

Members Newsletter



From the President

Robert Brokenshire

As I write this report it is raining heavily across much of our state hopefully most of you have your silage and hay finished and if you are growing grain hoping there is not too much downgrade, Farmers are reporting cut downs by up to half of last year due to the dry spring but on a positive, quality has been good. We will all need to plan our fodder strategy carefully this year and if you need **additional fodder** SADA would be happy to hear from you as through our network we may be able to help you.

Last month we saw the celebration of 10 years of **SADA Fresh** milk sales, where we have seen \$2.1million invested into our state industry including programs and seeding money for a traceability trial, Cows create careers, mental well being program, support for a pasture program and national advocacy are just a few. The SADIF Committee keep a strong reserve of money for worthwhile grants, so if you are in a **discussion group** that has a project you would like to pursue, contact our SADA office. In this edition I requested an article from DairySafe re the sale of raw milk as there are more people visiting dairies

hoping to **buy raw milk** and I thought it important that the rules/laws are understood.

At present there are three **Water Allocation Plans** under evaluation review, Limestone Coast, Eastern Mt.Lofty Ranges and Western Mt.Lofty Ranges if you need assistance in putting in a submission or more information please contact our SADA office.

A lot happens each month in SADA regarding advocacy, meetings with Members of Parliament and Government Ministers as well as helping individual members, this month has been full on and we are doing what we can to gain for our Farmer Members.

As I have mentioned before the EPA are reviewing their dairy effluent management code presently and it should be ready to publicly release the new code in the first part of 2024, SADA have a professional relationship with them and will be able to make comment on the review, the first principal of the intent of the code is that all dairy effluent and its disposal must be retained on your property. SADA has invested money into a **Dairy Effluent Management** course for John Elferink from our

The 2023 AGM for the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association will be held on Wednesday 20 December at 10am via Zoom. REGISTER HERE

office he will be accredited soon and if you need any assistance please contact him.

Everyone should have received some notification from PIRSA regarding the **BJD Program**, thank you to all those that have responded with permission for SADA to take on the management of this program, for those still getting around to your official permission response please do so immediately. SADA will be in contact shortly with further communications and operations of the program.

As we are quickly approaching Christmas I trust all is going well on your farm however I will continue to remind members if you have any concerns we are more than happy to help and have vast networks and an experienced staff, so at anytime please contact our office, your local board member or myself Robert Brokenshire on 0419 815 990.

Important Dates for 2024



Message
from
ADF President



Friday 24 November 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

ADF AGM results and vote for President next week

ADF's post-AGM Board and National Council meeting have decided to defer its Presidential election by a week to next Friday 1 December.

ADF President Rick Gladigau said the decision was made to postpone the vote for President in order to allow Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) and United Dairyfarmers of Victoria (UDV) more time to decide whether to appoint new representatives to ADF's National Council.

"VFF has written to ADF removing previous State Representative members on ADF National Council – and we await the nomination of VFF/UDV's new representatives. "We understand VFF/UDV is going through a time of change having only just appointed a new UDV council themselves, and the ADF Board and National Council thought it appropriate to allow a few extra days to enable these UDV nominations to occur. He said it was a decision for the State Members of ADF, in this case VFF/UDV, to nominate who represents them on ADF's National Council.

Mr Gladigau said that the nation's peak dairy representative body continues with the business of advocating for dairy farmers as they move through the process of electing a President. . . [more](#)



Dairy Australia [Full Media Release here](#)

2024

The Power of Purpose: ADC 2024

Here it is.... your 2024 ADC Program. Global dairy influencers are back center stage at ADC 2024 Melbourne as the return of international keynotes drives a new realm of opportunity and possibilities for Australian dairy farmers.

Programming Chair Michael Rood aka 'Roody' said the focus of the program for this year was '**The Power of Purpose**' challenging every Australian dairy farmer to find their purpose and inspiration for what they do.

"There is an underlying tone for ADC 2024 of getting comfortable with the uncomfortable and how we can make true change and impact by challenging ourselves and defining what we really want to achieve," he said.

"Dairying in today's climate we need to be able to dairy beyond the comfort zone for businesses to grow and prosper and importantly also for our mindset and belief," he said.

