

July 2023

# Members Newsletter



## July is often a time of planning.

Whether it is about planning the year ahead or looking to make longer term decisions, we often find that now is the time. And while your thoughts are turning to "what's next" it is worth considering a couple of opportunities. The Australian Dairy Conference returned after its COVID hiatus in February this year. The 2023 event was a sell-out and met or exceeded all expectations. If you were keen on the future of our industry, it was a great place to be. We mention this because the 2024 version has now been (re)announced. You can read more about it below - well just say that if 2023 is anything to go by, and we think it is, the 2024 Australian Dairy Conference will be a good investment in our dairy business.

While we are talking of planning, SADA is partnering with Dairy SA and with funding through PIRSA and the Future Drought Fund to deliver a new round of Our Farm Our Plan. This program really is a great way to start or continue the journey of your farm. One of the great things about it is that it is tailored by you to suit your farm, your family and your farm colleagues. Talk to anyone at SADA or Dairy SA if you would like more detail.

It is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the passing of two dairy farmers in the past month. Both Bill and Scott will be sorely missed by their families, their colleagues and their communities. We extend our sympathies to Michelle, Paula and all impacted.

Please reach out at any time if you need assistance with succession planning, dealing with government officers, you or someone else's general mental health or if you just want to have a chat.

## ADC is pulling a 'Swiftly' - date change

There is only one place to be in February 2024 and that is Melbourne for the hottest and biggest events in town. Turns out international megastar Taylor Swift also wants to join in the fun. So, we have pulled a bit of a 'swiftly' ourselves and shuffled Australia's premier dairy event forward to the start of the week (Mon-Wed) to ensure you can absolutely immerse yourself in both events.

"This slight shuffle means you can totally devote all your attention to your dairy business and fit in Tay Tay at the end of the week"

Or depending which way you are aligned alternatively escape the city in time to avoid the forthcoming teenage invasion (wink!).

Our advice, lock your flights and accommodation in 'swiftly' before things really reach fever pitch as Taylor mania appears to be cranking up already and is seriously next level. Get on the front foot to avoid escalating prices. Book your accommodation now.

Discounted accommodation at Crown is offered for ADC delegates. Suggest you act now to avoid disappointment as things are heating up quick.

Rates are quickly escalating from as much as \$500 with a gang of 'Swifties' taking over Melbourne. Secure the Crown ADC rate below.

ADC has a hold on guest rooms at the Crown Promenade for February 2024. Stay on site and maximise your Conference experience.

Book your [ADC 2024 Melbourne accommodation](#) now.

**ADC** AUSTRALIAN DAIRY CONFERENCE

## Mindset of the dairy farmer

'Resilience whisperer'  
Dennis Hoiberg delves into the psychology of the dairy farmer. Can you have a life whilst Having a dairy business too? Dennis challenges us to reflect on our motivations and to remember milking cows is what we do - not who we are.



## Message from the Minister: Veterinary Services Bill

The new [Veterinary Services Bill](#) for South Australia has been introduced to Parliament.

The Bill has been developed following a review of the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* and further refined based on extensive stakeholder consultation. The Bill considers significant changes to the veterinary profession since this time, including changes in practice models and location, employment type, species serviced, and specialties offered, as well as an increase in mainstream non-veterinary care services.



Senator the Hon Murray Watt:  
Minister for  
Emergency  
Management

## Disaster management expert heads review of Disaster Governance

An Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements has been commissioned by Australia's emergency management ministers, to better prepare governments for the demands of increasing future natural disasters.

Due for completion by 30 November 2023, the Review has been commissioned to complement the [Independent Review into Commonwealth Disaster Funding](#), which is being led by Mr Andrew Colvin, APM OAM.



## National Statement on Climate Change and Agriculture

Commonwealth, state, and territory agriculture ministers met in Perth on Thursday 13 July 2023. Ministers endorsed the National Statement on Climate Change and Agriculture. An Australian first, the national statement demonstrates agriculture ministers' strong commitment to work in partnership with our agricultural sector to ensure it achieves its full potential as a world-leading, climate-smart producer and exporter of food and fibre.

