

Members Newsletter

May 2024



From the President

Robert Brokenshire

Feed and fodder support - We are here to assist where possible with fodder suppliers through our contacts and membership base, we understand the lack of rain is alarming. Alternatively if you have any fodder to offer for sale or donate, please call the office to organise.

Right now, if you're an irrigator, that's fortunate, but irrigation growth slows this time of year, and if you're a dryland dairy farmer you're putting much more silage and hay out than you would normally be doing, so for the rest of the year the supply issue could be a concern.

The reports we have received is that dairy farmers have already got their own supply, but they're accelerating the use of it, which rings the alarm bell for the winter if we don't get a good winter feed growth pattern. Some

farmers have already purchased significant amounts of additional fodder because it is so dry, at this stage it was too early to make a call on silage effects.

What is concerning is that it's already shortening the growing season, so it's going to be very important that we get a long and late spring. If we can get an opening in the next couple of weeks and we get a good long late spring then we could end up still in a pretty good position. But if the opening drags on much longer, and we don't get a long spring then plan that's going to have an impact on silage and fodder production next spring. A shortage of feed puts stress on dairy farmers and if they need any support in any aspect we welcome them to ring us.

Unseasonal dry conditions are challenging our dairy farmers whether it's feeding cows, increased amounts of hay and silage or still irrigating in May.

Please be aware that there are significant fines if an irrigator goes over their allocation, hopefully the season will open soon.

We note media speculation on **Opening Milk Prices** and have been talking to processors about input cost into milk production for our farmers. We will continue to lobby for the best possible opening price, not withstanding pressure on export prices and arguably dairy product being dumped in Australian from the US and NZ in Australia.

I was disappointed the **federal budget** didn't have more of focus on Agriculture and regional Australia. There were some positives for Agriculture and SADA will work with relevant departments to maximise the benefits for all SA dairy farmers.

I was particularly pleased to see \$1.5 million allocated to investigate accurate and clear labelling of plant based alternative products, almond juice and soybean is not milk and we need to continue the argument in **truth in labelling**.

Further details are available [here](#).

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.



Celebrating World Milk Day with us on 1 June.

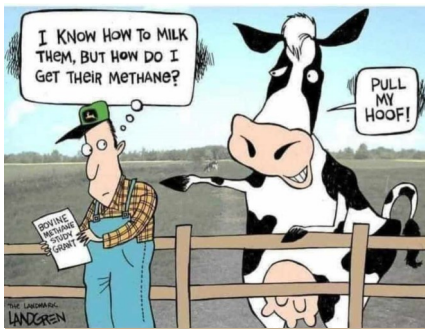
It's a fantastic opportunity to highlight the importance of milk for health, nutrition, and the economy, as well as to recognize the efforts of the dairy industry.

The **"Powered by Milk"** campaign is a great way to showcase how milk plays a vital role in Aussie homes, supporting strong, healthy bodies and local economies. Encouraging farmers to share short videos showcasing sustainability practices is an excellent idea to engage the community and promote awareness about dairy farming.

With the ease of creating short videos using mobile phones, it makes participation accessible for everyone. By collecting and sharing these videos, **SADA** can effectively reintroduce dairy farming to South Australians and celebrate the contributions of dairy farmers on World Milk Day.

What a fantastic opportunity to spread awareness and appreciation for the dairy industry!

Share your video via email: sada@sada.asn.au or Tag [@sadairyfarmers](https://twitter.com/sadairyfarmers)



By now most of you have either touched base on your renewed Effluent Plan.

*Please don't just
pull the hoof!*

Give us a call today.

If you've received a letter from the EPA or want to get ahead of the game, call our office today and book in your first consult — **FREE for Members.**

The EPA has now signaled they're focusing on dairies for the first time in many years. SADA has taken the time to get across a comprehensive tool to evaluate your Effluent Management and mechanism for submitting your plan.

[Register now](#) for all EPA Updates or check out our [Website](#)



Artificial Insemination comes to South Australia

5 October 1960

The Chairman stated that he had been appointed a member of the Advisory Committee on Artificial Insemination (AI), and although he was not there as a representative of the Association he believed it would be valuable for him as a member of the advisory Committee to have some indication of the Association's opinions on the subject.

Although the Committee's proceedings were confidential, he could state that it had been set up to advise the Minister on the most satisfactory form of control for AI in this State.

So far the Committee had followed the steps being taken to set up a semen collection centre at Northfield and they hoped to see it working by the middle of next year.

The pilot trials operating over the past two to three years had shown that AI could work here.