Early bird registrations are now open. Save \$100 on full farmer registration (\$770) and save even further for subsequent farmer registrations from the same farm at \$660. ADC 2024 is shaping up to be the one dairy event you do not want to miss.



MLA [Full Media Release here](#)



More data, better payphones, less stress: how we're supporting you this disaster season

We know better than anyone that connectivity during disasters is critical. We have been investing in our networks to make them more resilient, as well as coming up with new ways to get people connected if damage to our network occurs.

<https://www.telstra.com.au/exchange/disaster-season-upgrades-2023>

Some specific SA initiatives include:

- More than 150 payphones in SA are among 1,000 across the nation being upgraded with free Telstra Wi-Fi, USB charging ports and back-up power to help keep communities connected during a natural disaster.
- 14 new trailer-mounted, high-powered generators are being rolled out to key parts of SA this summer, as part of a multi-million-dollar co-investment under the Federal Government's Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) program. Generator locations: Kadina, Roxby Downs, Whyalla, Kingscote, Murray Bridge, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Clare, Berri, Kingston SE, Bordertown and Naracoorte
- 12 Telstra network sites in SA are among 250 nationally to be upgraded with Automatic Transfer Units (ATUs) - new technology that allows local authorities to hook up portable generators to exchanges and mobile base stations during a power outage. Some sites include Nelson, OB Flat, Mt Schank and Port Macdonnell.

SADA has spent much of this year working across many policy and advocacy areas affecting all dairies across our great state. Without your membership support this would not be possible. Please ensure that your membership and supplier details are current and up to date.



Don't Risk Selling Raw Cow's Milk

Selling unpasteurised raw cow's milk from the farm to an individual is illegal unless that individual is accredited by Dairysafe.

Food safety regulations and compliance systems have played a significant role in ensuring the safety of the food we consume in South Australia and across the country. The critical step in protecting consumers when it comes to raw milk is pasteurisation.

However, dairy farmers are receiving enquiries about obtaining raw cow's milk, possibly due to Australia's diverse population. How farmers respond to such enquiries could have significant consequences on the reputation of South Australia's dairy industry and the health of consumers.

Is the sale of raw cow's milk allowed?

- It is illegal to sell raw cow's milk for human consumption anywhere in Australia.
- This position follows two extensive studies conducted by the national food standards setting authority Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), where the conclusion was that raw cow's milk is an unsafe product and therefore should not be authorised for sale in Australia. [Visit](#) for further information.

What are the potential penalties relating to the production and sale of raw cow's milk?

Penalties of up to \$20,000 under the *Primary Produce (Food Safety Schemes) Act 2004* can apply, as well as loss of dairy farmer accreditation.

Why is raw cow's milk regarded as unsafe and why does distributing raw cow's milk increase the risk?

- Raw cow's milk has a higher risk of containing pathogens that can cause illness and, unlike pasteurised milk, is not treated to render it safe for consumption.
- A wide variety of organisms (pathogens) that can lead to illness can be found in raw milk including *Campylobacter*, *Listeria* and *Salmonella* along with the toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (e.g. *coli*).
- Health complications from bacteria that can contaminate raw milk can be severe including the haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS), which can result in renal failure and death.
- People with increased vulnerability to diseases caused by these bacteria include young children, elderly people, people with compromised immune systems and pregnant women and their fetuses.
- There are many examples of people becoming seriously ill from the consumption of raw milk. Sadly a child

died in December 2014 in Victoria after drinking raw milk sold as 'bath milk'.

- There is no way of telling by taste, sight or smell that raw milk contains harmful bacteria.
- For raw cow's drinking milk, even extremely good hygiene procedures won't ensure dangerous pathogens aren't present.

The South Australian (and Australian) system of ensuring food safety in the milk industry

- Accreditation of a dairy farm requires that all milk be delivered to an accredited dairy processor. Accredited dairy processors are required to pasteurise all milk and most milk products. Pasteurisation of milk is the most effective step in controlling pathogens which may enter the milk at any point from the cow through to processed products.
- Food safety is critical for all food products and everyone involved in dairy production, from farm to retail, takes their responsibilities very seriously.



In response to recent floods, resolutions were carried at a meeting of govt delegates and owners of swamps on the River Murray. First being appointment of M.R. Gillespie a competent officer to solely advise settlers on replanting swamps during the period of flood, and the General Secretary also arrange to see the Minister of Agriculture in regards to the same matter.