[Full Statement here](#)

**The National Farmers' Federation (NFF)** has welcomed the National Statement on Climate Change and Agriculture, signed off by agriculture ministers at their meeting in Perth yesterday. Farmers have expressed concerns however over the proposed implementation of new poultry standards, and a lack of tangible progress on other issues placing pressure on the sector. NFF Vice President David Jochinke said it beggars belief there was silence on the phase out of sheep live export in the communique from yesterday's meeting held in the state set to lose the most from the ban. "The meeting being held in WA was an important opportunity for agriculture ministers to consider the impacts of the live export phase-out. "With formal consultation concluding recently we hope that ministers took the chance to reflect on the hardship the Federal Government's policy would inflict on producers in WA. "The NFF continues to call for a reversal of that policy as evidence mounts of the harm it will cause."

[Full Media Release here](#)



*Australian Dairy Industry Council Inc.*

## MEDIA RELEASE:

Wednesday, 12 July, 2023

Slow, steady approach welcomed by dairy in the free trade race. The Australian dairy industry has welcomed today's news that talks on the country's free trade deal with the European Union (EU) have stalled, sending a blunt message "no deal is better than a bad deal". Australian Dairy Industry Council chair, Rick Gladigau, thanked Australia's Trade Minister, Don Farrell, for holding the line and not accepting an inferior agreement without genuine market access concessions from the EU. "We're fully supportive of Minister Farrell's work," Mr Gladigau said. Throughout the negotiations, the European Union has sought to impose geographical indications (GIs) on Australian dairy manufacturers.

## Snapshot

The South Australian dairy industry produced **490 million litres** of milk in 2021-22 from more than **64,000 cows**, bringing more than **\$263 million in farm gate revenue**.

**South Australia's average milk volume produced per cow**

was the highest in the country in 2021-22.

The Limestone Coast alone produces about

**300 million litres** of milk a year

**60%** of the total produced in SA annually

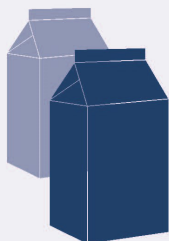
**Milk products**

## Major export markets and products

### Milk and milk products

**490 million** litres of milk produced in 2021-22

Around **40%** is sold as fresh drinking milk, the remainder is made into cheese, milk powder, yoghurt, butter and other products.



**25,000** tonnes of milk products are exported each year.

**Top countries for exported milk and milk products:**

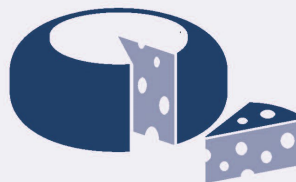
Indonesia \$45m  
China \$20m  
Thailand \$14m

### Cheese

High value niche products and specialty cheeses are becoming more popular in South Australia.

