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SADA NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022

While Workforce and interest rates continue to be major issues for the South Australian dairy industry, much of the public commentary of late has related to sustainability, the Murray Darling Basin and Climate. SADA is working with Primary Producers SA, Australian Dairy Farmers and the National Farmers Federation to ensure that our position and commitments in these areas are heard and considered. It is important that we as an industry are seen as a key part of the future and that we are allowed to participate in the debate regarding future programs rather than having rules and requirements enforced upon us as has been seen to happen in some other jurisdictions. We welcome feedback and comment at any time on these import issues.



The Murray Darling Basin Plan today.

The Australian dairy industry is operating in a changed and challenging environment (including but not isolated to the Murray Darling Basin), where dry conditions, climate change, reduced water availability and increasing water market volatility have seen dairy businesses proactively implement a range of strategies to manage water risk to ensure future sustainability.

The Basin Plan and the evolving regulatory environment continue to be a key factor influencing the costs and availability of water in a critical region of South Australia and one of the largest dairy production regions of Australia.

SADA continues to work with Primary Producers SA to support the full implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP) and the outcomes it aims to achieve. We support measures that deliver improved production and environmental co-benefits, with priority given to further on-farm efficiency projects and off-farm water efficiency and recovery options. Where irrigation communities are negatively affected by any voluntary Government buybacks, regional adjustment packages must be developed to support economic and social transition.

Dairy: nutritious food for a sustainable world

October 16 was [World Food Day](#). This day recognises the millions of people who do not have access to a healthy diet. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) states “the problem is access and availability of nutritious food”. With nearly one in three people not having access to adequate food across the world (2.37 billion), transformation of the global food system is required.

The four commitments of the Australian Dairy Sustainability

Framework underpin our Dairy Promise – to provide nutritious food for a healthier world. Commitment 2, enhancing the wellbeing of people, aims for Australian-produced, nutritious dairy to play a role in improving the health and wellbeing of people around the globe.



**Australian Dairy
Sustainability
Framework**

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Hear the latest update on FMD and LSD

6 October 2022: Industry leaders talk us through the expected trade and market response from a potential FMD or LSD outbreak in this latest webinar update

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDGnU-EDHHA>



Outgoing Australian Dairy Farmers chief executive David Inall says farm advocacy faces challenges

Farmer advocacy is facing a funding crunch, according to outgoing Australian Dairy Farmers chief executive officer David Inall. This is occurring at the same time as increasing demands are being placed on farmer representative organisations.

After 31 years in farm advocacy roles here and in the United States, Mr Inall is moving out of the sector at the end of this week, having accepted the position of CEO with the Master Grocers Australia, an employer organisation for 2700 independent retailers across Australia. He said things had changed significantly since he started as a policy officer with the NSW Dairy Farmers Association in 1991.

"Over time the resourcing of peak commodity groups and state farming organisations has decreased significantly," he said.

And no one has been able to identify a solution to the problem.

"The NFF (National Farmers Federation) is on their third review of ag representation," Mr Inall said.

Options such as sponsorship had been tried but hadn't succeeded.

"The money is still in the industry, but how do those organisations access it," he said. "The model is outdated."



Almost one in five dairy farms employs staff from overseas.

Last week's changes to the Dairy Industry Labour Agreement (DILA) by the Commonwealth Government enable dairy farmers to now employ skilled overseas workers on a visa in two roles: Dairy Cattle Farm Operator (new) and the Senior Dairy Cattle Farm Worker.

Dairy survey outlines the significant impact of workforce shortages, facing the sector

Dairy Australia has launched a national marketing campaign to attract new workers to the industry, after a survey found 25 per cent of farmers were unable to find labour or access skills.

