Keen to shape the future of dairying in SA?

You can help shape the future of dairy research and extension in South Australia and contribute to outcomes that aim to increase the profitability and sustainability of the State’s dairy industry. If you’re interested in helping direct where your dairy service levy is spent, consider a position on the DairySA Board.

The DairySA Board at a glance
- It is made up of farmer directors, a representative from the milk processors and independent skills-based directors, totalling 11 people.
- It decides on and directs funding to regionally relevant research and development
- It contributes to outcomes that benefit the South Australia dairy community
- Board members share their ideas and are committed to a strong future of dairying
- The Board meets bi-monthly, usually at a central location, with some phone hookups
- Two vacancies exist for the positions of Farmer Director on the DairySA Board from October 2017 to October 2019.

If you would like to have a chat about joining the DairySA Board, or for more information please contact Chairperson Michael Connor on 0419 036 500 or DairySA Regional Manager Verity Ingham on 8766 0127 or email verity@dairysa.com.au

A Board Nomination form is available at www.dairysa.com.au

Completed nomination forms are due by 5pm Friday 29 September and should be forwarded to: DairySA Board Applications c/o Ms Verity Ingham PO Box 197 LUCINDALE SA 5272

Or via email verity@dairysa.com.au

Remember to like us on Facebook (Dairy SA and Young Dairy Network SA) and follow us on Twitter to keep in touch and give us your feedback.
Jump on board and make a difference!

DairySA Board Member Glenn Dohnt enjoys the networking that comes with being part of the vibrant Board.

Being a DairySA Board member can have many benefits. We caught up with current Board Member Glenn Dohnt, Vice Chair and Farmer from Monteith on the River Murray, to get his thoughts on being part of the DairySA Board.

Why and when did you join the DairySA Board?
I felt that with over 20 years experience in the dairy industry I had something to give back and wanted to have a greater say in the industry’s direction. I was also keen to be well-informed on the processes and decisions that ultimately affect my business. I've been on the DairySA Board since 2011, have learnt a lot, and met many like-minded people along the way.

What have you found most satisfying?
I enjoy being involved in the decision-making process which helps shape the future of the dairy industry. As the current Vice-Chair I have also had greater exposure to a higher level decision-making. One of the most satisfying aspects of being part of the Board is the solid business contacts I’ve made, both with other operators and with industry decision makers from around Australia. Having exposure to these people is good for me, my business and I hope, in turn, for the dairy industry at large.

How often do you meet, and where? Do you find it challenging to manage?
The Board meets every couple of months, generally in Adelaide as a central point, but we do head to the regions. It’s not an onerous task as the Board is very well run with professional people and everyone’s contribution is valued. With Verity Ingham leading a highly organised professional DairySA team it also makes our job very easy.

What would you say to others who are considering joining the Board?
Don’t underestimate what you have to give - many people have a lot of experience and practical know-how that can be applied to the Board setting. It’s not intimidating - each member is valued for their skill set and the strengths they bring to the table. This contributes to a vibrant group with everyone having something different to offer. I would highly recommend it – I’d be happy to chat with anyone considering joining. Likewise, if someone knows a farmer who they think would be great on the Board, pass their number on and I’m more than happy to talk to them.

Glenn can be contacted on 0427 322 217.

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.

Anna Eddy, Administration Coordinator
Anna Eddy joins the DairySA team as Administration Coordinator, and is responsible for keeping the DairySA ship sailing smoothly! Anna has a strong agricultural background, having grown up in SA’s South East before travelling and working throughout Australia and then settling with her family near Lucindale on a small acreage. In her spare time Anna enjoys competing in campdrafting and stockmans’ challenges. Welcome Anna!

Kylie Boston, Project Coordinator
Workforce Development, ESKi, eMe, People Dairy Discussion Groups
Kylie is the ‘go to’ person for all things people related - with a strong focus on Farm Safety, ESKi, People in Dairy Discussion Groups for both the Central and South region and as co-ordinator of the Women’s Network. Kylie also manages the ‘Cows Create Careers’ program and has recently expanded her role, working closely with Monique White on the NRM’s Smarter Irrigation and Catch-Can testing projects. If you’re after specific tools to assist you in any of these areas, contact Kylie.

Beck Burgess, Extension Officer, Central
DDGs – Fleurieu Young Farmers, M2W, Mt Torrens, Myponga, Myponga DairyBase, TMR
Joining the team in May, Beck has hit the ground running and is responsible for co-ordinating a range of DDGs across the Central region. Beck is also the go to person for the DairyBase program. Over the next couple of months Beck will be rolling out a series of DDG Planning meetings so be sure to come along to help steer the direction of your DDG.
DairySA’s Rick Hinge features in SA Mental Health Commission video

The SA Mental Health Commission has just released a new video clip featuring DairySA’s Wellbeing Coordinator Rick Hinge, together with Bool Lagoon dairyfarmer Andrew Cavill, which is now available for viewing on YouTube.

