

March 2023

# Members Newsletter



March saw the start of Autumn and a range of Industry engagements that will enhance the positive future for our industry. We kicked the month off in Melbourne for a workshop to develop the **Dairy Australia Annual Operating Plan** for 2023/24. With 7 pillars up for discussion from resilience to innovation the outcomes from the day are a testament to the dairy industry across Australia.

This was followed by the Australian Dairy Farmers **Policy Advisory Groups** meeting for the first time in 2023. There are three committees, Market and Trade, People and Community, and Farm Operations. Hot Topics from these discussions covered; Workforce, Education, Ag Tech, Capital Works, Milk price and supply and Connectivity, just to name a few. If you would like to know more about the PAGs and their topics areas, please let us know.

Early in the month, we also joined with PIR-SA, Dairy SA and Dairysafe to discuss a range of things FMD including **Public information in an EAD Response**. There are further workshops planned for the coming months. Please read below for further details on some of these.

We then trekked back to Melbourne for the **Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework Committee**. The framework has now supported the industry for more than 10 years. The evidence in the industry is so positive that reports show 97% of Australian households continue to buy dairy, according to Dairy Australia's latest **Situation and Outlook report**.

All National reports are on our Website, grab a glass of milk, jump in and have closer [look. www.sada.asn.au](http://www.sada.asn.au)

## Got your game plan?

Set your farming and personal goals with  
**Our Farm, Our Plan**

Our Farm, Our Plan is a new program designed to equip farmers to clarify their long term goals, prioritise and identify actions needed, and to better manage uncertainty and risk. It has been developed by Dairy Australia.

The program is delivered via in-person workshops over three sessions, or via Zoom workshops over six sessions and includes 1:1 sessions with a trained consultant/facilitator. These sessions help to give you structure around where you are heading and what to focus on to get there.

Programs are running regularly in all regions of SA, Please contact SADA or the Dairy SA team to be made aware of the next available program in your area.

[www.dairyaustralia.com.au/dairysa/farm-business/our-farm-our-plan](http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/dairysa/farm-business/our-farm-our-plan).



## Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework

### CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

## INDUSTRY UPDATE FINDS POSITIVES IN DAIRY'S SITUATION OUTLOOK

Despite cost-of-living pressures and higher retail prices, 97% of Australian households continue to buy dairy, according to Dairy Australia's latest Situation and Outlook report. Strong consumption helps to ensure dairy contributes to improved health outcomes for all Australians.

Further, the report highlights that Australian dairy exports are extracting a larger-than-usual premium on the global stage, held firm by limited product availability. A target in the Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework is to increase Australian dairy's share of global trade. [Dairyaustralia.com.au/industry-statistics](http://Dairyaustralia.com.au/industry-statistics)

## A message from the Minister for Education, Training and Skills

Australia is facing significant skills shortages, including here in South Australia.

Since coming to government, we have not wasted a day in doing what is needed to get the pipeline of skilled workers we need into training and into jobs. Whether it be fee-free TAFE and VET, restoring funding to Adult Community Education, providing funding to the Motor Trades Association and the Master Builders Association to tackle local skills needs, or restoring critical health and early childhood courses to TAFE SA, we are doing everything we can to deliver the best training system in Australia.

I am passionate about getting our training system to work better for students, workers, employers, and our economy – and that requires significant work.

Over the past few months, Skills SA has been consulting on a new, 10-year South Australian Skills Plan. This will set about a new direction for our skills system, one much more focused on completions and addressing skills shortages.

We have heard your ideas to improve our skills system. Today I announced a range of immediate initiatives to respond to this feedback. This includes:

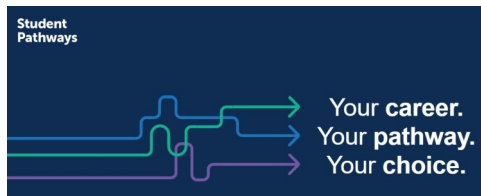
1. \$8.9m in grants to address skills shortages in areas of need, including a specific stream of grants to get more women into trades
2. \$2.3m to try innovative new ways to provide wellbeing and learner supports for students and improve completions, including through grants
3. \$2m for new Skills Hubs in regional South Australia, providing new services and connecting learners, industry and training providers to get more local residents skilled up and into jobs
4. \$500k to develop a new, one-stop-shop website that will make it easier for South Australians to find where the skills shortages are and what training they can do to work in those areas.

Together, these initiatives will support improved completions, get more South Australians skilled up in areas where there are shortages, and will give people better information to get into training and into jobs.

Only by working with industry, unions, training providers, and community organisations will we give South Australians the skills they need for the jobs they want.

