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SADA NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

Situation and Outlook for SA

The dairy industry is the fourth largest rural industry in Australia and is a key sector of the agricultural economy.

Dairy generated **\$4.8 billion** in farmgate value in the 2019/20 financial year.

Australia is a significant exporter of dairy products. It ranks fourth in terms of world dairy trade, with a

5% market share behind

New Zealand, the European Union and the United States.

The first half of the 2019/20 season proved challenging for many dairy farmers in Australia, with ongoing dry seasonal conditions increasing the cost of feed and water. However, following a return to more favourable farming conditions in December 2019, Australia's national milk pool started to recover.

Higher rainfall combined with easing input costs and a relatively strong farmgate milk price improved farmer confidence in most regions. This recovery was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, creating

uncertainty in global and domestic markets.

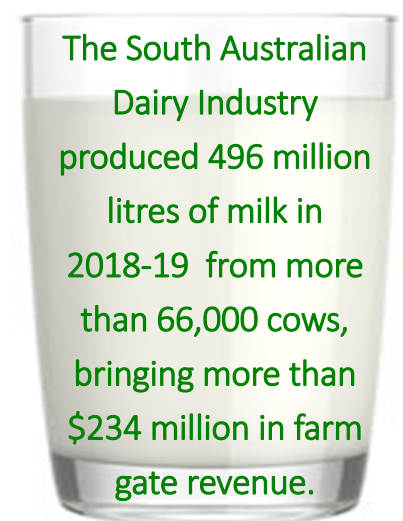
Despite the pandemic, the global dairy market was relatively balanced over the past year and commodity prices proved resilient. Demand for dairy products remained strong in the face of lockdowns in Australia and abroad, however the pandemic did cause some change in domestic consumer behaviour.

The SA dairy industry represents approximately **5.6%, or 488 million litres**, of national milk

output in Australia. State milk production for 2019/20 was slightly down on the 496 million litres produced in 2018/19. The State's industry has a long history of high productivity and quality dairy produce. South Australia's milk has a record of high component values in terms of butterfat and protein which adds to its value in terms of product shelf-life and versatility to a processor.

Since 1979/80 the number of dairy farms in Australia has fallen by almost

three quarters, to **5,055 in 2019/20**. The trend in farm numbers has previously followed changes in farmgate milk prices from season to season. Strong prices tend to either slow the rate of attrition or even reverse the long-term trend. Periods of weaker farmgate prices and/or adverse seasonal conditions can accelerate the trend, as more farmers choose to sell their properties, or transition to other farming activities such as beef cattle production.



REGISTER TODAY

South Australian Dairy Industry Summit 2021

Monday 1 March 2021 — 10am to 3pm



Dairy Milk and Harvesting Project

Australia's dairy and milk industry has developed from manual milking methods, to using machinery in herringbone and rotary sheds, to more recently introducing new robotic technology and automatic milking systems. These new technologies and evolving methods are broadening the range of skills needed in the industry. At the same time, traditional work practices are still preferred in certain farm settings, with some of these businesses adding value to their milk harvesting operations by producing milk products onsite. Some foundational skills, such as those to support biosecurity and animal welfare, remain important regardless of milking methods. A relaxed animal, correct cooling and storage of milk and plant hygiene practices contribute to greater quality and quantities of milk.

Consultation will take place throughout this project to review and update a national qualification, skill sets and units of competency for dairy and milk harvesting. They will be revised to reflect the skills and knowledge required to operate the vast array of technologies across milk harvesting operations of various sizes and contexts.

[The draft qualification, skill sets and units of competency are now available for your review and feedback.](#)

The qualification and units have been reviewed and updated to reflect the most up to date industry practices and to include all livestock used for milking purposes. Two skill sets have been de-

veloped to support dairy workers to perform maintenance of milking equipment and for milking equipment technicians who travel to worksites to maintain the machinery used to milk livestock. They aim to support the skills of technicians that work specifically with milking equipment and to support farm workers to better maintain and repair milking equipment between technician visits.

Please find the drafts listed below, divided into groups for ease of consultation. We are seeking your feedback on whether the draft qualification, skill sets and units reflect the current skills standards and practices of industry, and whether job functions are accurately described. We are particularly eager to



Good people to know.

1300 934 934

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



Join RuralBiz Training & Melissa Rebbeck for a FREE three part webinar series on climate risk and management for farmers.

