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Diary dates

**February**

13–15  Australian Dairy Conference, Melbourne  
www.australiandairyconference.com.au

19–20  Thriving Women’s Conference, “A Conference to connect and advance AgriWomen”, Adelaide  

22  Rearing Healthy Calves Workshop  
Bellum Hotel, Mt Schank  
Details: Bec Hehir on 0418 951 324

27  People in Dairy DDG, South East  
Details: Kylie Boston on 0407 231 547

27–1/3  Smarter Irrigation: Irrigation Innovations Study Tour, Tasmania  
Details: Monique White  
monique@dairysa.com.au or 0400 972 206

**March**

7  People in Dairy DDG, Central  
Details: Kylie Boston on 0407 231 547

8  DairySA Central Conference, Hahndorf  
Details: Beck Burgess on 0438 262 966  
Register: www.dairysaconference2018.eventbrite.com.au

13  Farm Safety Workshop (WCB)  
Details: Kylie Boston on 0407 231 547

16–17  Lucindale Field Days, Lucindale SE  
‘Race about Dairy’  
Elad Shed 11:45 daily

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

Join us at ‘Race about Dairy’: Lucindale Field Days

**March 16–17, Lucindale SE**

Come and join DairySA at 11:45am each day for a ‘Race about Dairy’, a fun way to learn more about the dairy industry. You’ll find us in the Elad Shed.

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.
The 2018 DairySA Central Conference covers all the bases

**Thursday 8 March 2018**  
**Adelaide Hills Convention Centre Hahndorf**

It takes professional, switched on and adaptable people to manage and thrive in the world of dairy farming in today’s complex and challenging business environment. This year’s DairySA Central Conference, ‘Change: Explore the Potential’ will deliver delegates the tools, ideas, resources and connections to help manage this change, while adding value to dairy farm businesses. Guest presenters will dive into the details around recruitment and people management in your business, the changing technology that allows milk samples to be analysed in new ways – a potential game-changer for cow management – and show you how to navigate the path to changes in your dairy business. It aims to take the ‘scary’ out of what can sometimes be an emotionally fraught experience, particularly when managing family succession.

The Conference is also the ideal opportunity to connect with like-minded people in the dairy industry and to feel part of a greater whole in the SA dairy landscape. Meet up with new people, share ideas and insights with colleagues and other industry people and enjoy some social interaction over the post-conference catch-up in the Top Paddock and at the evening’s Closing dinner.

**Registrations are now open.** Registration and payment for the Conference can be made through Eventbrite. Head to [www.dairysaconference2018.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.dairysaconference2018.eventbrite.com.au)

For further information on the Conference, please contact Beck Burgess on 0438 262 966 or email beckburgess@dairysa.com.au

**Sponsorship opportunities now available!**

The 2018 DairySA Innovation Day is designed to showcase an exciting program, securing insightful speakers who will inform and challenge delegates. Sponsorship opportunities are now available to be a part of this exciting Conference, and provides the ideal opportunity for your business to align itself with one of the SA dairy industry’s most anticipated events.

We’d love you to be part of our annual showcase event, supporting the SA dairy industry. To find out more, please get in touch with DairySA’s Sponsorship Coordinator Kylie Boston on 0407 231 547 or email kylie@dairysa.com.au, or head to our Sponsorship Package at [http://bit.ly/18DSAESponsorship](http://bit.ly/18DSAESponsorship)

**Irrigation Innovations Tassie Tour: ‘Real Farms, Real Profits’**

Irrigators from all industries are invited to attend and learn how the ‘Smarter Irrigation for Profit’ project has improved productivity and profitability of pressurised irrigation on Tasmanian dairy farms.

This is an opportunity to experience first hand the irrigation technologies and innovations being developed by smarter irrigation and applied on farm by Tasmanian farmers. See how this dairy research project has drawn on the experiences of other industries nationally to achieve more profitable irrigation.

To register your interest, please contact DairySA’s Monique White on monique@dairysa.com.au or 0407 372 206. Get in early to secure your seat.

The ‘Irrigation Innovations Tassie Tour’ will visit four farms and the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultures Dairy Research Facility at Elliott to see the autonomous irrigation trial.
Making time to ‘Take Stock’ in the New Year

A new year is the perfect opportunity to take stock of your business by reviewing your current business position and creating a plan for the coming year.

The ‘Taking Stock’ dairy business assessment and support service – part of the ‘Tactics for Tight Times’ program – provides free support over the kitchen table or in the farm office with a trusted, skilled and trained advisor. Financial and physical data will be collected and discussed with the aim of clarifying your current status, current and potential issues, and what the next, most important decisions are for you.


Fleurieu farmers check on irrigated pasture efficiencies

Several Fleurieu Peninsula farmers are working with DairySA to record inputs, management and productivity of their irrigation pastures, to better understand the efficiencies and profitability of watering for out-of-season pasture feed in the region.