**SADA is working closely together with all industry partners for a better skills system. To see a comprehensive look at the plan engagement please visit <https://skills.sa.gov.au/plan>.**

The final South Australian Skills Plan will be released at the beginning of 2024, following the finalisation of the new National Skills Agreement with the Commonwealth Government.



### Connecting Primary Industries to Secondary Schools in 2023

The Department for Education has invested in a team of Industry Engagement Consultants to partner with industry and develop opportunities for students to learn about South Australia's industries and make informed decisions about their career of choice. Industry engagement also helps support and develop a viable pipeline of skilled workers for South Australian employers, helping meet future workforce and skills needs.

To help South Australia's primary industries engage with our students, this plan has been developed to outline key initiatives for 2023, focusing on establishing greater connections between primary industries and secondary school students to encourage greater engagement in careers in the primary industries sector.

By connecting to our secondary schools, the primary industries sector can help provide opportunities for students to be exposed to the breadth and depth of the industry, its roles, and identify the exciting career opportunities it can provide.

Primary industries are impacted by a lack of awareness among young people of the jobs and career opportunities that exist, as well as misconceptions about what working in the industry is like. Connecting and hearing direct from people within the industry is powerful and will help students create a personal connection to see how they too can have a career within primary industries.



### Breed, raise, and manage cattle for milk production

TAFE SA's dairy courses are designed to support South Australia's vital dairy industry. Learn about the general health and welfare of cattle, milking, feeding, reproduction, farm machinery, and management. Become a dairy industry specialist with TAFE SA

## DAIRY FARM JOBS BOARD

**Find a rewarding dairy farm job!**  
View some of the jobs available across Australia's main dairy farming regions. Take the next step by directly contacting employers or viewing their online job ads. Increase your opportunities by searching [other places](#) that advertise dairy farm jobs.

Two men are standing in front of a backdrop that features the ADC (Australian Dairy Cattle) logo repeated in a grid. The man on the left is wearing a white t-shirt and patterned shorts. The man on the right is wearing a black t-shirt and white shorts. They are both smiling at the camera.

### Oli and Nedd Brockman chat over Choccy Milk.

In 2022, Nedd cemented his legend status by running from Perth to Bondi in 47 days, he raised \$2.5 million for homeless charity We Are Mobilise. But we all watched as he finished his 40+km run every day with a choccy milk.

*#Nedd quote: Resilience is what makes the Ag industry resilient.*





## Stepping up for EAD preparedness

SADA, Dairysafe, Dairy SA and Primary Producers SA participated in a facilitated workshop on 'Public Information in an Emergency Animal Disease Response' on Monday 20 March.

Hosted by PIRSA, the workshop detailed how national structures and processes, and public information (communications and media) work in an EAD response. Communications during a response was identified as a key priority at the EAD workshop held in August last year.

The workshop identified the challenges of managing information during a response, including the importance of consistency, accuracy and timeliness, as well as information needs, roles and responsibilities, with the ultimate goal of making sure that the target audience - our members and supply chain partners - receive the information they need.

### Next Step . . .

#### Liaison – Livestock Industry training

16 May 2023

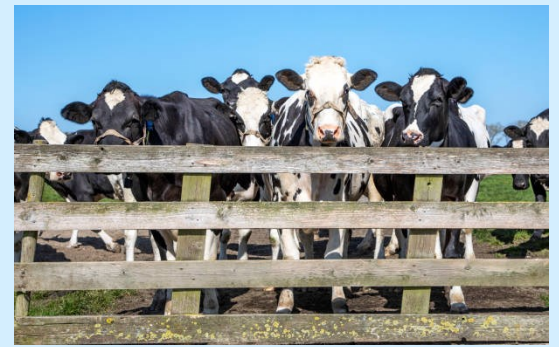
SADA is looking for interested dairy farmers to nominate for the Liaison - Livestock Industry training in EAD response. They will be joined by additional stakeholders from jurisdictional biosecurity agencies along with other agriculture sectors.

The **EAD foundation course** is a prerequisite to participating in a workshop being delivered by AHA for the Liaison – Livestock Industry training.

The purpose of this course is to inform learners about how EAD responses are managed in Australia, and to give a foundation for further training in EAD response functions.

The EAD foundation course is recommended for producers, veterinarians, veterinary and animal science students, livestock industry and government personnel, and individuals who may be involved in an EAD response; however, it is publicly accessible and open to anyone with an interest in EAD response arrangements.

This course takes approximately 2 hours to complete. Follow [these guidelines](#) to register for and access the online courses listed below.



