

# Members Newsletter

October 2024



## From the President

Robert Brokenshire

With only a couple of months left in 2024 and still no rain worth mentioning the summer season is looking to be a tough one, hopefully you've adjusted your farming practices to suit, if you're struggling to see any positives, reach out, we're all in this together. SADA is looking to hold their AGM on **12 November 2024** via Zoom. More details to come soon, any questions please give me a call on 0419 815 990.

Australia's dairy industry thrives on innovation, and there's a fantastic opportunity ahead. The **Australian Dairy Conference (ADC)** is calling for cutting-edge ideas, research projects, and scientific outcomes that can take our industry forward. Sponsored by the Gardiner Foundation, this award seeks to highlight the best in dairy innovation across the country. For

those interested, you can find more information and apply via the [ADC Innovators Application](#). I encourage our members to explore this chance to showcase the innovations shaping the future of dairy.

Meanwhile, the Federal Government is stepping up efforts to protect Australian agriculture from external threats. A \$95 million allocation has been [announced](#) to guard against the inevitable arrival of **H5N1 bird flu**. With the strain already impacting dairy farms across the US, including a worrying number of human cases, Australia remains the only continent free of this highly pathogenic virus. However, its rapid global spread serves as a reminder of the importance of being prepared. In addition to this, there's positive news regarding market fairness.

The Federal Government has pledged an [additional \\$30 million](#) to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). This funding boost will enhance the ACCC's ability to enforce **fair competition practices in the supermarket** and retail sectors, ensuring our industry is supported against potential market abuse.

These developments demonstrate both challenges and opportunities for us, reinforcing the need for vigilance, innovation, and resilience in today's evolving landscape.

"October is Farm Safety Month, a timely reminder to stop and assess the risks around your farm. I know I've had my own wake-up call this month, and it's been a powerful reminder that safety should always come first. Take a moment to look out for yourselves and your teams – a few helpful tips are included at the bottom of this newsletter. Let's stay vigilant and keep each other safe.

**Stay safe and take care.**

## Invest in energy-efficient upgrades with a Small Business Energy Efficiency Grant

If you're an eligible small business or not-for-profit, you can apply for a Small Business Energy Efficiency Grant to help you purchase new equipment to save on your energy bills. By investing in energy-efficient upgrades, you'll not only give back to the environment – you'll also get back up to half your cash outlay\*. That means if you purchase equipment or solutions between \$5,000 and \$100,000 (ex-GST), you can apply for a grant to receive between \$2,500 and \$50,000 back.

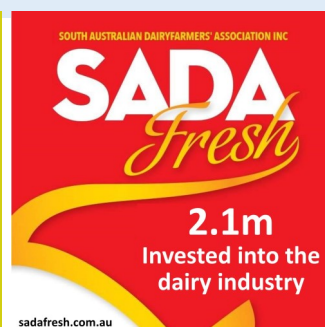
Grant applications are [open](#) until Friday 29 November 2024.



### 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.



**DO DAIRY**  
Support SA

# Cyber Security Awareness

Telstra's Regional Australia team, wanted to share with you a program funded by the Australian Government aimed at helping small businesses identify and manage online security threats.

**43% of cyber-attacks target small businesses, and on average a single attack can cost small business \$46,000.**

To help protect small businesses, Telstra have partnered with COSBOA (Council of Small Business Organisations Australia) and the Commonwealth Bank on the **Cyber Wardens** program designed to simplify cyber security for small businesses – this online learning program is free.

The program is quick, self-paced and can be completed by anyone in the business. The course is focused on providing quick wins that small businesses can implement to help identify online security threats and manage the situation to protect their business today.

Completing the course will provide small businesses with the tools to:

- Identify and protect your important business information
- Take simple and effective steps to defend against digital break-ins
- Spot common tricks and scams hackers use to attack small businesses
- Promote cyber safety in your team.

**The Cyber Wardens program is available to small businesses .**



<https://www.droverag.com.au/>

## Full support agricultural recruitment service

Drover Ag are specialists in Agriculture recruitment, delivering employment solutions to agribusinesses, primary producers and farmers all over Australia. We have proven experience in recruiting for executive management, corporate and family agribusiness and general agricultural and farming roles. We provide a full support recruitment service, HR advice specific to your industry and information for building successful Ag teams.

<https://www.rmcb.com.au/>

**RMCG** is a multi-disciplinary consultancy specialising in environment, agriculture and communities. We provide advice to government agencies, water authorities, institutions and private sector clients in the fields of environment, water, agriculture, economics and communities. RMCG is one of Australia's strongest regionally focused consulting groups. We have achieved this position through a commitment to the sustainable development of rural industries and communities.

<http://fairfarms.com.au/>

## Fair Farms - Ethical sourcing and social compliance

We are an Industry-led initiative aimed at fostering fair and responsible employment practices in Australian Horticulture. Fair Farms is the only Australian Training and Certification Program for fair and ethical employment practices on farms.

<https://agriculturejobsauswide.com/>

**Ag Jobs Auswide** We're dedicated to supporting Australia's hard-working agriculture community. Our platform is designed to make job searching easy and efficient, so you can spend less time online and more time where it counts.

