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SADA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020

As the world, the country, the state and the industry quite rightly focus on Corona Virus, we are happy to report that there are some other things happening.

Following the SA Dairy Summit in November 2019 a number of actions were identified. Although the Coronavirus pandemic has slowed some of the actions that we were working on, we are able to report the following progress on actions:

DIAA SA

Over the next 3 years processors will need at least 200 million litres of milk.

We hope this gives hope to farmers to keep in business and that it will strengthen the relationship between farmers and processors.

EDUCATION

SADA spoke to TAFE SA about the possibility of developing a Certificate III in Food Processing (Dairy Processing). This would be the first of its kind in Australia to focus mainly on dairy processing and would enable graduates of the course to have the necessary skills to enter the workforce (which would save time, money and training on the processors part).

In addition to the dairy processing course we would also like to implement a number of "Dairy Value Adding Courses" focusing on Cheese Making (already in place), Ice Cream/Gelato Making, Butter Making and Yoghurt Making.

SADA has spoken with Skilling SA as well as Foundation Skills about the possibility of creating "Pre-Apprenticeship Courses" to provide

basic skills. These short courses will still have accredited modules (which can then be use as recognition of prior learning if willing to undertake the certificate) but will not take the same time length and study load of the full course. We hope that this makes people more employable in the future.

DairySafe is also looking at education courses (either separate or combined with the processing course). Information is available at www.dairy-safe.com.au.

TRACEABILITY

SADA applied for the Department of Agriculture's Traceability Grant Program.

This grant should enable us to improve upon the traceability in the dairy supply chain and build on the 'one step forward, one step back' method currently in place.

This would also introduce quality assurance measures that would have to be compliant with ISO 22005:2007.

We have DIAA and Dairy Safe backing this project proposal.

The team at SADA remain available and here to help.
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Staying Informed and Healthy

As a valued member of ours we hope that you and your business are coping with

the strains and uncertainties imposed on you by COVID-19 (coronavirus).

As your respected voice in the Dairy industry we are here to help you. Being part of an Australia-wide family network of dairy farmers means that we have in place contingency plans to ensure that we will be able to meet all your needs without delay.

In this issue

- COVID19 Update
- Action Plan Update
- Traceability
- Staying Healthy
- Conditions in the Basin
- Advance Ag
- Dairy Cattle Competition
- Members Survey
- Water Allocations

Independent Assessment of Social and Economic conditions in the Basin

SADA has made a submission to the Independent Panel of Social and Economic Conditions in the Basin.

SADA expressed its concurrence with the NFF and ADIC submissions to the Panel.

SADA agreed with the Panel's observations that there were unintended consequences of the Murray Darling Basin (MDB) plan which had affected regions unequally, particularly to the detriment of the Goulburn Murray Irrigation Districts (GMID) and the Barmah Choke. As the Panel has indicated in this region the impacts have been exacerbated by, firstly the unbundling of water, and secondly, uneven commodity prices which encouraged buybacks in the MDB plan and recent drought, adding to the price of water.

However, in the Panel's review, on-farm efficiency projects were given credit early but then largely discredited later in the discussion paper.

SADA believes there should be a section in the review that highlights the benefits of these projects not least of which is a statement acknowledging that the efficiency gains thus far, have in many instances, resulted in increased productivity and profitability.

SADA believes that if the community aren't appraised of the importance of the 450GL then it is likely they would not be interested in the on-farm efficiency programs, as some water is given to the environment which is perceived, albeit incorrectly, as a loss to agriculture.

At the core of SADA's observations is

that at present the 450 GL will still need to be found and it is at very best a remote possibility that there will be another pathway. If it needs to be found, then on-farm efficiency projects that pass the socio-economic neutrality test will be a vital method for irrigators to find water.

SADA is of the firm opinion that a pathway can be found for the benefit of all participants in the MDB. As the Panel observes, efficiency projects can be of great benefit to the profitability of the irrigators that use them. Opportunities are open to all irrigators and no one need miss out.



Funding for on-farm efficiency projects is vital to the plan. Some will want to join but others will not.

The benefits of the program should be open and assertively promoted to all irrigators in the MDB. This will enable irrigators to determine where these projects, (that pass the socio-economic neutrality test), will fit into their businesses.

Disappointingly, there is a fair amount of pressure in some regions not to participate.

SADA believes these water savings must also be pursued in the form of off-farm efficiencies as an important component of the plan.

Many SA dairy farmers have participated in on-farm efficiency projects over the past years.

Some farmers approached these projects with apprehension at first, but later came on board in second and third rounds. This often occurred after farmers observed neighbouring farms and project outcomes. Initially, having been wary of the outcomes in the first place, the merits of these projects became increasingly irresistible.

These farmers can, and do, vouch for the benefits of these projects to their businesses. Some dairy farmers are

now applying for a third time. Many irrigators in the Riverland region have had similar experiences. As noted from your review they have had benefits throughout the basin.