## Farmgate milk value tool

This tool allows a user to understand how milk is being valued in each region and how that varies across the season, influenced by different farm characteristics (seasonality of milk supply, size of farm, milk components).

This tool is not designed to compare prices available from individual processors for a specific farm as the data provided is averages and ranges, based on a discrete set of variables. Income estimates from individual processors are still the best way to compare prices available for your own farm.



## 🌤️ What's driving your season?

PIRSA is running a free workshop covering the Limestone Coast 2023 seasonal weather forecast and climate update. Leading SA climate and weather experts Darren Ray and Dr Peter Hayman, along with farmer and consultant Barry Mudge, will assist growers to understand, forecasts, climate prediction models, other climate tools to make better decisions on farm.

**When:** Thursday 13 April, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Location:** Struan House, 74 Struan House Rd, Struan SA 5271

**RSVP** by 6 April 🙌 <http://ow.ly/hY4050NoyOr>



## Soil Health Survey

DBM Social Research is seeking your help in a national study on soil health in Australia. We are conducting this research on behalf of the Office of the National Soils Advocate.

Soil health has a major impact on communities and industry and is a complex area where soil types, condition and management practices vary widely across the nation. In this study, there are no right or wrong answers! We are seeking to understand how soil health and practices are perceived in Australia among people who work with soil or in an industry related to soil or environmental conservation. We are also interested in how the National Soils Advocate is known and perceived in this community.

The insight you provide will be used by the Office of the National Soils Advocate to better understand the perceptions of soil health in Australia, including current areas of concern. Your responses will also help identify priority areas of the National Soils Advocate's terms of reference and to inform activities moving forward.

If you would like to share your thoughts, please click 'start' below to enter our online survey. It should take between 10 and 15 minutes, depending on your answers.

Your participation and feedback will remain confidential <https://bit.ly/42VcGwK>



## PPSA Strategy day plots course forward

PPSA's vision for a strong and viable primary production sector was the driver behind our Strategic Planning Workshop held at Adelaide Oval, bringing our commodity groups together and a range of notable, high calibre speakers. The workshop explored whether the operation of agricultural advocacy in South Australia was fit for purpose and what the major issues were for advocacy groups. Guest speaker National Farmers' Federation CEO Tony Mahar said advocacy groups needed to be selective in the issues they tackled - as it's impossible to be everything to everyone. Mr Mahar also highlighted a major issue for the sector - attracting young people into these organisations when they are often employed under short-term projects. Australian Farm Institute General Manager Katie McRobert drove discussion around the AFII's Future of Australian Agricultural Advocacy report and how it applied to PPSA. Ms McRobert highlighted that people were advocacy groups' single greatest resource and that sharing, rather than telling, stories was a way to create community trust in agriculture. Minister for Primary Industries, Regional Development and Forestry Clare Scriven acknowledged agriculture as the foundation of the state's economy, while PIRSA CEO Mehdi Dourodi said a priority for his department was improving productivity gains through extension. PPSA looks forward to working together with our commodity groups on the workshop outcomes.

## PPSA proud to support valuable student resource

A major focus at PPSA is on promoting the opportunities agriculture offers to the next generation. With this focus in mind, PPSA is proud to support the launch of the Adelaide University Agricultural Students Association 2023 Student Compendium. The compendium connects students to industry and highlights the range of opportunities the agriculture sector offers. It is a valuable collation of awards, scholarships, conferences, competitions, training, graduate programs and internships. Our Graduate Policy Officer James Easter has played a major role in putting the compendium together, alongside his fellow agriculture students, and our Chair Simon Maddocks is speaking on behalf of PPSA at the launch at the Edinburgh Hotel on March 30.



## Woolworths Dairy Innovation Fund

The third round of the \$5 million **Woolworths Dairy Innovation Fund** is seeking applications from farmers for grants of up to \$100,000 to support on-farm projects that deliver innovation, efficiency and seasonal resilience.

These grants will support on-farm improvements that deliver innovation, efficiency, greater resilience or enhanced sustainability. Our contribution to farms will fund new capital improvements or technology, and provide additional funds to help expand existing projects.

In addition to the Woolworths Dairy Innovation Fund, we also provide grants to farmers through our [Organic Growth Fund](#), partnering with organic fruit and vegetable farmers to make on-site investments which will increase the availability of organic produce in Australia.





# Around the grounds

**Dairy Industry says cheese in nations capital:** Crowd of circa 130 people, with over 80 politicians, senators and their staff/advisors in attendance. Fantastic engagement, where you could see farmers and industry reps interacting with politicians all evening. Event was co-hosted by the Parliamentary Friends of Primary Producers. MPs Meryl Swanson and Nola Marino anchored the evening, with speeches from Murray Watt, David Littleproud, Rick Gladigau (ADF) and John Williams (ADPF).

