

Members Newsletter

June 2024



From the President

Robert Brokenshire

With over 80 years of dedication and excellence, SADA stands as a testament to the strength and resilience of our state's dairy industry. Our unique position within the advocacy space has allowed us to champion the interests of dairy farmers and ensure the sustained vitality of our industry. Many of you are aware of the recent developments with the VFF's decision to exit seven commodity groups, a move that has sent ripples through the advocacy landscape. Despite these changes, SADA remains committed to our core mission: supporting our dairy farmers and maintaining the steady flow of milk that enriches our daily lives. Our steadfast efforts might even inspire advocacy reforms in other states.

This past month, we have diligently communicated with both ADF and DA to ensure our farmers receive unwavering support. Our continuous engagement is crucial in maintaining the productivity and sustainability of our dairy sector. In a significant development, the Dairy component has now been officially segregated from the Cattle Industry Fund. SADA has successfully submitted its applications under the new Management Plan, marking an exciting progression for our industry. This initiative, unique to our state, promises greater transparency and sustainability for the levy tags collected from our dairy herds. By fostering cooperation between farmers and processors, we can develop innovative solutions to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and improve the value of our products.

As we navigate the challenges of 2024, we acknowledge the impact of inflation on input prices and the difficulties with interest rates increases. The extended dry autumn has further stressed our dairy businesses, increasing reliance on conserved fodder and driving up feed costs. These conditions necessitate a call to action: we have again written to processors urging them to reassess their opening prices. Without a viable supply of milk, their businesses will be at risk. Together, we can overcome these challenges and continue to build a robust and thriving dairy industry. SADA remains committed to supporting our farmers and advocating for a sustainable future for all. Let us work together to ensure the enduring success of our beloved dairy sector.

Have your say on the nation's breeding objectives.

Has your breeding philosophy changed in the past few years?

Are you focused on developing different traits in your herd?

Maybe you are keen to use genetics to lower your dairy farm's emissions intensity?

Or, you might not want to change a thing.

Either way – as an Australian dairy farmer or industry representative – now's your chance to have a say on the national breeding and genetic priorities.

DataGene – Australia's independent industry organisation responsible for driving genetic gain and herd improvement – is asking farmers and industry people to fill in an online survey as part of its review of the [National Breeding Objective \(NBO\)](#).

For full details and the Survey Link - [CLICK HERE](#)



This is your chance to nominate someone who you feel excels in the industry.



NOMINATIONS CLOSE 8 JULY

Young Farmer of the Year

Best Relationship with a Processor

Innovative Farmer of the Year

Foodland Sustainability Award

VIRTUAL DISCUSSION GROUPS



Exciting news!

We've launched new discussion groups on the SADA Discussion Forum, and we invite you to join the conversation.

Power Policy Group: Dive into discussions about the latest policies shaping our industry and how they impact our work. Share your insights, ask questions, and stay informed about the power sector's policy landscape.

Workforce Group: Connect with fellow professionals to exchange ideas, strategies, and best practices for building a skilled and resilient workforce.

Participating in these groups is a fantastic way to engage with peers, gain valuable knowledge, and contribute to our community's growth and development.

To join these groups and start participating in the discussions, simply log in to the [SADA Discussion Forum](#) and navigate to the Groups section. If you haven't registered yet, now is the perfect time to join our community!

We invite you to scan the QR code above or click [here](#) to join.

WEBINAR

Animal Care Commitments for the Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework (ADSF).

A Working Group was established by the ADSF Steering Committee to review the Goal 7 targets, indicators and metrics. The findings of the Working Group were reported in June 2023, and the report is attached here for your reference. Please refer to this document for more detail on the process of review undertaken by the Working Group, including participants and methodology, and refer to Appendix 1 and 2 for the Proposed and Current targets, metrics and indicators.

For more information on the ADSF, please follow this link: [Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework - Dairy Australia](#).

A Webinar has been scheduled for **19 June 2024 at 10.30am**. Allow 2 hours for a manageable discussion with a limited number of registrants.

So you don't miss out please [REGISTER HERE](#)

Items up for discussion will be;

- detail the proposed targets
- describe how the targets will be developed,
- the type of information sources which will be utilised to report on the targets,
- how they might be collated in practice.

SADA will receive and collate any feedback from the attendees regarding the proposed targets, at the end of this process the information will be reported back to the ADF Farm Operations Policy Advisory Group (PAG).

