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SADA NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022

In the last month [SADA has welcomed new faces](#) to the board at its 86th Annual General Meeting, held another successful Policy Forum, hosted our annual Cocktail gathering with many members of parliament and welcomed representatives of Australian Dairy Farmers and three State Dairy Farming Organisations to South Australia. And all the while, the River Murray kept rising and workforce challenges kept presenting.

At a national level, it was great to see Rick Gladigau returned as ADF president with a clear mandate from members and state dairy organisations to continue the work he has commenced. It was also great to welcome Steve Sheridan as the new ADF CEO. John Hunt said he's "thoroughly looking forward to getting into 2023 with renewed focus and leading the team in some great projects that will only see the dairy industry strive to be in front of the game, that it's known for".

Dairy Farms on the Lower Murray – Flood Preparations and Recovery



As the President of the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association (SADA) I recognise the challenges the predicted rises in the levels of the River Murray will present in coming weeks, in turn SADA has written to all relevant Ministers with the following;

It is our desire to stand ready to assist the State Government in protecting dairy farmers and dairy businesses who will be adversely affected by inundation should the predicted levels of water become manifest. There are a number of dairy farmers who will fall into this category.

It is clear that the State Government will have more than just dairy farmers to assist, particularly if a state of emergency is declared.

Although we are a small organisation we nevertheless work closely with dairy farmers in the area. We are currently working with potentially affected dairy farmers to determine what their plans and needs are going to be should they be inundated or adversely impacted.

SADA is well placed to assist the state emergency services and other agencies with attending to the needs of dairy businesses. We have experience in coordinating farmers in times of emergency and using those skills we will be able to assist again.

There are already a number of things which we can begin to organise. Pre-flood farms in low lying areas will have both feed and moveable equipment that can be moved to higher ground if needed. If done properly this will save

millions of dollars' worth of feed, equipment and stock losses.

Further, subsequent to the flooding there will also be a need to identify areas where, upon subsidence, pumping water back into the river will be necessary to allow pastures to recover and business to resume. This will require large pumping units to be identified in advance. SADA is concerned that the existing pumping infrastructure may be inundated or not configured for this purpose.

After flooding it is also predictable that the supply of electricity for dairies may be an issue. Keeping dairies functional is essential to prevent significant animal welfare issues and a loss of milk.

SADA stands ready to work with government to assist with protecting dairy farmers, their businesses and the livelihoods they support. If you do wish to call upon SADA please let us know at your earliest convenience and we'll respond promptly to establish all necessary systems to attend to the issues raised in this letter.

Signed SADA President John Hunt.

With the Christmas season approaching, SADA would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and holiday season. Please note our offices will be closed from: - **12:00 noon Thursday 22nd December 2022, and re-open 9:00am Monday 9th January 2023.** For any matters needing attention, we will monitor messages. Please phone 08 8293 2399 and leave the details and we will respond as soon as we are able.



ADF appoints Stephen Sheridan as CEO

“The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Stephen Sheridan as Chief Executive Officer of Australian Dairy Farmers,” says Mr Rick Gladigau, ADF President.

Mr Sheridan has an extensive background in agriculture with a career spanning 30 years in both corporate and non-for-profit (NFP) agricultural management positions. He is a former CEO of the Victorian Farmers Federation and a current director of Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria West.

Growing up on a mixed cropping, livestock and irrigation property, Mr Sheridan’s love for all things dairy and agriculture was fostered from a young age.

“Stephen has breadth and depth of corporate and NFP experience, as well as expertise and vision that align with where our Board wants to see ADF in the future,” says Mr Gladigau.

Says Mr Sheridan: “I look forward to working with the ADF Board and team, farmers, members, and the broader industry in a sector which makes high-quality products I enjoy, as do people all around Australia and the world. “Australia is fortunate to have such a fantastic, clean, green, healthy and

abundant supply of essential dairy foods. The outlook for the dairy industry appears positive both domestically and internationally.

“This said, I am eager to better understand and meet the challenges

faced by the sector, including the immediate impact of current flooding in eastern states, biosecurity risks such as foot-and-mouth and lumpy skin disease, increasing costs of production and equitable pricing, through to the challenges faced by us all to reduce our carbon footprint and improve our environmental stewardship.”

Mr Sheridan says his priority is to “engage with our farmers, members, industry groups and government to understand these immediate and longer-term challenges and opportunities”. “My goal is that ADF is an effective advocacy organisation, focused on the sustainability of Australian dairy farmers supplying the dairy products we know and love,” he says.