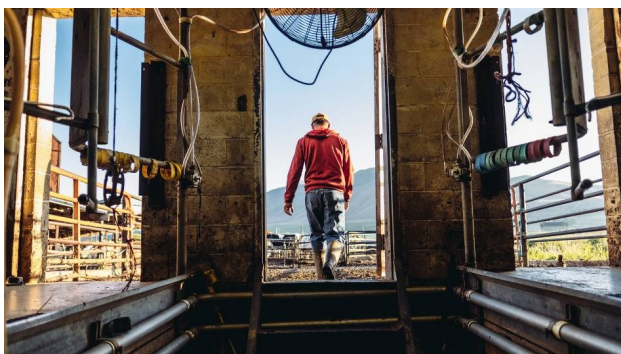
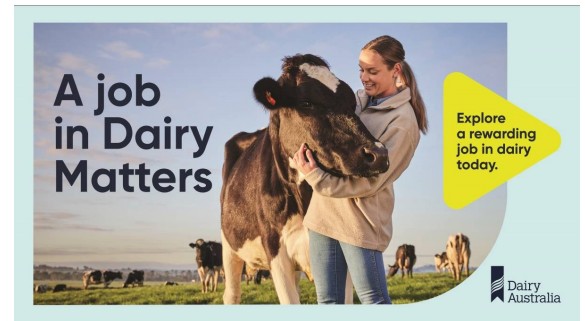
The survey found 22pc cent of farmers were unable to fill vacant positions, within three months, and 40pc had lost one, or more staff, in the 12 months prior to the survey.

The campaign, through television, radio, social and digital promotion beamed into dairy regions, kicked off on Saturday.

DA regional services general manager Verity Ingham said [the issue had been compounded by COVID-19 and the nationwide skills shortage](#), across a range of sectors beyond agriculture.

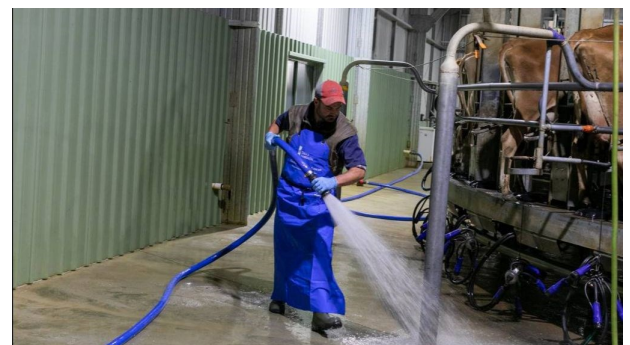
The campaign would promote the benefits of working in dairy farming and encourage Australians to explore a job in dairy.

Featuring dairy ambassador Jonathan Brown and seven dairy farmers, the campaign showcases why working in dairy matters, high-



READ MORE: [Labour shortage sees milk pool shrink](#)

