

Members Newsletter

February 2025

Vol 66 #8



From the President

SA Team at ADC25 – Shaping the Future

The South Australian dairy industry was well represented at the **2025 Australian Dairy Conference #ADC25**, with the SA team joining 650 farmers and industry leaders on the Gold Coast. As the premier event in our sector, ADC25 provided an invaluable platform to exchange ideas, explore innovations, and discuss the future of dairy in Australia.

From the Young Farmers Networking Function to the Welcome Function, the energy was high as delegates engaged in thought-provoking discussions. The conference sessions covered critical themes, including sustainability, market growth, industry resilience, and technological advancements.



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The SA delegation looks forward to bringing home fresh perspectives and insights that can strengthen our industry locally. Stay tuned as we share key takeaways from the event in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, back in South Australia, the second meeting of [Beston creditors](#) was convened by administrators on Friday, 21 February. SADA facilitated shared meeting spaces in Mount Gambier and Murray Bridge to support affected dairy farmers. A full summary of the outcomes will be circulated shortly to those impacted by the Beston liquidation. We remain committed to supporting our members through this challenging time.

The Board had the opportunity to meet with [Australian Dairy Products Federation ADPF](#) and as part of the discussion received a presentation around their [Commitment to a Sustainable Future](#), which is well worth the read to better

understand our collaborative efforts across the supply chain.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate the Altmann Family from the Lower Murray region and the Walker Family from the South East on their recognition at the [Weekly Times Farmer of the Year Awards](#). Their achievements highlight the dedication and excellence of South Australian dairy farmers on the national stage.

Finally, we extend a warm welcome to [Mikaela Baker](#), who has recently joined Dairy Australia as an Extension Advisor & Farm Engagement Lead for SA. Mikaela brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role, having worked across a range of production systems from low-input grazing to high-production TMR. Her expertise in agronomy and animal science will be a great asset to South Australian dairy farmers, particularly in the **South East**. We look forward to seeing the impact of her work in supporting farm engagement and extension programs across the state.

As always, SADA remains focused on advocating for our farmers and strengthening our industry's future. If you have any concerns or ideas, don't hesitate to write.





We can't make calls in the bush because our settings are wrong.

The most common reason is when someone is not using an equivalent 4G enabled device. If your device operated on both 3G and 4G, make sure in the device's settings that it is set for 4G, to access the mobile network coverage.

A number of environmental factors could affect mobile coverage, such as the type of device being used, the distance from a tower, vegetation or buildings.

Anyone who has noticed a change in their connection, is urged to contact the 3G helpline.

The federal government has announced plans to include **mobile phone coverage** in the nation's universal service obligation system, promising that almost every Australian will be able to make calls and send texts from wherever they can see the sky by the end of 2027.

In what is described as **world-first reforms**, low-orbit satellites and 'direct to device' technology will be used to eradicate black spots and dead zones across the nation where phones are unable to connect with land-based 4G and 5G coverage from mobile towers.

Legislation setting up changes that would force telecommunication companies to partner with a satellite provider to guarantee the basic services would be introduced later this year by a re-elected Labor government

The expansion will also answer repeated calls from **rural Australians** for an expansion of the Triple Zero service and increased availability of mobile signals during disasters and power outages. [Read more](#)



SADA at the Donava Dairy Opening

SADA was proud to attend the official opening of Donava Dairy's state-of-the-art robotic barn system in Blyth on February 5. The Zweck family's investment in GEA dairy robotics is a significant step forward in South Australian dairy innovation, showcasing cutting-edge technology that enhances efficiency and cow welfare.

SADA congratulates the Zweck family on their forward-thinking approach and was pleased to engage with more than 140 farmers and industry representatives at the event. In addition, SADA presented the 'gate prize' to the lucky winners at Goldner Farms, who took home a Do Dairy cool pack!



Events like these highlight the strength and innovation within our state's dairy industry, and SADA looks forward to supporting more advancements in the future.



The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board

are running a series of workshops in the area. Are you curious about how carbon farming can revolutionise your agricultural practices and benefit your business? [Register now](#) for a **free** workshop to unlock the potential of carbon farming.



The Altmann family dramatically increased production within their dairy herd has been crowned Australia's best farmers. A South Australian family who has dramatically increased production within their dairy herd by implementing innovation and sustainability measures have been judged Australia's best farmers.

The Altmann family, of Dakara Farms at Murray Bridge, took out the top gong in [The Weekly Times Coles Farmer of the Year awards](#) at a gala ceremony in Melbourne.