It was now necessary to determine the way it should be handled in South Australia.

There were a number of alternative methods of distribution, as used in other States and Overseas. . . . [more](#)



This is your chance to nominate someone who you feel excels in the industry and deserves to be recognised.

The South Australian Dairy Awards is in it's 16th year, these awards provides an opportunity to celebrate the effort and contribution of dairy farmers and processors in SA who showcase their products in our markets, supermarket delis, cafés and restaurants.

This premier event will showcase South Australia’s finest dairy products and provide a platform for the winners to lead the way for the future of the industry in this country.

Nomination forms are quick and easy to complete!

Simply choose which award category you want to nominate for;

[Young Farmer of the Year Nomination 2023](#)

[Best Relationship with a Processor Nomination](#)

[Innovative Farmer of the Year Nomination 2023](#)



SADA in collaboration will again facilitate the

Foodland Dairy Sustainability Award

The Award Criteria is based on the Australian Dairy Sustainability Frameworks 4 focus areas – Economic Viability and livelihoods - Wellbeing of people - Best Care of Animals and Environmental impact.

[Foodland Dairy Sustainability Award](#)

Are you about to head into Semester 2, have you ever thought about an internship in dairy?

SA Dairy Internship Program



The SA Dairy Internship Program is actively welcoming undergraduate project interns, interested graduates and casual employees to work across the industry supply chain with SADA, DairySA and Dairy SAFE, at the coal face of dairy and in the many service industries which support it.

This Internship has been designed for you to gain experience across all three organisations over 10 days. The applicant will be required to undergo some travel and will be exposed to on farm activities, government policy and processor manufacturing procedures.

SA accounts for approximately 6% of Australia's milk and almost a billion dollars in generated revenue, the South Australian dairy industry is well positioned to target the premium end of the national and international market. SA's dairy industry consistently produces a product which is demonstrably of a higher standard than the rest of the country and SA milk is highly valued by processors for both its quality and record high butterfat and protein values.

Those interested are urged to contact SADA directly via email: sada@sada.asn.au or phone: 8293 2399

*Or still unsure about next year after completing year 12.
Try the Ag Career Start Gap Year program, you won't regret it.*



Say hello to Mikaila!

Mikaila is the new **Community Engagement Coordinator**, here to support Host Farmers & Participants through their on and off farm AgCAREERSTART journey. Having grown up in the **Fleurieu Peninsula**, Mikaila found her love for all things ag and is a passionate advocate for future proofing Australia's agricultural workforce.

Mikaila looks forward to meeting each of you!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

TAYLOR REDGEWELL

Check out this article written by an 2023 AgCAREERSTART Alumni, who recently attended a study tour in New Zealand. "It was fascinating to see firsthand technologies that we utilise daily on our dairy farm back home"

Click to read more

2025 AGCAREERSTART APPLICATIONS OPEN

22 July – 29 September 2025



Departures



Many dairy farmers report feeling 'stable and happy', says Dairy Australia

Dairy Australia's Analysis and Insights manager Eliza Redfern says data collected as part of the 2024 National Dairy Farmer Survey shows farmers' confidence remains buoyant.



The [May update](#) provides an analysis of production and pricing trends for Australian dairy producers.

- Opening farmgate prices for the 2024/25 season are expected to be around 5 per cent lower than last year's opening bids.
- Full season farmgate prices are forecast to finish at or above \$9/kg MS, but processors will be reluctant to step up too quickly.



In its recently-released Australian Dairy Seasonal Outlook 2024, titled **Walking a Tightrope**, agribusiness banking specialist Rabobank says "all signs indicate that, with diligent budgeting and planning, the average Australian dairy farm business will post a fifth consecutive season of profitability in 2024/25". This is despite a drop in farmgate milk prices expected for farmers in the southern milk pool.



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.



SNAPSHOTS in DAIRY

Ben and Katie McHugh's investment in four robots at their Mount Compass dairy is driving improvements in both milking efficiency and animal health.



[Full Story from DairySAFE here](#)

Farming for feed security a lesson dairy farmers can teach beef producers



Navigating Family Business

Family Business Association is offering three workshops in SA to help family business owners build fundamental knowledge and capability.

*Please note that these workshops are for family business owners in South Australia only.
[Register for Workshops here](#)



South Australian dairy partnership plans for the future with robots

So we can make sure that you're getting all the relevant updates. Please ensure that your membership and supplier details are current and up to date.

<https://share.hsforms.com/1IAwYKsxjQ1inwndbn2NbYQd5tpo>