<https://www.farmonline.com.au/story/7724514/dairy-labour-shortage-bites-hard/>

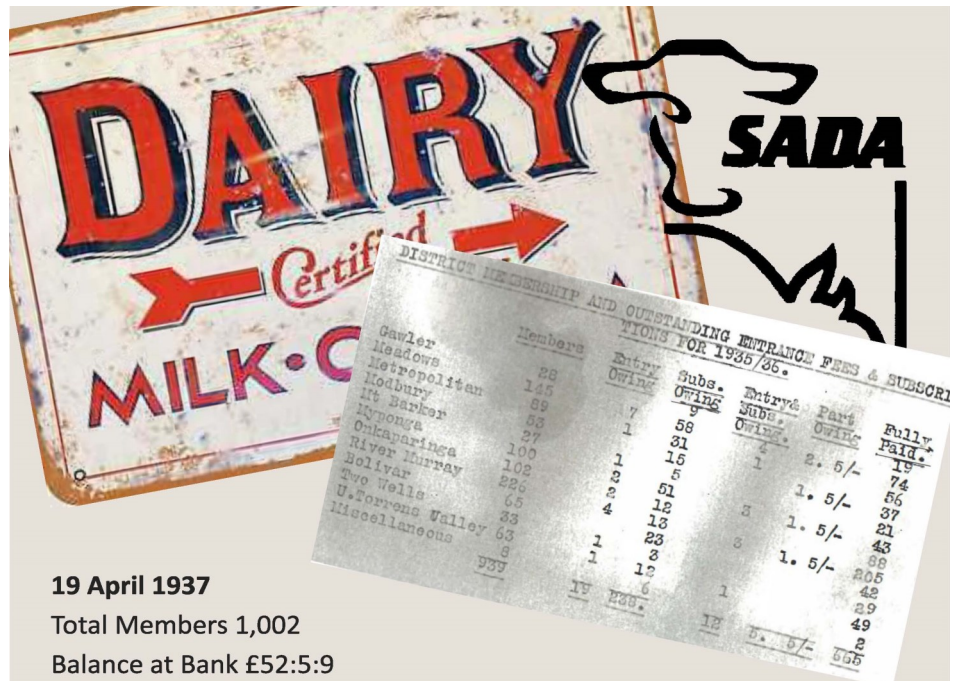


READ MORE: [Investing in labour key priority for Dairy Australia](#)

<https://www.farmonline.com.au/story/7557087/investing-in-labour-key-priority/>



- Submission to NHVR Review of Livestock Mass, Dimension and Loading Arrangements ([Review of Livestock Mass, Dimension and Loading Arrangements | NHVR](#)).
- Submission to Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Market (A National Biodiversity Market) Bill ([A National Biodiversity Market | Have Your Say - Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry](#))
- Hosted the PPSA Bushfire Prevention and Management Committee with CFS presentation re BMC and State Committee Governance
- Hosted the PPSA Chemical Stewardship Roundtable, bringing together State and National stakeholders to discuss the importance of responsible use of crop protection products and strategies to prevent the incidence of spray drift.
- PPSA PIRSA Quarterly meeting held on Wednesday, 21 September. PPSA presentations on the PPSA Bushfire Prevention and Management Committee activities and spray drift.
- Facilitated the PPSA Climate Policy Workshop, the first step in hearing from commodity groups and developing PPSA's Climate Policy, to be put to Council in October.
- PPSA workshop held to develop a PPSA climate policy statement for consideration of NRM Committee meeting, prior to PPSA Council meeting in October.
- Attended the SA Government 'State of Environment' Reporting stakeholder workshop.
- Attended the SADA Foot and Mouth Disease/Lumpy Skin Disease Industry Workshop.
- Met with MDBA CEO Andrew McConville to understand his vision for the MDBA and talk about how PPSA can ensure a SA primary producer perspective into decision making.
- Breakfast meeting with The Hon. Bruce Billson, Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman.
- Monthly catch-up with Minister Scriven's office initiated.
- Taskforce on taxation reform to be convened by Nathan Paine later this year.



19 April 1937

Total Members 1,002

Balance at Bank £52:5:9

Presentation to Mr. HR Walsh: In the early part of the financial year, it was suggested to present to Mr. Walsh, some token of our esteem for the great work he had done for the South Australian Dairymen's Association. The matter was deferred on account of the Associations financial position at the time, mainly the large amount owing to Mr. Hewland, but as debts have long since been paid, and with a credit balance at the bank it was felt that the time was ripe to make a presentation. Colonel Nelson suggested a cigarette box made from Australian timber similar to those presented to several English Regiments by Australian Light Horse Units.



Farm businesses warned as scams targeting agricultural sector grow

Farmers and small businesses in rural and regional areas are urged to be cautious, particularly when buying heavy machinery, following a spike in scams targeting the agricultural sector this year. Reports to the ACCC's Scamwatch show Australian farm businesses lost more than \$1.2 million to scammers between 1 January and 31 August 2022, an increase of more than 20 per cent compared to the same period last year. The most common scam targeting farmers involved the sale of tractors and heavy machinery, with losses to this scam alone topping \$1 million so far this year. "Scammers are ruthlessly luring farmers and rural businesses with seemingly good online deals on tractors and other farm machinery through fake websites or bogus classifieds on legitimate platforms and publications," ACCC Deputy Chair Mick Keogh said. Businesses, regardless of whether they have lost money, are encouraged to [report scams](#) and learn more about [how to get help](#) on the Scamwatch website scamwatch.gov.au.