Titled "Rural Men – Nothing is too hard," Rick and Andrew talk about the importance of communication, particularly in the often lonely business of dairy farming. There’s some great messages about overcoming the stigma of not talking to anyone – and the relief that comes with doing so.

Check it out on YouTube by searching for DairySA.

DairySA strengthens commitment to Wellbeing

The re-appointment of Rick Hinge to the position of Wellbeing Coordinator with DairySA has been welcomed by the South Australian dairy industry.

The role, supporting wellbeing in the South Australia Dairy community, continues the commitment of industry bodies DairySA and the SA Dairy Industry Fund who have provided matching funding to this area, which began as a pilot program twelve months ago.

According to the South Australian Dairy Industry Fund Executive Officer Ken Lyons, the Wellbeing Coordinator role is a positive outcome for the SA dairy community.

“Over the past year, Rick has been instrumental in supporting the SA dairy community, the DairySA team and Board, with his focus on health and wellbeing,” Mr Lyons said.

“Linked with the Tactics For Tight Times program and aligned with support from the South Australian Dairyfarmers’ Association, many individuals, families and businesses have directly benefited through personalised, focused and constructive outcomes,” he added.

A fifth generation farmer from Mundulla, Rick has previously worked with the Drought Assistance program and has been an Ambassador for Beyond Blue for the past ten years. Rick has a strong commitment to listening to people and connecting them with tailored wellbeing support and referral services.

Rick can be contacted on 0429 225 144 or email on rick@dairysa.com.au

Is it OK for cows to graze along creeks and rivers?

In many areas, the banks of waterways and the adjacent flats are prime agricultural and grazing lands. They are often highly productive and have a valuable role in maintaining stream bank stability, good quality water supplies, and the general health of aquatic environments.

Many farmers across the state have actively worked to fence off their “riparian zones” to prevent livestock accessing creeks and rivers within or adjoining their land.

In the past, Landcare groups and NRM organisations have supported this effort through providing grants to farmers.

Preventing stock from accessing watercourses helps reduce stock losses, prevents the spread of waterborne diseases and maintains bank stability for the watercourse. On-farm trials have shown:

• improvements of up to 20% in weight gain for stock drinking from piped water sources. Additionally,
• reductions in Mastitis in dairy herds have also been reported after controlling direct access to streams.

Preventing stock access to watercourses is also important to maintain water quality where the water is used for human uses such as drinking.

It is important for farmers to understand that the EPA can require that farmers restrict stock access to watercourses. In South Australia, the legislation notes two areas:

• General Environmental duty – Clause 9 of the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015 or
• Section 25 of the Environment Protection Act 1993 states “The provisions that a person must comply with, in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise environmental harm resulting from undertaking an activity that pollutes or might pollute waters”

In some districts, government funding assistance for fencing of riparian areas and replacement of watering points to provide clean drinking water for stock off stream may be available. This is because there is increasing recognition that better management of stock access to riparian lands has benefits for the wider community as well as landholders.

If you would like further information, contact your local NRM office or DairySA’s Monique White on 0400 972 206.

For more information on the full Environment Protection Act 1993 head to www.legislation.sa.gov.au
Use the right chemicals for the right job

Dairy farmers are reminded that chemicals used on farms, including those used to clean and sanitise your plant and milk vats, must be registered with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

Dairy Australia’s Regulatory Affairs Manager, Kira Goodall, said that recent isolated incidences of unregistered products being marketed to farmers or farmers inadvertently using chemicals for the wrong purpose, were concerning for the whole industry.

“All agricultural and veterinary chemicals must be registered with the APVMA and should be used as instructed on the label. Check the label and make sure you are using the right chemical for the right job,” Ms Goodall warned.

Chemical use and chemical residues have also been an increasing focus for international customers in recent years. “Given our market sensitivity, safety and reputation the industry does have concerns about this issue and dairy farmers should be wary when buying chemicals for their farms,” Ms Goodall said.

For more information go to https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/farm/animal-management/milking/milk-quality

How do I know?

- Legally registered agricultural and veterinary chemicals have an APVMA approval number printed on the label.
- The label will also include clear instructions for when and how to use the chemical.
- If you want to check if a chemical is registered you can always go to the APVMA website or app at https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris

Dairy Australia launches new website

Dairy farmers have access to a wide range of information from the home computer or from their smart phone on Dairy Australia’s new, modern, highly functional website.

The website is easier to use on mobile devices and can link users directly to their local region. The search function has been improved and the site can detect low band-widths and rescale content to suit.

Visit the website at www.dairyaustralia.com.au