Minister of Irrigation: Regarding the rent and water rates on the reclaimed areas of the River Murray, the Minister in his letter advised there is no power under the Irrigation Act to waive these charges as questioned. If they are not paid they become a charge on the land. The matter has however received some consideration and the decision reached in regards to the restricted powers embodied in the irrigation Act 1930-1940 and those granted to the Flood Relief Committee; if the lessee merely requires an extension of time in which to pay, an application could be lodged with the Department for consideration .

On the question of water leases, it has been decided to defer sending quarterly accounts to the lessees until the areas have been de-watered, when the question of how the charges are to be met will be further considered.



- SADA hosted its annual Cocktail event with state politicians during their dinner recess on one of the last parliament sitting weeks for the year. Some great engagement with Minister Scriven and Shadow Minister Centafanti and with with Shadow Premier in attendance as well.
- Andrew attended You, me, and the future of brie: Getting the balance right for a sustainable diet at Dairy Australia
- The Board held their November Board Meeting, topics of discussion included Water Allocation Plans, MDB Plan and legislation before the federal parliament, Workforce and Education, Virtual Fencing, Effluent Management Plans, ADF and PPSA Update. If any of these topics are front of mind for you, give us a call and we would be happy to discuss further.
- Andrew attended the State Climate Change Risk Assessment for South Australia Multi-sector Regional Fact-finding Workshop. A Full brief can be found [here](#)
- Andrew and Alison met with Kelly Ann from RDA Adelaide to discuss dairy industry developments and opportunities for collaboration.

Projects

- Elf Attended a Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry meeting regarding the management traceability grants and reporting requirements of the department with a number of having been issued to meeting participants of which SADA is one. SADA must file a first stage acquittal during the course of this month.
- Elf attended the GS1 NGTAG (National GS1 Traceability Advisory Group) session to discuss progress in traceability technology nationally.
- Andrew and Lachie continued discussion with SARDI on the Virtual Fencing project with a visit to Andrew Cavill dairy near Naracoorte to discuss the trial at Struan, and met with officers from SARDI and Dairy Australia to discuss Virtual Fencing and an emerging R&D project.
- Andrew met with Melissa from Dairy SA and Dairy Australia officers to discuss development of the Our Farm Our Plan program in South Australia

Workforce / Education

- Andrew and Alison had a number of meetings with Cheese makers, trainers and officers from the French Embassy to discuss training in dairy production and processing.
- Andrew and Elf met with Minister Scriven at Fleurieu Milk Company to present the Centre of Excellence concept
- Elf and Alison attended the Dairy SA session in Mount Gambier focused on employment laws in a session lead by Chas Cini. Followed by a visit to a farm in Meningie to assess their Effluent Management.
- Alison attended a meeting with TAFE and Dairy SA with a few River and Lakes Farmers running trainee programs on farm.
- The ADF People and Capabilities PAG Meeting to discuss Pastoral Award levels under ASNZCO ratings with discussions around reconfiguring or abolishing FLH1.
- Andrew attended the joint end-of-year meeting for all members of the SA Skills Commission's Industry Skills Councils, with the Hon Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Education, Training and Skills and Sharan Burrow the Former General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (2010-2022) and will be discussing best practice approaches to apprentice and trainee safety.

Water

- Andrew attended a Stakeholder Consultation session on program design for Basin Plan water recovery.
- Elf attended the Stakeholder consultation session on Basin Plan water recovery program design in Murray Bridge
- Andrew attended the ADF Water Policy meeting discussion MDB Plan progress and the Water Bill before the federal parliament.
- Andrew participated in a PIRSA led review of the dewatering operations that are soon to conclude on the Lower Murray following the flooding that occurred in January.

WFI SADA Partnership

If you take out a policy with WFI, SADA receives a commission from WFI of 7.5% of the policy premium. Make sure when your next speaking with WFI that you mention your a SADA Member to get the discounts.



Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



Use of methane-reducing feed additive expands

The largest US dairy co-operative is set to start pilot testing the methane-reducing feed additive Bovaer, funded by the USDA. The additive's use is expanding in Australia too, with Coles reaching a deal with Bovaer's manufacturer, dsm-firmenich, to reimburse suppliers for its cost. Reducing GHG emissions intensity (30% by 2030 from a 2015 baseline) is a goal of the [Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework](#).