Around the grounds

- Andrew met with DA officers to discuss opportunities in workforce development, training and Our Farm Our Plan. Opportunities exist to align DA programs with funding through the SA and federal government.
- Elf assisted Channel 7 in locating milk men from the past, (who used to deliver milk door to door) for a retrospective piece. A milk man was delivered to Channel 7.
- Andrew met with DA Officers to discuss matters, policy and programs relating to Climate Change, Natural Resource Management, and Carbon.
- Elf reviewed the proposed Dairy Shed Effluent Management plan which is being drafted by the EPA. The relationship between the EPA and SADA is such that the EPA has sought SADA's assistance in formulating the management plan. The EPA determined to update the management plan after a number of dairy farms had come to the attention of the EPA in the past two years. SADA continues to work with the EPA to develop a reasonable and sensible plan.
- Andrew met with DA Officers to discuss Murray Darling Basin policy and opportunities to advance the dairy industry's position within the MDB debate.
- Andrew attended the Dairy Sustainability Steering Committee meeting where the Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework ten year report was discussed. Opportunities exist to further communicate the frameworks and its successes and challenges to both the industry and the wider com-

munity.

- Andrew attended an NFF Workforce committee meeting where the outcomes of the Jobs and Skills Summit were discussed. While many of the issues relevant to agriculture were discussed, there was a concern that there was little reference to agriculture and that likely responses would do little to address current and short term workforce availability issues.
- Andrew and Alison hosted a well-attended virtual meeting of State Dairy Farming Organisation Executive Officers and Craig from ADF. Key topics of discussion included seasonal conditions, Jobs and Skills Summit, milk volumes and opening prices, and future meetings.
- President John attended a virtual ADF National Council meeting and a meeting of SDFO presidents and chairs.
- Andrew and Elf met with Foodland SA to explore the value of placing SADA Fresh Cheeses on the shelves in the 96 Foodland Stores across SA. The meeting was very positive, and existing and new lines are being explored for development of the SADA Fresh brand to take the place of discontinued lines on the shelves.
- Andrew met with officers from Livestock SA and PIRSA to progress the SA Industry EAD Action Plan. A further update for workshop participants and industry is planned for the coming weeks.
- Andrew participated in a State of the Environment Reporting (SOER) workshop as part of an initial consultation regarding the 2023 report which is a five yearly requirement under the

Environment Protection Act 1993.

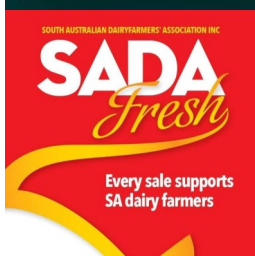
- Andrew, Geoff Raven and Melissa Hunter met for their regular catch up. Topics of discussion included the delivery of biosecurity signs to SA Dairy farms, the use of a QR Code check in system on farms, board director recruitment for Dairy SA and SADA, workforce development funding, and collaboration opportunities.
- Andrew met with the ADF Water Reference Group to discuss the Murray Darling Basin Plan and the coordinated engagement of the dairy industry in future commentary and planning.
- Andrew was interviewed on ABC Adelaide radio regarding the price of dairy products on supermarket shelves.
- Elf attended the Barossa Mid North discussion group to outline the impacts of the response by governments should there be an outbreak of either lumpy skin disease or foot and mouth disease.
- Andrew met with officers from Livestock SA and PIRSA to further discuss the role and capability of industry as part of a future EAD response.
- Elf completed a bid for the SA Government's Carbon Farming Pilot grant. This application seeks funding for a proposed methane capture project which SADA has been working to establish.
- John Hunt and Andrew attended the quarterly PPSA-PIRSA meeting. Biosecurity response activities were discussed as was planning for the summer bushfire season. Updates on the new SARDI Strategic Plan and the establishment of a Cross Border Commissioner were provided.



PODCAST

Good People to Know

WFI



Did you miss any of our updates?

[Register Here](#)



Good people to know.

1300 934 934