They run a highly intensive, zero grazing dairy farm which milks cows three times a day. By farming in a controlled, undercover environment and using an innovative feeding method that emphasises a wide range of nutrients, the Altmanns have boosted average daily milk production from 33 litres a cow to up to 40 litres.

This is awesome to see—farmers pushing forward in the face of adversity!

👏👏 Dairy farmers never back down, adapting and thriving no matter the challenge. 🌱🥛 [#DairyStrong](#) [#ResilientFarmers](#) [#SupportLocalDairy](#)



DAIRY FINALISTS
[WALKER FAMILY,](#)
[MT SCHANK](#)



Vaccine Shortages and Availability

CSL Seqirus is the world's only manufacturer of Q fever vaccine for human use. Due to increased demand, there was a national shortage of Q-VAX® Vaccine and Skin Tests. However, CSL Seqirus has announced that stock for both will be available from February 4, 2025.

[For more information](#) on the vaccine, contact CSL Seqirus customer service at 1800 008 275 or visit their website at CSL Seqirus Q-VAX® Vaccine.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

These are things that have come to our attention over the past month which might be of interest to you.

If there is anything that you think we have missed or you would like to see in the newsletter,

please email: sada@sada.asn.au



Industry Insights & Solutions

Rebecca Fing
Richard Eckard
Andy Hancock
Sarah Crosthwaite



Joint media release

26 February 2025

Session 3 Industry Insights & Practical Solutions.

This quick fire session saw shorter snippets of information delivered by experts in their specialist areas from human resources to carbon, surplus calf management and mental health.

As a follow up, Session 3 Speakers have provided the following information and links for delegates to read and explore:

Rebecca Fing,

House Paddock Training

[What employers of choice do differently](#)

Prof Richard Eckard

University of Melbourne

[Climate & Environment information for the dairy industry](#)

Dr Andy Hancock

Dairy Australia

[Calfways: Sustainable Calf Management Pathways Roadmap 2035](#)

Sarah Crosthwaite

Open Road Counselling

[Counselling options & resources](#)

Basin water conference comes to lower Murray in 2025

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) will hold its fifth annual water conference 29 and 30 July in the city of Murray Bridge in regional South Australia. MDBA Chief Executive Andrew McConville said it was the first time River Reflections would be held in this part of the southern Basin where community interests and water management challenges differed to those further upstream.

“The Basin spans over one million square kilometres from the Great Dividing Range in Queensland, through New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT, to the Murray Mouth in South Australia,” said Mr McConville.

“You can appreciate how diverse the landscape is from one end to the other, and how varied the needs and interests of people living in the Basin can be.

“The Basin Plan provides the foundation to collaborate across borders, governments and cultures, using science and lived experience, to manage water for the environment and secure water for towns, industry, agriculture and recreation.

“More than a decade on, we’ve learnt a lot from implementing the Basin Plan and from listening to communities.

“In early July we will release the Basin Plan

Evaluation which will tell us what’s working, what’s not and where improvement is needed.

“It is another vital input to inform the Basin Plan Review, and one of the topics we’ll take time to explore during the conference.”

The Rural City Murray Bridge Mayor, Wayne Thorley, said he welcomed people from all over to come for the conference and to stay and experience the region.

“The Murray River is the lifeblood of our

region and we are proud to host this important conference in Murray Bridge,” Mayor Thorley said. “Sustainability is at the heart of our community’s future—we rely on a healthy river to support our environment,

agriculture, tourism and way of life. This conference is a valuable opportunity to share knowledge, strengthen partnerships and explore innovative approaches to water management that will protect our waterways for future generations.

“I encourage visitors to take the time to experience the natural beauty of the Lower Murray and see firsthand how our community is working towards a sustainable future,” said Mayor Thorley.

River Reflections has been held in different parts of the Basin annually since 2021 as a way of bringing together diverse perspectives and experiences to find common ground for the future of our rivers.

Participants are invited to contribute to the MDBA’s collective purpose of Rivers for generations through interactive workshops, speakers and a conference dinner. Visit [website](#) to keep up to date with [program information and ticketsales](#) www.mdba.gov.au



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KARI MOFFAT
2025 scholar



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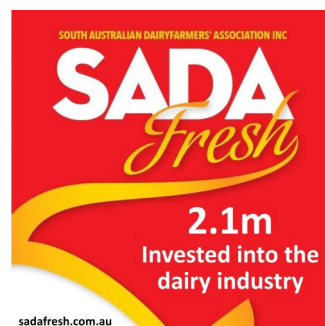
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