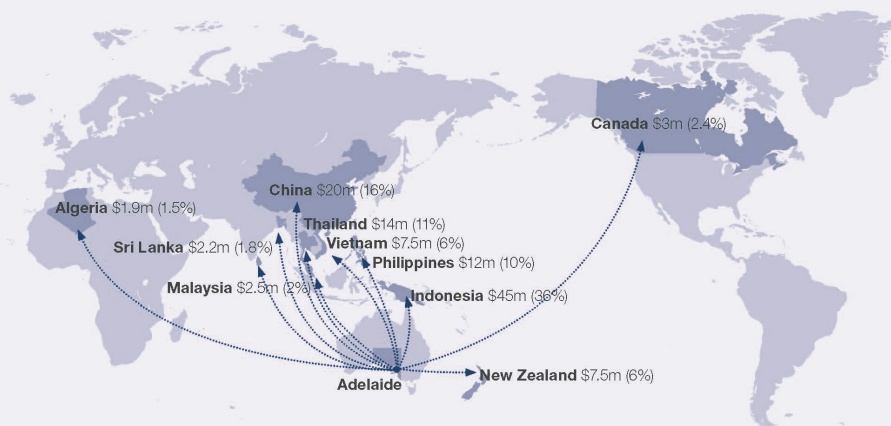
**10,000** tonnes produced each year

**5,000** tonnes of cheese exported in 2021-22

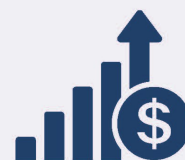


**Top countries for exported cheese and cheese products:**

Philippines \$12m  
Thailand \$6m  
China \$3m



**Internationally recognised food safety record**



**\$263 million** in farm gate revenue in 2021-22.

Dairy exports totalled

**\$124m** in 2021-22.



www.pir.sa.gov.au  
Copyright © March 2023  
Source: PIRSA Primary Industries Scorecard 2021-22

## New registration manual will help dairy exporters meet their import and export requirements

Dairy Exports Assurance Program (DEAP) have released the [Dairy Export Registration Manual](#). The Dairy industry now has new and improved access to key information to help manufacturers and exporters to:

- better understand their obligations for becoming export registered, and
- meet exporting and importing country requirements.



The manual is broken down into sections and presented in a user-friendly way, so those new to export can easily absorb the information and navigate through the process. The manual includes the Elements of an Approved Arrangement such as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), pest control, pasteurisation and more.

The dairy export registration manual, developed in partnership with Dairy Australia, is one of a number of projects under the [Dairy Exports Assurance Program \(DEAP\)](#).

Developing more targeted resources and designing training and learning packages to address gaps in knowledge and capability is part of the modernising of the dairy export process through DEAP.

DEAP also introduced a free export facilitator service in February 2021. Our [export facilitators](#) can provide technical information and assistance to dairy manufacturers who are looking to become export registered, and also assist registered processors and manufacturers looking for new opportunities in global markets.

Explore the Dairy Export Regulation Manual here: [www.dairyexport.au](http://www.dairyexport.au)

If all this is too much, give John a call at the SADA Office and he'll gladly talk you through it.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

SA Dairy Awards - 4 August  
South Australian Veterinary Expo - 9 Aug  
Gawler Show - 27 Aug  
Royal Adelaide Show - SADA Bbq - 5 Sept





## Ecoplas Australia

was started in 2020, shortly after watching the ABC TV show "War on

Waste", which struck a chord with us. Our mission is to help build a sustainable future by producing quality rural fencing products from locally recycled plastic waste. Our vision is that all rural fencing installations considers Ecoplas recycled plastic fence droppers as an option, with a goal of recycling more than 100 tons of plastic waste per year. We consider ourselves to be a sustainable fencing solution that supports the circular economy by converting an industries waste to a product that can be used again in that same industry. We use 100% locally recycled plastic waste from South Australia and Victoria. The main sources of our plastics are **Milk bottles** and **Bottle lids**. These are granulated and blended with a master-batch containing 2% UV stabiliser to ensure the final product stand up to the harsh Australian weather.

This gives our product it's black colour.

We have setup a facility with state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment. We have 2 extruder lines, which allows us to meet customer demands promptly. The products: Droppers and Battens, are continually measured and weighed prior to a final visual inspection during stacking and wrapping. This ensures that the final product meets our strict quality standards.

There are many benefits to our products, including durability, with a life expectancy of more than 40 years, they are easily recyclable and perfect for use with electric fences. The feature that interests most of our customers however is the very competitive pricing, which makes our products more cost-effective option than most other fencing droppers.

If you'd like to support us, please consider our products in your next fencing project. We are approved suppliers to most rural retailing chains, so please enquire through your local store, ask them to stock ECOPLAS droppers and battens.



### Australian Farmers campaign

The NFF-led social media campaign to connect city dwellers with farmers and better value the work that goes into producing food has reached hundreds of thousands. In week two of the [Australian Farmers](#) branded campaign, Australians learnt it takes 10 litres of milk to make 1 kilogram of cheese, so they should think twice before throwing out leftovers from last night's dinner party. Viewers [met dairy farmers from NSW](#) and were given tips from culinary experts at Cornersmith on how to store cheese, plus a [mac n cheese recipe](#) to help with cost of living woes. Keep an eye on Australian Farmers socials ([Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [TikTok](#)) and please help share the message.