- Andrew and Robert attended the **PPSA Annual Strategy Day** with a Roundtable discussion with Minister Scriven, followed by the PPSA Q2 Council Meeting.
- Andrew attended the **Adelaide International Womens Day Breakfast** with Penny Wong.
- Elf met with a farmer to assist with EPA matters. SADA is currently assisting two farmers with **EPA related matters** and is seeking to resolve them so that farmers can continue to go about their businesses. Over the past two years there has been increasing attention by the EPA, particularly to effluent management. SADA maintains a cordial working relationship with the EPA and if any farmer has any questions regarding the EPA'S expectations, contact John Elferink at SADA.
- Elf and Andrew also worked with DIT in an effort to resolve issues around the **construction of underpasses** on state roads. Grant Council has led the way and recently meetings with Alexandrina Council assisted in progressing projects in that council area.

- SADA also communicated with PPSA about the most recent efforts by the Greens to introduce a bill seeking to create an independent office of **animal welfare in South Australia**. The Greens have been highly critical of the industry working with PIRSA to ensure husbandry standards. SADA and PPSA have committed to working together to make certain that our already high standards of animal care are not made the subject of an ideological crusade by organisations which seek to inflict themselves on farmers in South Australia.
- Andrew and Alison attended a meeting with PIRSA to discuss the progress of the 'Enhance the Action Plan engagement' Grant.
- Andrew attended a Dewatering and Levee Reestablishment Update - LMRIA Chair Meeting.
- Alison sat in on the launch of the **Farming Forever: A national plan for climate change and agriculture**. With Presentations from Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Olivia Lawson, Dr Kate Andrews and Charlie Prell (Chair of FCA) - 770 members Australia wide

(Ambassador style program). Note: There is no national strategy in Australia to address Climate Change. Farmers for Climate Action - <https://farmersforclimateaction.org.au>

- Andrew and Alison met with Peter Adamo and Katherine to start planning for the **SA Dairy Awards**.
- Andrew attended a Dairy industry meeting with CVO to discuss **FMD preparedness**
- Andrew and Alison attended a packed house for the **Dairy SA Central Conference** in Murray Bridge.
- Andrew, Elf and Alison attended a meeting with **Foodland** to discuss the new Foodland Sustainability Award at this years DIAA Dairy Awards. While in the same room discussions around the progress of SADA Fresh cheese on foodland shelves and an opportunity to partner with a Methane capture project.
- Andrew and Warren attended the NFF Water Committee



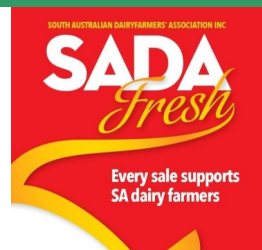
"Some time ago I was approached by the South Australian Dairymen's Association with regard to a better price for milk. As you are aware the State Government has had to take steps to drastically supervise the milk coming into the Metropolitan Area. Owing to manpower shortages, less frequent deliveries, and reaction from the zoning system, the milk supply in Adelaide became unsatisfactory. Steps have now been taken to ensure that milk sold in Adelaide is of reasonable quality, and from time to time further steps will need to be taken to improve the standard as this becomes practicable. The delivery of milk of a better quality obviously involved the dairymen in extra expenditure and one of the difficulties confronting the Government in its campaign for a better supply of milk is that the margin provided does not, in my opinion, fully compensate the producer for the additional expenditure involved. In other words, insufficient incentive has been provided to ensure that high quality milk will be available for the Metropolitan Area. I am enclosing here with a copy of statement submitted by South Australian Dairymen's Association. I would appreciate if you would give consideration to their request, and would be prepared to make available the services of Mr. Barlow if such would enable you to reach a conclusion in connection with the merits of the dairymen's request."

The Secretary said he had been in close touch with the Premier in regard to the price of whole milk and submitted a request to increase to 1 schilling / 1 penny (1/1d.) per gallon.

This matter had been submitted to the Department of Agriculture for a report, apparently the report was taking an inordinate time to be released, the Premier (Mr. Playford) submitted the matter with a covering letter to the Deputy Prices Commissioner, his covering letter to the prices office is as follows;

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Primary Industries and Regions Forum 2023: Transitioning to a Green Economy - April 4
- Industry Climate Change Conference - April 20
- [DSA 2023 Euthanise Livestock - R&L - May 2](#)



# Did you miss any of our updates?

[Register Here](#)