The group has selected a range of pasture types and irrigation systems over five sites, all under rotational grazing, and will ultimately calculate the costs of grass production over the full 2017/18 irrigation season. Interim results to date have focused on pasture growth and utilisation over the four month period October–December 2017.

A typical perennial ryegrass pasture under long-lateral irrigation at Mt Compass has grown at an average 46 kg/ha/day over the study period, with grazing cows consuming 5.4 tonnes DM/ha over that period. Interestingly, spring fertiliser applications were delayed until mid-November, but growth immediately jumped from 33 to 67 kg/ha/day after spreading.

In contrast, a first year tall fescue pasture on sandy soil under lateral irrigation at Nangkita grew an average 33 kg/ha/day, with cows consuming 2.9 t DM/ha. Importantly, irrigation start-up was delayed beyond the optimum time (for other operational reasons), with waterings only commencing on 2nd November. This delay obviously had a major impact on pasture growth here over the four months.

The other tall fescue-based study pasture was only sown in September, but with a centre pivot irrigator provided waterings from early October. This new fescue has established really well and averaged 42 kg/ha/day growth rates in the four months up to end December. But admittedly, the companion white clover in this pasture has contributed a lot to total yield.

To date, no grazing problems have been encountered on any of these three study pastures.

The farmer group and DairySA look forward to providing a comprehensive review of all study pastures and associated costs of production at the end of April. This work is being supported by DairySA, the SA Dairy Industry Fund and Natural Resources – Murray Darling Basin.

For more information please contact Jeremy Nelson, Natural Resources SA MDB, mobile: 0429 845 216

Keeping cows cool should be top of mind this summer

We are now into our third summer month and have been battling heat over the past few weeks. It’s a timely reminder that there are things we can do to ensure cows are kept cool to ensure their safety.

Probably the number one management issue for cows in hot weather is adequate supply of cool drinking water.

Remember cows will drink 150 litres per cows per day during hot weather (over 200 litres for high production cows). It is particularly important to ensure good quality stockwater supply as cows exit the dairy shed.

There are a range of strategies that can help dairy cows cope with hot weather spells:

1. Running sprinklers on the dairy yard. Running sprinklers prior to cows entering the yard to help dissipate the heat held in the concrete. Once the herd is held in the yard, a guideline is to run the sprinklers ON for 3 minutes then OFF for 8 minutes. Use sprinklers producing larger droplets rather than a fine mist.

2. Provide access to shade.

3. Allocate the best quality pasture to cows on hot days.

4. If paddock feed is limited, allocate grazing to the herd at night. Cows will be cooler then, and night grazing will fit with higher diurnal concentrations of water-soluble carbohydrates in the grass.

These and other strategies are detailed on the Cool Cows website: www.coolcows.com.au. Farmers can also use this website to subscribe to the Cool Cows weather alert service, whereby subscribers can receive hot weather stress alerts for their farm location.
‘Giving back’ a key driver to joining DairySA Board

Giving back to an industry that has “given so much” to them is the key driver for two dairyfarmers who have recently joined the DairySA Board. And with almost seventy years dairy industry knowledge between them, the Board will be in a strong position to maximise their experience.

Andrew Cavill (Bool Lagoon) and Michael Krichauff (Delamere) are passionate dairyfarmers who believed the time was right to return something to the industry that had given so much to them, joining the DairySA Board in late 2017.

“After dairying for 40 years, I felt it was time I gave something back to the industry,” said Andrew.

“Through that time you gain a whole lot of knowledge that is not much good to you when you finish farming, so I would like to put it to good use now,” he said.

The Cavills sharefarm ‘Corobinna’ at Bool Lagoon in the lower South East, milking 700 cows on 260 HA with 120 ha irrigation and a run off block of 320 ha with 85 ha irrigation.

One of Andrew’s key aims is to improve the amount of feed they produce on the farm to reduce the costs of buying it in.

Michael Krichauff runs a 250 cow Friesian herd on a mixed enterprise 1500ac farm (including beef and sheep) based in Delamere on the southern Fleurieu Peninsula. The Krichauff family has been on the property since it was cleared over 70 years ago, with each generation introducing a different enterprise – including a small Angus and Murray Grey beef herd – prior to the dairy being built in 1996.

“I have joined the DairySA Board to give back to an industry that I have gained so much from over the last 27 years,” Michael said.

The DairySA Board at a glance:

- There are eleven people on the Board
- 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 in between.

“I hope to contribute to the decision making process at the Board level and to have some input on where our funding money is spent,” he added.

In the short term, Michael would also like to see the dairy industry get a better understanding of the roles that both DairySA and SADA play, the differences between them and how farmers can leverage the most from each.

And it looks like the future of SA dairying is in safe hands, with Andrew Cavill’s passion for encouraging young people in the industry also being a key reason for joining the Board.

“I want to help make the pathways for young people in the dairy industry easier with better training and more opportunities, to help create a long and sustainable future in SA,” he said.