WED 24TH FEB - Climate Risk Management - understand climate and weather risks for your farm, climate drivers and interpreting outlook information, prepare for climate risks on your farm

WED 10TH MARCH - Climate Change - a look at climate change trends and projections, how farmers have adapted to change and opportunities to plan for climate change over the short, medium and longer term

WEDNESDAY 24TH MARCH - Adaptation and mitigation of climate change (drought preparation and management). Understanding the carbon cycle, carbon sequestration and soil health management, water infiltration and water use efficiency, regenerative agriculture, other options to adapt and mitigate climate change in agriculture.

CHECK YOUR TIME ZONE
10.30am WA
12.30pm QLD
1.00pm SA
1.30pm NSW

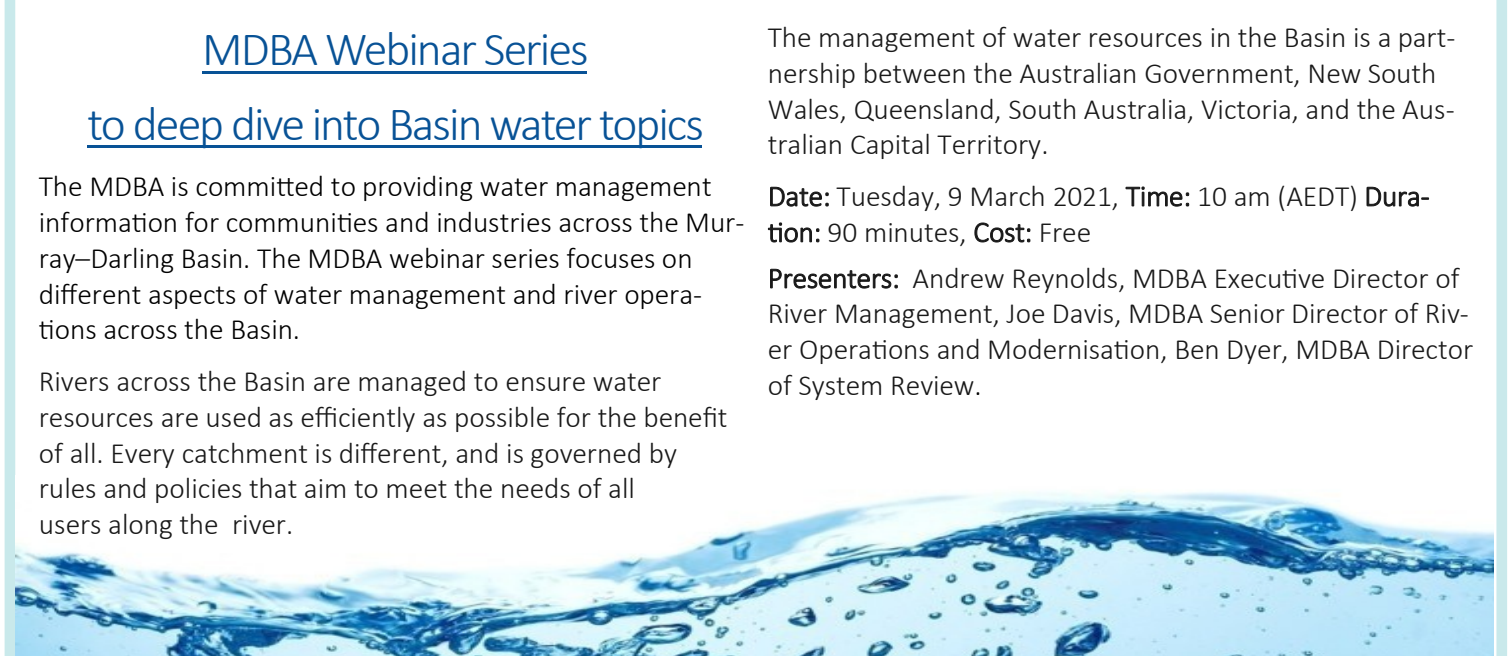
REGISTER TODAY
www.climate-risk-and-farming.eventbrite.com.au
Contact us on 02 6884 8812 or support@ruralbiztraining.com.au for more info.