Says Mr Gladigau of the recruitment process: “An extensive search was conducted across the second half of 2022, revealing a substantial number of applicants from within and external to the dairy sector. The Board would like to express its thanks to all applicants for their time and interest.” Mr Sheridan starts as ADF CEO today (2 November). He will attend this month’s ADF AGM.



SA's OWN DAIRY WEEK



SA hosted the first Face to Face meeting with the SDFO EO Group After some robust discussions on various issues and items. The group went for a drive down to have a look at the Connors Robotic Dairy in the picturesque Fleurieu Peninsula.

Hot topics on the Agenda for the State Dairy Farming Organisations this year.

- Methane emission national pledge and state targets.
- LSD back on the Agenda as it seems to have slipped off with FMD.
- NSWF talked about their strategy on nut juice (synthetic milk), the message being "once you start explaining you're losing".
- Weather warning inconsistency and NSW national emergency flood warnings and recovery package.
- VIC Telehandler course EPA (Vic) registration of old tyre stores – utilised for silage.



SADA convened the **SA Dairy Policy Forum** at the Arkaba Hotel. With more than 20 people in attendance. Including Rick Gladigau the National President of ADF, Stephen Sheridan the new ADF CEO. Other representatives at the forum included Dairy Australia, DairySafe and DIAA, SDFO from Vic and Tas and pro active dairy farmers. With a great cross section discussion for the day from Climate and Carbon to the management of Excess Calves.

The Board and staff hosted an evening at the Mylk Bar to welcome a (parliament) of politicians for the annual dairy drinks function. Both major parties were in attendance and SADA extends its gratitude for the presence of so many Ministers and shadow ministers at the function. It is heartening to be so well supported by the State’s political leaders.

Scholarship offers valuable regional student support

Primary Producers SA, through the E.W. Stevens Trust Fund, is offering students from remote and regional areas up to \$5,000 in scholarship grants.

The grants are designed to help students undertake study options that may otherwise be closed to them, due to their financial situation.

The fund was established at the request of former builder, the late Mr Earnest William Stevens, from the Fleurieu Peninsula, who provided funding for the scholarship in his Will.

Mr Stevens aim with the scholarship was to assist students in rural and regional areas who wanted to further their education but were unable to do so due to their financial circumstances. Primary Producers SA Chair Prof Simon Maddocks said PPSA was proud to now be the custodian of the EW Stevens Trust.

“Our organisation sees the Trust as a key vehicle to address the inequity faced by students living in regional SA, allowing them to access education opportunities and recognising the higher cost of living away from home,” he said.

Primary Producers is responsible for the administration of the fund, while a Board of Trustees has been appointed to select the recipient or recipients annually.

This current round of successful scholarship recipients will receive funding for their study in 2023. [Click here](#) for full Guidelines and Application Form.

Food industry warns government of long-term food supply chain disruptions

The National Food Supply Chain Alliance, made up of nine influential national food industry associations, says long term supply chain issues, including ongoing natural disasters and labour shortages, are set to increase food prices for the foreseeable future. It says recent threats have laid bare Australia’s food supply chain’s dependencies, risks, and vulnerabilities.

The Alliance, which represents every component of the nation’s domestic food supply chain from paddock to plate, says the threats are unprecedented in scale and that the only solution to stabilising future food price fluctuations and reducing food shortages is to urgently establish the nation’s first ever

‘National Food Security Plan’.

The Alliance has, over the past two days, met with government and the opposition to explain the risks to the economy and Australians’ wellbeing should a National Plan not be developed and implemented as a matter of urgency. It says all the potential disruptors to the nation’s food supply chain have never been brought together under ‘one’ co-ordinated national strategy.

Co-incidentally, the just released State of the Climate Report by the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology, says more droughts, heatwaves, and bushfires, along with heavier bursts of flooding rain are forecast.

Recommendation to

Government: That Australia urgently establish a National Food Security Plan. That a Food Industry Working Group, representing all facets of the supply chain, be established to partner with Government to design the framework for the National Plan.



4 December 1937

After many months of deliberation . . .

The Chairman said the important thing to be decided upon today, was the price of milk to be paid to the Producers as from 4 Dec 1937. He said a number of wholesalers did not want to resume equalization, but were prepared to pay 3d for fat, with the exception that there would not be a minimum price for city sales. He thought it wise to continue with the equalization machinery of the committee to meet as usual and declare city quotas.