### Regional Capability Community Fund (RCCF)

The RCCF supports South Australian landholders to better equip themselves (in line with the CFS FFU Handbook) to safely respond to fire emergencies. The fund will reimburse approved purchases or a portion of a purchase from \$200 to \$3,000 (including GST). This will allow for the purchase of smaller items such as good quality first aid kits and UHF radios, but also a significant portion of a new farm fire-fighting unit e.g., pump, water tank etc. For further information about the RCCF program, including program guidelines, key dates, and FAQs, please visit the CFS website <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/farms> Applications for Round 2 Close 5pm on Friday 4 August 2023.

**Did you miss any of our updates?**



**Industrial relations changes are to occur on the first pay period commencing on or after 1 July 2023. Full Award Rates can be downloaded here**





## Applications open for 2024 Rabobank Australian graduate program – offering career opportunities with agri leader.

[Full Program Details Here](#)

University graduates who have “a passion for and interest in agriculture” are being offered the opportunity to begin their careers with Rabobank, with the opening of the specialist agribusiness bank’s 2024 graduate program.

Rabobank is offering places for graduates from around Australia to join the bank early next year, beginning with a formal 18-month graduate program, which kicks off in February

2024. Applications for the program open today. The world’s leading specialist food and agribusiness bank, Rabobank is one of Australia’s largest agricultural lenders and a major provider of business and corporate banking services to the country’s food and agribusiness sector.



### The Dairysafe farm business continuity tool consists of 2 parts:

1. The first, is a farm business overview – complete the dropdown boxes
2. Next is a set of 8 questions and associated context statements relating to milk safety and quality. Context statements are provided to assist you with the intent of each question

From there, you are provided with a report detailing:

1. A matrix illustrating your business risk exposure and business maturity – maturity is categorised as opportunistic, managed and optimised

2. A summary of your answers and potential opportunities for improvement

Your results are for your use and there is no requirement to share them with anyone, including Dairysafe. The tool is provided to assist you with considering some aspects that may help you make your farm less vulnerable to business continuity breakdowns.

[Don’t stop here!](#)

This isn’t a set and forget tool. You can go back and change an answer, you can come back at a later date to check your progress. The ongoing aim is to know where your farm business is exposed to business continuity breakdown and knowing where to access tools and people that can assist your business.



After an overwhelming response to our annual Dairy Awards nominations, we are so proud to be announcing the winners at the upcoming Gala on Friday 4 August. Please join us for a great night of celebrating Dairy in our great state.



### WOMEN OF THE LMRIA COMMUNITY : TOGETHER

*a purposefully curated community event for the women of the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Areas*

#### COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT

& GUEST SPEAKERS: YORKE PENINSULA’S KATE MARTIN & BEC SMITH  
“STORIES OF STRENGTH & HEARTBREAK”

MONDAY, 7TH AUGUST

9.30 - 11.30AM

1924 RIVERFRONT STEAKHOUSE  
1 WHARF ROAD, MURRAY BRIDGE

Children are welcome.

RSVP FOR CATERING PURPOSES TO ALEXANDRA WESTLAKE (OF LONG FLAT)  
womenofthelmria@gmail.com

This Project is being delivered in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions. It is jointly funded by the South Australian and Australian Governments under the National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



### Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

### AMAZON GAMBLES ON SEAWEED FARMING FOR CARBON CAPTURE

The promise of seaweed to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has inspired Amazon to throw €1.5 million (A\$2.4 million) behind a project to farm seaweed between wind turbines in the North Sea. The project will test the viability of utilising the space between turbines in this manner, as well as research the potential of using seaweed for carbon capture. The 10-hectare seaweed farm is expected to produce at least six tonnes of seaweed in its first year.