Murray–Darling Basin Authority Communique

Members discussed the Basin's climate vulnerabilities identified in the [CSIRO scenarios](#) released last year and the **MDBA's upcoming Climate Resilience Summit in March**. Climate change will permanently shift the fundamental characteristics and connectivity of the Basin. Adapting to

the changing climate is increasingly a focus of the diverse stakeholders of the Basin with many already beginning this process. Members highlighted the important role the summit will play in bringing together key leaders who are taking action so the knowledge, tools and innovations could be shared across sectors and industries for the benefit of all Basin stakeholders.



MDBA Webinar Series to deep dive into Basin water topics

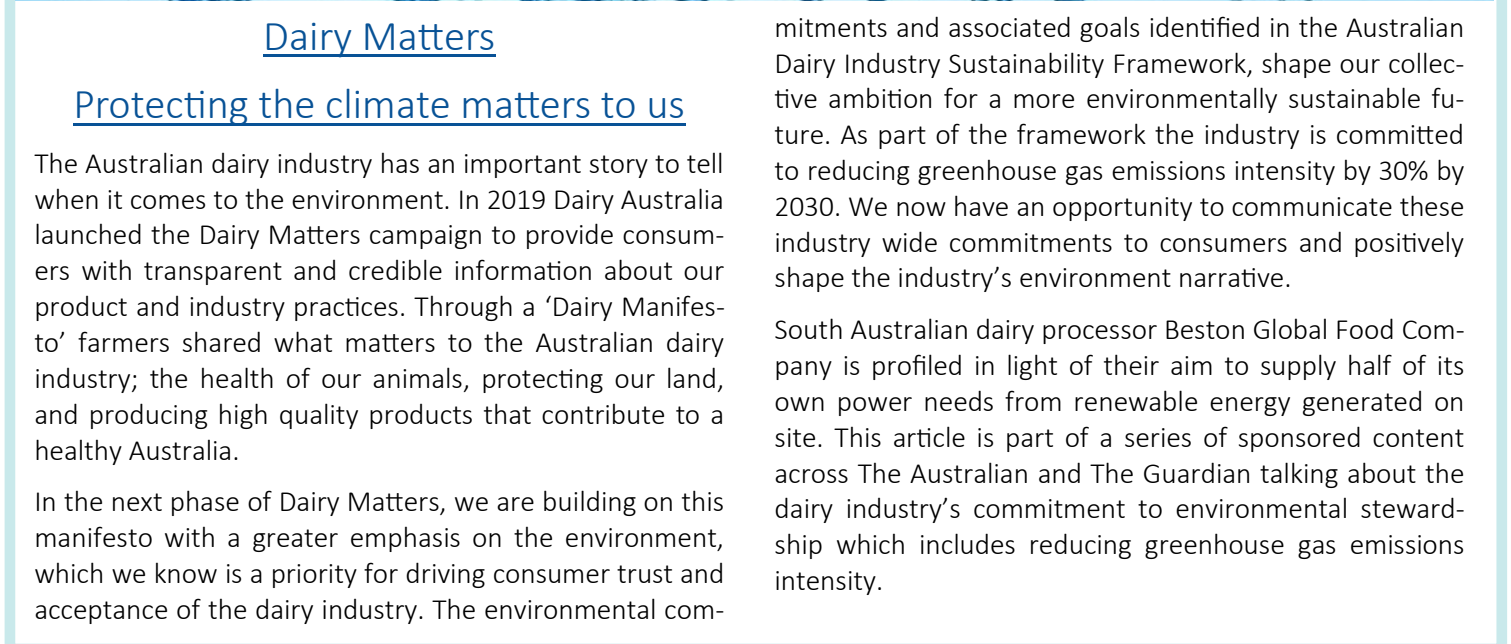
The MDBA is committed to providing water management information for communities and industries across the Murray–Darling Basin. The MDBA webinar series focuses on different aspects of water management and river operations across the Basin.

Rivers across the Basin are managed to ensure water resources are used as efficiently as possible for the benefit of all. Every catchment is different, and is governed by rules and policies that aim to meet the needs of all users along the river.

The management of water resources in the Basin is a partnership between the Australian Government, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, and the Australian Capital Territory.

Date: Tuesday, 9 March 2021, **Time:** 10 am (AEDT) **Duration:** 90 minutes, **Cost:** Free

Presenters: Andrew Reynolds, MDBA Executive Director of River Management, Joe Davis, MDBA Senior Director of River Operations and Modernisation, Ben Dyer, MDBA Director of System Review.