It was resolved that a Conference be held between the Central Council of the Dairymen Association and the Committee of the Wholesale Distributors Association with an independent chairman to fix the price for milk from 4 Dec 1937.



South Australian Dairy Industry Fund

The SADIF has undergone some recent changes, with a new Chair announced, Bob Snewin and EO John Elferink from our own SADA Office. Returning board members Nick Brokenshire and Rob Kerin have been re-elected for another 2 year term. We would like to thank Will Rayner for this time and dedication to the fund for past five years. This now leaves a vacant spot on the board, if you feel you have the right attributes to fill this seat, please give Bob a call on 0408 077 180

Current Projects

- Kongorong Primary School Farm Day
- Mount Gambier Show Sponsorship
- Cows Create Careers 2022
- The quad bike rebate scheme made 3 payments in the 2022FY

Recently completed projects

- SADA Traceability Project
- DairySafe Business Continuity Model
- Dairy SA Wellbeing Project
- Creation Care Dung Beetle Project

Q&A with Dr Andy Sheppard and Dr Wilna Vosloo from CSIRO

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) is a multispecies disease and, therefore, the greatest disease threat to Australia’s livestock industries. The effects of an outbreak would be devastating.

The economic impact on Australia’s livestock industry alone has been estimated at \$80 billion over a 10-year period. The social and mental well-being of farming communities would also be severely affected. To best prepare Australia for a possible FMD outbreak, CSIRO, Meat and Livestock Australia, AHA, Charles Sturt University, the Bureau of Meteorology, the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences came together to undertake the FMD Ready Project.

We asked CSIRO’s Dr Andy Sheppard and Dr Wilna Vosloo a few questions about the Project and what the team achieved. If you are interested to learn more, you can [download the report](#) or visit the [Project webpage](#).

Jump to: [Update on FMD Ready’s Dairy Sub-Project 2 Innovation Pilot](#) Jump to: [Full Update here](#).

Echunga incident a timely reminder to maintain dams



The near-collapse of a farm dam above Echunga in the Adelaide Hills recently has highlighted the importance of landholders conducting regular monitoring and maintenance of their dams.

The South Australian State Emergency Services (SASES) can be reached on 132 500 in the case of a flood or storm emergency.

The guideline and resources for how to carry out a maintenance inspection and what to do in an emergency situation are available at www.ses.sa.gov.au/flood/during-a-flood/dams

The Department for Environment and Water is the flood hazard leader in South Australia, with further information available at www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/flood

Questions for landholders to consider;

- Does the dam have an unobstructed spillway operating that ensures the maximum water level is at least half a metre below the top of the dam wall?
- Are there any leaks or signs of animal burrows, cracking, slumping or erosion on the dam wall?
- Is the dam wall free of obstructions and vegetation other than grasses?
- Does the dam need de-silting to maintain its volume?
- Is it possible to exclude livestock from the dam?

Australian Dairy Industry In Focus

The Dairy Industry In Focus report provides a snapshot of Australia's role in the global dairy industry based on the current year's data.

The dairy industry is the nation's third largest rural industry and a key sector of the agricultural economy.

Dairy Australia plays a key industry role in being able to quantify the flow of milk across the nation, which is processed into a wider range of dairy products and then sold in diverse markets here and overseas.

THE AUSTRALIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY



DAIRY IS AUSTRALIA'S THIRD LARGEST RURAL INDUSTRY **3rd**

AVERAGE ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION PER COW **6,203** litres

TOTAL ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION **8,554** million litres

VALUE OF FARMGATE PRODUCTION **\$4.9** billion

ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF MAIN COMMODITIES
408,246 tonnes Cheese 192,623 tonnes Milk powders 73,019 tonnes Butter/AMF (CBE)

NUMBER OF DAIRY FARMS **4,420**

AVERAGE HERD SIZE **303** COWS

AUSTRALIAN DAIRY HERD **1.34** million cows

DAIRY INDUSTRY WORKFORCE **34,700**

ANNUAL PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION **15** kg cheese **93** litres of milk

AUSTRALIAN MILK UTILISATION
40% Cheese **3%** Whole milk powder
30% Drinking milk **8%** Other
19% Skim milk powder or butter

