

Murray Dairy eNews 31 March 2017

Click to view this email in a
browser



Your Levy at Work

Murray Dairy
eNews

Friday 31 March
2017

Dear All,

This fortnight's edition contains the following:

[Murray Dairy Focus Farm Open Day](#)

[NCDE/Murray Dairy Courses](#)

[Future Farming Expo](#)

[Drones for Dairy](#)

[Is your town Legendairy?](#)

[Regional Network Group Meetings](#)

[Accelerating Change Updates](#)

[Autumn Start Up / Managing for Soil Success](#)

[Managing your water portfolio- save the date](#)

[The Invisible Farmer Project](#)

[Taking Stock: help to assess your farm options](#)

[Dairy Science Grants](#)

[Milk Fund offers up to \\$20K Grants](#)

[Dairy Support](#)

[Easter Holiday and Pay Rates](#)

[BOM](#)

[The Dairy Forecast Service](#)

[Events, Courses and Training](#)

[eNews - extra](#)

Murray Dairy Focus Farm Open Day

The Murray Dairy Focus Farm Open Day will be held on **11 April at Leigh & Sasha Fletcher's in Cohuna**. Leigh Fletcher and Tom Farran from Farmanco will be discussing aspects of the business and Paul Clavin from Cohuna Vet clinic will cover some of the animal health and fertility issues of the herd and look at what measures can be put in place to improve animal health and fertility. Click [here](#) for more information.

NCDE/Murray Dairy Courses

Cups On Cups Off (CoCo) is a two-day training course designed by Dairy Australia and delivered by the National Centre for Dairy Education Australia (NCDE) to help dairy farmers achieve best practice in milk harvesting, with an emphasis on detection, treatment and prevention of clinical mastitis.

CoCo Mon 3 & Tue 4 April at Rochester

Contact Murray Dairy for more information.

Future Farming Expo

The Goulbourn Broken CMA and North Central CMA have teamed up to present the 2017 Future Farming Expo at Rochester on 5 April. Industry leaders will be sharing practical tips and strategies to help you achieve your goals and overcome challenges.

When: Wednesday 5 April 2017

Time: 9.30 am to 3.00 pm (Lunch included)

Where: Rochester Shire Hall, 45 Mackay Street, Rochester.

RSVP: Places are strictly limited and [RSVP](#) is essential. For further info check on the [website](#) (agenda now available).

Drones for Dairy - short course

Learn how drones can improve dairy farming productivity. Whether using drones for observing livestock, water and fencing, or gather data on pasture growth and nutrient levels, this basic course will give you the fundamentals. **Shepparton 3-5 April**. Click [here](#) for more information.

Is your town your town Legendary?

Nominations are now open for towns wanting to become Australia's Legendary Capital. One finalist town from each of Australia's eight dairy regions will receive a \$2500 grant to invest in a community project.

One town will go on to secure the coveted title of Australia's Legendary Capital 2017 and receive a further grant of \$7500 for its nominated community project. Nominations close April 10. Click [here](#).

Regional Network Group Meetings

Our next round of Regional Network Group (RNG) meetings are to be held over the first two weeks of May. These meetings are an essential part of understanding the needs of our farmers in the areas of extension and education delivery. The issues raised at these meetings are then discussed at our Regional Extension and Education Committee (REEC) and form part of Murray Dairy's priorities within their Annual Operating Plan.

Meetings will be held:

North West – Monday 1 May 2017 at Bower Hotel, Cohuna

Eastern – Tuesday 2 May 2017 at Shamrock Hotel, Numurkah
Central – Monday 8 May 2017 at Blue Brick Hotel, Kyabram
Riverina – Tuesday 9 May 2017 at Returned Services Club, Finley

All meetings start at 7pm. Meal provided. RSVP to Murray Dairy.
To download event flyer, click [here](#).

Accelerating Change Updates – Autumn & Winter

Have you seen the data collected last Autumn and Winter on Accelerating Change project partner farms? Accumulation rates, yields, nutritive characteristics and a full economic analysis of the cost and value of different forage types over this period is available on our website. To take a look, click [here](#)! You will also find resources for feedbase, winter cropping, soils and irrigation management, to help you through the upcoming season.

Autumn Start Up / Managing for Soil Success

Autumn Start up / Managing Soil Success workshops were held across the Murray Dairy region. The Autumn start up workshops this year focused on the management of soils. Across the Murray Dairy region common themes have emerged and a series of fact sheets have been developed to assist with the understanding of and addressing of each of the issues which include:

- Soil preparation on dry paddocks
- Management of compacted, consolidated subsoil
- Pugging, waterlogging and drainage
- Acid soils
- Water use efficiency under dry and irrigated agriculture (topsoil depth and texture, subsoil depth and texture, soil structure, effective root zone, available water holding capacity)

These fact sheets can be found by clicking [here](#).