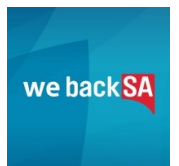
<https://2workinoz.com.au/>

**2workinoz** - is a unique employment agency offering both training solutions and recruitment service for rural and regional places of work. Located in York, Western Australia, we recruit all year and we run our Farm Skills Training Program to align with the peak seasonal demands of the Grains Industry.



My name is Beau Simmons and I live in Strathalbyn with my wife and 2 kids - I am born and bred on the Fleurieu Peninsula with 20+ years of banking experience, I am a Senior Manager in Agribusiness for Bank SA that covers the South East and Fleurieu Peninsula regions.

Bank SA for the last 176 years has held a long and proud history within the Agricultural Industry and we have a strong and stable team of bankers right across the state. Importantly, all of our funding decisions are made locally by South Australians - **at Bank SA we back SA!**



We recognise the critical role that the Dairy Industry continues to play within our state and we are here to support its growth aspirations as recently outlined in the [Dairy Action Plan 2024 - 2029](#). I would be pleased to chat with any farmers that may be considering refinance opportunities, land acquisition, livestock funding or succession planning. We are also able to offer competitive equipment finance rates.

Feel free to contact me on mobile via 0412 977 249  
or via email [simmons@banksa.com.au](mailto:simmons@banksa.com.au)

## Same hard work. Less Taxing.

Deposit up to \$800,000 into a **Farm Management Deposit Account** before the end of the financial year and defer paying tax on that amount until the financial year it is withdrawn. T&Cs apply.





# Innovation, sustainability, and leadership

were on full display at the SA Dairy Awards in August this year, where four of the state's dairy farmers were recognised for their remarkable contributions to the industry. Among them, the spotlight was on **Ben McHugh**, a deserving recipient of the

**Innovative Farmer of the Year** award. His family-run farm, nestled in Mount Compass, has embraced technology in ways that set new benchmarks for the future of farming.

Ben McHugh is no stranger to hard work and tradition, but it's his forward-thinking vision that has garnered attention. His farm not only houses 450 dairy cows but also spans 7,000 acres of crops and includes beef cattle, making it a diverse operation where innovation fuels growth. At the heart of his success lies a commitment to both sustainable farming and cutting-edge technology.

In 2023, Ben took a major leap forward with the installation of a fully **robotic dairy** system, demonstrating the kind of innovative spirit needed to keep the dairy industry competitive in the 21st century. The McHugh farm's **solar-powered, off-grid system** is impressive in itself, but it's their **Herd Navigator system** that stands out as a game-changer. This state-of-the-art system analyses milk samples to detect heat and pregnancy levels in cows via progesterone—revolutionizing herd management. Unlike traditional methods such as veterinary testing or activity collars, the McHugh's automated approach represents the future of precision dairy farming. When asked about his award, Ben's humility was clear. "It's nice to be recognised for the efforts that you do to contribute to the industry," he said, a reflection of his deep-rooted commitment to South Australia's farming legacy.

For the McHugh family, innovation is not just a means of improving efficiency; it is also about ensuring the **long-term viability of the farm for future generations**. Ben and his wife Katie, view the robotic dairy system as an investment not only in technology but in their children's futures. Their three sons, are already showing an interest in the family's agricultural enterprise, and the McHughs are keen to pass on a farm that's ready for tomorrow's challenges. "If our kids choose to take up a career in farming, we want to be able to give them the same opportunities we were given," Ben says.



## #AgDayAu Photo Competition is Now Open!

The wait is over—National AgDay Photo Competition is officially open for entries! Whether you're a professional photographer, a passionate hobbyist, or simply someone who loves capturing the beauty of the bush, we want to see your unique perspective. Snap and share your best shots that celebrate the heart of Aussie farming, and be in the running to win great prizes!

**How to Enter** Simply head over to the website and submit your photo. Show what agriculture means to you—whether it's a stunning landscape, a farmer at work, or the fresh produce that fills our plates.

**Photo Comp Entries close 15 November**

#AGDAYAU  
**GROW YOU GOOD THING**  
15 November 2024

## National Agricultural Leadership Program (NALP)

is the flagship leadership and capability development program for Australian agriculture. This program provides provide targeted activities and unique experiences in leadership, advocacy, and policy development. It uses a whole-of-agriculture perspective to build networks across industry and create the next generation of leaders for Australian agriculture.

The program will run for six months starting in **February 2025**. It will begin with an introductory webinar before the Advocacy Retreat in Canberra. Other activities will follow and finish with a Graduation on **14 August 2025**.

**Apply Now** - Applications close - 18 November 2024

# SNAPSHOTS in DAIRY



Did you know that there's been a significant reduction in on-farm fatalities this year or that heavy machinery, large animals and severe weather events are a leading risk on Australian farms? In the latest article from WFI Insurance, they break down key findings from the Safer Farms 2024 report which you can read [here](#).

**airagri**  
Your Lifeguard in the Bush  
There when you need it, out of the way when you don't

**Precision tracking and alerts**  
Helps farmers track the location of the most valuable asset, their people.

AirAgri stands out as the premier software solution tailored to meet the needs of farmers, making it the ultimate choice when it comes to protecting farmers and their teams.

**Renewal of the national primary production work diary and fatigue record keeping exemption notice**

**Farmsafe AUSTRALIA**

**Induction Tool**

The tool is free and seeks to further improve the safety induction of new workers.

**Start Your Induction Here**

**Farm Safety Insights 2024**

**wfi Insurance**