DA wins global award for Farm Environmental Tracker

Dairy Australia won an International Dairy Federation (IDF) award for its Farm Environmental Tracker at the IDF Dairy Innovations Awards 2023. The tracker helps Australian dairy farmers assess and measure their farm's performance and identify improvements, exemplifying industry efforts to progressing Commitment 4 of the Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework: reducing environmental impact.

[Read more on The Countryman.](#)

Milk quality awards reward top dairy farmers

Dairy farmers have been recognised in the 2023 Australian Milk Quality Awards. The awards celebrate farmers who produce the country's best milk based on Bulk Milk Cell Count (BMCC) data. Dairy Australia's National Lead for Animal Health and Fertility, Dr Zoe Vogels, said the awards were part of Dairy Australia's commitment to help farmers support their herd health and milk quality: "the whole dairy industry benefits from high quality milk". [Read more on the Dairy Australia website.](#)

Having recently submitted a final report to the South Australian government on the **Developing primary industries project** – and with Primary Producers SA celebrating 10 years in 2023 – it is pertinent to reflect on the transformation of PPSA and look ahead to the future.

[Read Final Project here](#)

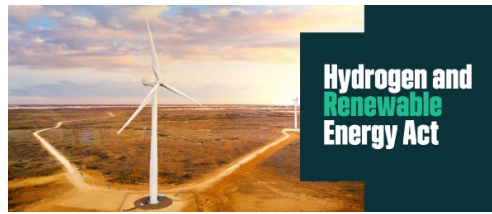
A few recent stories from PPSA;

- NFF recently launched their Keep Farmers Farming Campaign - [more here](#)
- 3G closure in 2024: your questions answered - [FAQ Here](#)
- The new On Farm Connectivity Information Service - [It's free](#)

The statutory review of the **Regional Investment Corporation** (RIC) has been announced and public submissions are now being accepted until 22 December.

The press release states: *"This is the chance for farmers, business owners and other stakeholders to provide feedback on the RIC's products and effectiveness, and what the RIC's functions and governance arrangements should be into the future."* Given past frustrations of broadacre farmers accessing loans, it may be worth members having [YourSAy](#) on direct experience in applying/accessing RIC products.

PPSA announces the opening of the **2024 Scholarships** provided by the E.W. Stevens Trust to help students from regional South Australia who are in difficult financial circumstances continue their studies. Funds from the Trust can be used to provide essential school resources such as IT equipment, uniforms or travel costs. The Trust provides scholarships of up to \$5000 of eligible costs for any one applicant in any one year. [Apply here.](#)



The world-first Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Bill 2023 has passed the South Australian parliament.

This historic piece of legislation is set to open up global investment into the state's hydrogen and renewable energy industries, solidifying the state's position as a world leader in the global energy transition.

The *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* will streamline the process for companies to invest in these industries, while ensuring that projects are carried out in ways that protect the social, economic and environmental needs of the state.

This is a significant milestone, but the work doesn't end here.

We will continue to work to establish associated regulations for the Act and to identify the release areas for competitive tender.

To find out more about the Act, including future opportunities to have your say, visit the [DEM website](#).



How to break down the barriers to carbon farming

In findings that could have a profound impact on the understanding of how farmers approach carbon management, research funded by AgriFutures Australia has found they are less motivated by the allure of carbon credits than the improvement to farm productivity that comes from increasing soil organic carbon. . . . [More](#)

Six innovations set to change the future of farming

Investment in research and development is sowing the seeds of a bright new future for Australia's agricultural sector. Here's a quick look at six agtech innovations that could change the way we farm in the years to come. . . . [More](#)



SADA Fresh is celebrating 10 years

The ground-breaking milk brand was launched by the South Australian Dairy-farmers' Association (SADA) in October 2013 to help secure the future of the State's dairy farmers and their industry. SADA was the first dairy industry association in Australia to launch its own brand, and the response from consumers has been overwhelming and sales continue to grow. Starting with a little over 1.1 million litres sold in 2014 to more than double that in 2023. We have enjoyed sharing this great story across the state and across the border, we hope you got the opportunity to also share how great the dairy industry is in our State.

