Massey University (New Zealand).

A study undertaken in 2015 and 2016 found calves that received pain relief prior to disbudding went on to achieve higher growth rates. They gained an average of 0.09kg more per day for the next month, meaning they reached weaning weight about five days earlier than calves that didn’t receive pain relief.

Calves that grow faster can be weaned earlier, meaning less milk is fed, less labour is required and they are moved onto grass and meal more quickly. The reduced costs and the benefits of heavier calves easily offset the small cost for pain relief.

**Options for pain relief**

Calves experience pain for four to six hours after disbudding and some lower level pain or discomfort for up to 40 hours. Calves are good at hiding pain, but there are indicators of when they’re in pain, such as high cortisol levels in the blood. We can also look at behaviour indicators such as restlessness, feed intake, ear twitching and tail flicking.

When local anaesthetic is provided, the signs of pain are reduced until the local wears off at about four hours. When calves are given a long-acting anti-inflammatory as well as local anaesthetic, they show fewer indicators of pain for a lot longer.