SMART FARMING

Climate Toolkit

Farmers are stewards of the land and manage it carefully. As an industry, agriculture is facing increasing challenges due to extreme weather like, flooding, bushfire, drought and extreme heat. In many cases, farmers and peak bodies are already well progressed on the road to climate resilience and emissions reduction. To keep farming forever, farmers need access to tools and resources which will help make sure their business and our industry can thrive in the face of continued climate challenges.

Farmers for Climate Action has recently launched a new online resource to help farmers understand and address the challenges to their businesses due to climate change and discover opportunities to build resilience into the future.

The Climate [Smart Farming Toolkit](#) has been curated by Farmers for Climate Action in partnership with farmer members and key stakeholders. The Toolkit provides resources for farmers at all stages of their climate adaptation journey - from farmers who are just starting out on resilience building, to those who have looked at their emissions and are considering developing climate smart strategies for their farm. The Toolkit provides up-to-date information for each climate-related topic, with new resources being added all the time.

The Toolkit will be a valuable resource for Australian farmers, including your members. We understand information and climate contexts change often, so please let us know if you have any additional tools or resources that could be incorporated to further enhance its value.

Australian Dairy Carbon Calculator



The Australian Dairy Carbon Calculator helps dairy farmers with improving efficiencies and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. This can lead to reduced operational costs and increased profitability, while also protecting the environment.

[The calculator](#) equips farmers to measure their farm carbon footprint, understand sources of emissions and explore options for reducing emissions through herd, feed and soil management or reviewing their farm system. Opportunities such as reducing energy use and switching to renewables can deliver efficiency improvements that also lower greenhouse gas emissions.

PFAS burden in livestock

You are invited to participate in a farmer science project on the topic of: Investigating the PFAS burden in livestock raised on biosolid-amended pastures.

Farms that have historically applied biosolids or used wastewater effluent on their sheep or cattle pastures in the past 10 years.

The research aims to investigate the impact of biosolid application on the presence of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in sheep and cattle. The study will assess the relationship between the historical use of biosolids or wastewater effluent as fertiliser and the level of PFAS detected in the animals' blood samples, as well as examine the environmental distribution of PFAS in soil, water, plant, feed, and biosolid samples.

Recently, PFAS has become the subject of increasing research because of its widespread use in various products and its ability to persist and accumulate in the environment. However, our understanding of its presence within agricultural systems is limited, highlighting the need for this research.

As a key part of this study, we are seeking to recruit 10 farms in South Australia who applied biosolids or sewage wastewater as fertilizer sometime in the past 10 years. Participating farms will be visited by our team to collect blood samples from livestock and environmental samples (e.g., soil, water, and plants). Participation in this study comes at no cost to the farmers, and we are committed to maintaining strict confidentiality of all results. Published findings will be completely anonymized, making sure that individual farms cannot be identified. However, we are happy to provide participating farmers with their individual results, accompanied by a complimentary consultation to explain the findings and how they compare to the nationwide average.

[Full details here](#)

SNAPSHOTS in DAIRY

WHAT TO KNOW: AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU)



Avian flu is a disease caused by influenza viruses. It affects domestic poultry and wild birds, but can also infect humans and other mammals.



FULL UPDATES HERE

sada.asn.au



UPDATE

Final report of the Food and Grocery Code of Conduct Independent Review.

Parliamentarians urged to stand up for family farms in the face of 'Super Tax'

NFF hosts new wave of women leaders in Canberra.

Future Drought Fund Commercialisation Project.

Impact artificial intelligence and autonomous machines have on the agricultural industry.



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PRIMARY PRODUCERS SA

Successful and meaningful engagement has underpinned Primary Producers SA's operations and was a critical part of the funding agreement when the South Australian Government granted PPSA \$1million over two years.

Engagement is crucial in achieving the right policy settings which enable South Australian primary industries to thrive and reach the target of \$23billion in food, wine and agribusiness revenue by 2030.

FULL UPDATES ON STATE PROJECTS HERE



DAIRYSAFE Bulletin #20 Leaders in dairy food safety

risks of selling raw milk

It is illegal to sell raw milk to an unaccredited entity or person.

Penalties of up to \$20,000 apply.

The sale of raw milk poses a significant risk to public health as well as to the reputation of the dairy industry.

dairy-safe.com.au



Good people to know.
1300 934 934

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.

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