MILK PRODUCTION EXPORTED **36%**

MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS
303,397 tonnes Greater China **80,869 tonnes** Singapore **59,147 tonnes** Indonesia
69,963 tonnes Japan **63,600 tonnes** Malaysia



SA FARM FACTS 2021/22

Number of registered dairy farms **181**

Number of dairy cows ('000 head) **64**

Average annual milk production per cow (litres) **7,239**

Indicative factory paid milk prices - c/litre **53.7**
\$/kg milk solids **7.48**

Average farm working expenses (\$/kg MS) **6.09**

Average farm operating cash surplus (\$/kg MS) **2.67**

Average earnings before interest and tax (\$/kg MS) **1.44**

Average return on total assets (%) **4.1**

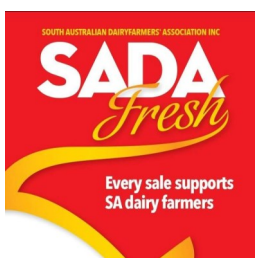
Milk production (million litres) **490**

Average fat/protein composition (%) **3.85**
Protein **3.33**

Drinking milk sales (million litres) **213**

Around the grounds

- Andrew attended a Targeted Stakeholder Engagement Session regarding Proposed Livestock Act 1997 Amendments to align the act with modern communication processes and procedures in the event of an Emergency Animal Disease response. As well as dairy, the livestock, bee, chicken, horse and pig industries were all represented as were carriers and service providers.
- Andrew met with the newly appointed Innovation Broker at the SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub to discuss the needs and opportunities for the dairy industry.
- John Hunt met with Opposition Leader, David Spiers to discuss dairy industry issues and opportunities within South Australia and in the South East.
- Andrew and Elf had a wide-ranging discussion with Charlie McElhone (DA) and Janine Waller (ADPF) while they were in Adelaide to meet with the Trade Minister. Topics covering included EU and India trade, sustainability and climate, whole of chain collaboration and Murray Darling Basin.
- Andrew, together with Warren Jacobs and Simon Maddocks (PPSA) attended a roundtable meeting with the Hon Tanya Plibersek, Minister for the Environment and Water to discuss the success and progress to date of the Murray–Darling Basin Plan.
- Andrew and Elf with John Hunt attended a PIRSA Breakfast meeting to explore some of the opportunities and challenges for the future of the South Australian dairy industry and how industry and Government may be able to partner on addressing these. There is a commitment to ongoing discussion regarding the issues raised.
- SADA attended the Australian Agricultural Traceability Alliance Forum. This forum brought together 150 individuals and organisations with an interest in furthering traceability in the agriculture supply chains and provided insights into the expectations and focus of direct sector. The discussion aligned with SADA's interest in its own traceability project.
- Andrew met with Melissa Hunter and Geoff Raven for their regular fortnightly catch up. Topics for discussion included Emergency Animal Disease outbreak response, training and board and staff renewal.
- SADA assisted the EPA with a member's issue regarding effluent management.
- John Hunt and Andrew attended the PPSA AGM and quarterly council meeting. Items of discussion included PPSA water policy for agricultural production, Spray drift/chemical trespass action plan, Transport policy principles, PIRSA emergency management arrangements and industry engagement with schools. We are happy to provide further detail on any of these matters on request.
- Andrew, Elf, Alison and Scarlett joined 40 people at the River and Lakes Dairy Group meeting in Murray Bridge. The key topics for discussion were the projected high flows in the River Murray which are expected to peak in early December below Lock One, and tailored training for dairy farm employees and managers.
- The SADA Annual Report was prepared for the AGM. This report competes a review of the operation of SADA and is completed in accordance with the strategic plan which was originally authored in 2017. The report reflects upon the successes and challenges of the organisation giving a clear review of SADA and the dairy industry over the past year and preceding 5 years of the organisation. The report is available [here](#).
- SADA met with Dairy Australia in an effort to advance the methane project. This project is under development and SADA is currently attempting to co-ordinate the investors to come together to make the project happen.
- Andrew met with officers from Livestock SA and PIRSA to further planning regarding industries response and responsibilities in the event of an Emergency Animal Disease outbreak.
- SADA also assisted a member with issues arising from an employment issue with contractually non-compliant staff.
- Warren Jacobs attended the NFF water committee on behalf of PPSA. Some concern has been expressed regarding the Commonwealth's budget and the money set aside for buy backs under the MDBP. A comprehensive Update for members has been prepared and circulated to members.



Did you miss any of our updates?

[Register Here](#)