[Read more here.](#)



# Around the grounds

- SADA met with the EPA on a member's farm to finalise the details of an interim effluent management plan. The EPA has, as a result of greater number of complaints, insisted on particular models being developed in accordance with specific tools. SADA has sought to be included in training for the use of the tool and has successfully negotiated directly with a provider to deliver the course so SADA can continue to deliver this important service to its members.
- Robert and Andrew attended ADF National Council meeting which was held virtually. Key matters for discussion were the proposed acquisition by Coles of selected Saputo processing facilities, and Modernising Agricultural Levies Survey.
- Andrew attended (on Robert's behalf) the Q4 PPSA Council Meeting where key matters for discussion included PPSA Carbon Farming Policy, Spray drift/chemical trespass action plan, forecast New Biodiversity Act (SA), DAWE National Farm Safety Education Fund: Improving Farm Safety Practices, and NFF Regional Forum – South Australia, Friday 7 July 2023
- Andrew and Elf met with Woolworths, Datahash, the Fleurieu Milk Company, Inspira and a number of other interested parties to begin to map out the National Traceability Trial. SADA has the role of project coordinator with its partner Datahash to deliver this half million dollar trial. SADA is being recognised as a national leader in this space and the work being done by SADA is being closely watched by increasing numbers of interested supply chain parties.
- Andrew continued visiting dewatering sites across the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Areas (LMRIA). It is great to see the progress that has been made in many of these areas although there remains much to be done before they are "back to normal".
- Alison continued to ensure the team remained focus and active.
- Andrew attended the Agribusiness, Food and Wine/Beverages Industry Skills Coun-

cil Meeting. Topic discussed included the Renewal SA – Regional Housing Authority program, School to Work (Foundation Skills Research) and future developments within Skills SA.

- Andrew met to discuss and plan for an EAD event with officers from PIRSA, Dairy Australia, Dairy Safe and Dairy SA. Further discussions are planned with a view to enabling the continued operation of the milk supply chain in the event of an outbreak.
- Elf met with a processor regarding contracting issues. Matter related to ACCC compliance with the Dairy Industry Code.
- Elf met with a farmer who signed up to be a new SADA member as a result of the meeting. SADA welcomes Nick Mignanelli to the SADA fold.
- Elf took the necessary steps to inquire into and to secure the Effluent Management Design Course which is slated to occur in July. This course will enable SADA to develop effluent management plans for dairy farmers in South Australia.
- Andrew met with officers from Dairy Australia to discuss Murray Darling Basin policy, Farm Biosecurity, Risk Management and Sustainability

## SPEAK TO SOMEONE

For a full list of resources, visit the Dairy Australia Page [here](#)



National Centre for Farmer Health -

[www.farmerhealth.org.au](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au)

Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health

[www.crrmh.com.au](http://www.crrmh.com.au)

Rural Financial Counselling Service - 1800

686 175 - [www.agriculture.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.gov.au)

Lifeline - 13 11 14 - [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

Beyondblue - 1300 224 636 -

[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

Black Dog Institute -

[www.blackdoginstitute.org.au](http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au)

Headspace - 1800 650 890 -

[headspace.org.au](http://headspace.org.au)

I Farm Well - [www.ifarmwell.com.au](http://www.ifarmwell.com.au)



January 1950

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Minister of Agriculture had forwarded the

Association a copy of report of a deputation, consisting of 8 Wholesalers, in connection with Equalisation.

Mr. Elliott said the present trouble and dissatisfaction in equalisation has been brought about by manufacturing wholesalers paying a bonus to their producers from the profits of their manufactured products, whereas the non-manufacturing wholesalers were unable to pay a bonus as they did not have surplus milk for manufacture.

Thus, there was a cleavage between the two classes of wholesale milk buyers, i.e. the manufacturer and the non-manufacturer, particularly as the latter was afraid he would lose his producers owing to his inability to pay a bonus.

Mr. Gormlie said, as far as he could see, there were only two alternatives:- 1. Can the Milk Board be persuaded to alter the price for accommodation milk or 2. Raise the Agreement Bonus.

After a long discussion it was resolved." That the Association definitely supports equalisation in its present form and a deputation be appointed to wait on the Minister of Agriculture."