Dairy Matters Protecting the climate matters to us

The Australian dairy industry has an important story to tell when it comes to the environment. In 2019 Dairy Australia launched the Dairy Matters campaign to provide consumers with transparent and credible information about our product and industry practices. Through a 'Dairy Manifesto' farmers shared what matters to the Australian dairy industry; the health of our animals, protecting our land, and producing high quality products that contribute to a healthy Australia.

In the next phase of Dairy Matters, we are building on this manifesto with a greater emphasis on the environment, which we know is a priority for driving consumer trust and acceptance of the dairy industry. The environmental com-

mitments and associated goals identified in the Australian Dairy Industry Sustainability Framework, shape our collective ambition for a more environmentally sustainable future. As part of the framework the industry is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 30% by 2030. We now have an opportunity to communicate these industry wide commitments to consumers and positively shape the industry's environment narrative.

South Australian dairy processor Beston Global Food Company is profiled in light of their aim to supply half of its own power needs from renewable energy generated on site. This article is part of a series of sponsored content across The Australian and The Guardian talking about the dairy industry's commitment to environmental stewardship which includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions intensity.

Calling Expression of Interest for Workforce Committee Members of SADA.

The primary role of the Workforce Committee is the responsible, prudent management and coordination for education and training for the SA Dairy Industry.

- Consider workforce development and strategy relating to the workforce;
- Observe the concept of Attract, Develop and Retain to ensure the industry has the right people with the right skills in the right place at the right time.
- Set the strategic direction and monitor implementation programs for all workforce issues and service delivery in line with the wider strategic objectives;
- Assess and identify risk within the workforce portfolio, ensuring appropriate mitigation and escalation;
- Provide a focus on workforce activity, role design, development and education, employee relations, health and well-being and people engagement across the supply chain.
- Oversee the benefits realisation of workforce initiatives and processes including technology based solutions;
- Approve appropriate policies in line with the Action Plan.


If this is something that you're keen to find out more about, please email Ashleigh@sada.asn.au

Around the grounds


- Held discussions with DIS (Dept of Industry and Skills) around skill needs for the dairy manufacturing industry in SA
- Met with South Australian parliament's Economic and Finance Committee regarding the inquiry into essential production and supply chain security in the context of emergency circumstances in South Australia.
- SADA has a stall at the Food SA and Gap Solutions around the SA Food, Bev, Tech Trade Show.
- Supported the Educating Kids About Ag program which is a PPSA initiative with a dairy component included.
- Participated in a Carbon Farming workshop which highlighted a number of opportunities and challenges for pasture based carbon farming systems.
- Attended the first GS1 NGTAG Traceability Advisory Group General Meeting for the year. Notable guest speakers were David McNeil from the Australian Logistics Council who spoke about traceability in the freight and logistics sector, and Jayne Gallagher from Honey and Fox who spoke about the importance on selecting an appropriate and fitting traceability service provider for each supply chain.
- Attended the first Young Dairy Network Forum at The Bend. This was a great opportunity to see the next generation of people wanting to enter the dairy industry. It also provided insight as to which areas of training young people in particular would like to utilise as well as what opportunities can be created to upskill.
- Met with DCAT, a space/farm monitoring company who have substantially advanced their technology over SA. They are undertaking a number of verification trials. These trials require some support from dairy farmers and contacts were made available with the permission of the farmers.

National News:

- Larpent, Victoria dairy farmer, Sam Simpson has been elected to the [board of DataGene](#), the dairy industry's organisation to drive herd improvement.



ROADWORTHY HEAVY VEHICLES... *Made Easy!*

ROADWORTHY HEAVY VEHICLES... *Made Easy!* This program has been funded by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative Program, with the support of the Federal Government. 

Registration open for March

Grain Producers SA, on behalf of Primary Producers SA, are pleased to deliver FREE Roadworthy Heavy Vehicles ... Made Easy! workshops again in 2021, designed specifically to help SA primary producers understand heavy vehicle roadworthiness requirements. CLICK on a LOCATION to register for March workshops!

Wirrulla, March 2	Jamestown, March 11
Cummins, March 3	Murray Bridge, March 16
Cleve, March 4	Keith, March 17
Walleroo, March 10	Bordertown, March 18

2021
DairySA
Central Conference

VICTOR HARBOR, SA

THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2021
McCRACKEN COUNTRY CLUB, VICTOR HARBOR

Book at <https://2021dsacentral.eventbrite.com.au/>