The difficulty is that at present the 450GL is linked to the 605GL offsets in the Water Act, so if one part is removed it will re-

move the other, reverting back to a 2,750 GL plan.

If the water is then not found, farmers are then confronted with the reality of it being recovered through further buy backs.

Buy backs represent a cheaper way of finding the water, but as outlined in the Panel's review, that leads to unintended and uneven consequences across the regions.

If you wish to see the whole submission please contact John Elferink at john@sada.asn.au or give John a call on 8293 2399

Adopting AgTech in SA

The Advance AgTech event was opened by the Hon Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia who highlighted the importance of using and adopting technology into all aspects of agriculture.

The Keynote Speaker for the event – Dr Astorre Modena – talked about how the adoption of technology in Israel has not only helped make their agriculture more productive, increased the size and variety of exporting material but has helped other sectors such as engineering and health.

Darren Thomas from Thomas Foods International (TFI) gave an insight to the progress of their new meat processing facility using technology. He quoted that “we will be able to process 10 whole carcasses in about a minute” showing the efficiency of technology. He also discussed their implementation of Blockchain traceability systems for all their products, which is similar to what we would like to achieve in the dairy industry. Further he stated that TFI’s main goals were to:

- Optimise the supply chain for profitability
- Highlight animal welfare standards
- Premiumisation of products

The next sessions of the day were small group presentations focusing on three main streams being Farm Management, Remote Sensing and IoT Devices.

Ashleigh attended the Smart yards and virtual fencing talk presented by

Jason Chaffey (CEO Agersens and eShepherd). This was quite interesting seeing how audio and pulse technology can be used to fence cattle and herd if they do manage to escape. Unfortunately, due to the animal welfare regulations in SA this technology is not able to be used here at the moment. Hopefully with more field trials and a change in regulation this technology will be able to be implemented.

The water management for livestock session highlighted the use of “Farmbot” in monitoring and managing water movement and levels. This piece of tech provides precise information to farmers about multiple water sources as well as extreme changes so that farmers can move livestock

according to water levels.

Another interesting talk was about automatic milking systems through Lely Australia. Joshua Clark, a Dairy Farmer from the South East of SA spoke as a user of this technology in his own herd, highlighting the ease of use and reduced amount of labor that was needed to milk cattle. He also stated that he was expecting an increase in production as cattle were “happier” and could be milked when they were ready to. It would be great to see more of this technology implemented onto farms.

The afternoon session talked about the integration of AgTech in emergency situations. One of the main limiting factors talked about was how to use the tech if they were damaged or lost reception. This would present some real challenges and highlighted the developments that are still required in using tech in agriculture. The event was closed by the Hon Tim Whetstone MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development SA who also talked about the importance of AgTech.

Follow this link for video of all sessions, which will be uploaded in due course.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLz96-ojBATRf-5wInXtAJBK0eMIQx4vs>

If you wish to discuss AgTech please give Ash a call at SADA Phone: 8293 2399 or email Ashleigh@sada.asn.au



royal adelaide
SHOW

DAIRY CATTLE COMPETITION

There will be five Dairy Cattle breeds judged this year:

Ayrshire, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey and Illawarra.

The 2020 Feature Breed is Illawarra.

Register now:

<https://www.theshow.com.au/competitions/livestock/dairy-cattle/>

WFI, proud alliance partner of the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association



Around the grounds

- John has been involved in developing a Milk Supply Standard Form Contract with ADF.
- Ash and John have made a round of Check in calls with members to see how we're coping with Covid19.
- Andrew is working with NFF animal welfare policy working group to develop a draft animal welfare policy.



What do you want to see in your local monthly SADA newsletter.

Answer this quick survey so we can better serve our community. This should not take any more than a couple of minutes of your time, thanking you all in advance.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RJ7BXSL>

Insurance Tailored to your farm.

At WFI, we take the time to thoroughly understand your business and how it operates. Because when we get to know a business, we can protect everything that matters.

We're available to meet with you face-to-face to discuss your insurance requirements. That's just one of the reasons why we're good people to know for insurance.

Why not call us for a quote?

With 100 years experience in the insurance business, WFI knows what you're looking for.

To find out more about WFI's products, or to request a quote, contact your local Area Manager by calling 1300 934 934 or simply visit wfi.com.au



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Water allocations downs and ups.

The amount of water in the dams and reserves across the Murray Darling Basin are less than last year when the opening allocation was 14% of total allocation. In spite of that number most farmers in South Australia went on to enjoy 100% of the allocation by the end of the year

When the 14% allocation was announced last year, the contained capacity was 35% of the dams and reserves. This year the number has contracted to 29% of capacity so it is likely that the opening announcement will be lower.

This means farmers in the basin should not be surprised if the opening allocation is low again this year. However, there is a light at the end of the tunnel and it isn't the train coming the other way. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology has dipped its toe into the deep end of the optimism pool and predicted that there was an increasing change that rainfall would exceed the median in the April to June period. While more pronounced in the western two thirds of the continent the effect makes its way to the whole continent west of the Great Dividing Range.