Managing your water portfolio- Save the Date

A series of lunch time seminars to better understand the options to secure, trade, lease, buy and manage your water needs will be held on **15,16 &17 May** at various locations across Murray Dairy region. Locations and venues TBC. More information will soon be available.

The Invisible Farmer Project

Women produce at least 49% of real farm income in Australia, however if you do a Google search today for "Australian farmer" you will find that 80-90% of the images will feature men, not women. The Invisible Farmer is the largest ever study of Australian women on the land. This three-year project is funded by the Australian Research Council and involves a nation-wide partnership between rural communities, academics, government and cultural organisations. For further info or to get involved click [here](#).

Need help in assessing your farm business options?

Taking Stock is a free 1:1 business assessment and support service using a consultant to assist in the collection and analysis of current financial and physical data with the aim of clarifying future farm business options. This is available to **all levy paying farmers**, regardless of who they supply. Call Murray Dairy on (03) 5833 5312 or click [here](#) to find out more. This program is supported by the Australian Government and Gardiner Foundation.

Dairy Science Grants

Dairy Australia's dairy science travel grants of \$6K allow early career research or service providers to visit one of the world's largest dairy science research conferences – 2017 American Dairy Science Association annual meeting. The theme of this year's meeting is Integrating Dairy Science Globally. Past conferences have attracted more than 3000 participants, showcasing over 40 concurrent sessions and more than 500 abstracts. More? [2017 Dairy Science Travel Grant Flyer \(PDF, 783KB\)](#) [2017 Dairy Science Travel Grant FAQs \(PDF, 40KB\)](#) or enquiries@dairyaustralia.com.au

Milk Fund offers up to \$20K Grants

Applications for the third round of grants for dairy farmers in south-east Australia open from 20 February. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available through sales of Farmers' Fund milk produced by Murray Goulburn and sold exclusively by Coles under licence from the VFF. The grant process is managed by an independent panel. More? Click [here](#).

Dairy Support - Financial, Health and Community Assistance

Farm Business Concessional Loans Scheme- Loan Applications Open.

Loans of up to \$1million are available to eligible farm businesses. For information on the loans and how to apply, visit www.rurualfinance.com.au or phone 1800 260 425. Applications close 30 June 2017, or earlier if funding is exhausted.

Dairy Farmer Central

Dairy Farmer Central is a website designed to be a central source of information on programs, initiatives and events for dairy farmers and their communities. For more information click [here](#).

Rural Financial Counselling Service.

Free, independent and confidential assistance.

North East Victoria (Goulburn Valley Region): **1300 834 775**

North West Victoria: **1300 769 489**

Southern NSW: **(02) 6452 5820**

Rural Financial Counsellors can help you with:

- Dairy & Drought Concessional Loans
- Farm Business Concessional Loans
- Assessing and understanding your financial position, identify options and develop an action plan to move forward.
- **Farm Household Allowance.** This is available to all eligible dairy farmers irrespective of who you supply to and as of January 1, 2017 there has been an

increase in the asset limits. Click [here](#) to access the FHA fact sheet and [here](#) to access the FHA Checklist tool.

To find out how your FHA application is going call the Farmer Assistance Hotline on 132 316 (8am- 8pm).

To find out more visit www.rfcsvicne.org.au or call one of the above phone numbers

Agribusiness Toolkit- On farm Training

Qualify is a specialist regional training and employment services provider and that works closely with clients, employers, TAFEs and industry partners to help people develop new skills and find sustainable employment across regional Victoria.

Their Agribusiness Toolkit training program is designed to assist Farm Householders work towards improving their capacity for self-reliance. The program, which can be accessed through the Activity Supplement funding, covers two streams – Business Training and Employment Preparation – which assists those wanting to gain employment to generate off-farm income. For more information, click [here](#).

Gannawarra Shire Dairy Industry Counselor

Northern District Community Health have appointed a **Dairy Support Counselor** to assist in supporting the Victorian Dairy Industry and all those that are connected to it within the Gannawarra Shire. Rachel Weaver's flyer attached [here](#) gives more information.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Tuesday 2 & 9 May, 9am- 4pm. Cost \$200

Where: Tatura Community House, 12-16 Casey St. Tatura

Click [here](#) for more information.

Also

Tuesday 9,16 & 23 May

Wangaratta. Contact Murray Dairy for more information.

Mental Health First Aid

Wednesday 19 & 26 April

Wangaratta. Contact Murray Dairy for more information.

Community Events

A number of events and opportunities are on around our region. Please refer to the Murray Dairy [website](#) and [calendar](#) for more information.

Easter Holiday and Pay Rates

With Easter fast approaching, employers need to be aware that the **Easter public holidays** vary from state to state – [read about Easter public holidays and pay rates](#)The [Employment Starter Kit \(ESKi\)](#) folder provides easy access to the information and documents you need to employ someone. [Order your ESKi folder](#) or check your ESKi is up to date.

BOM

BOM is regularly updated and the newest seasonal forecasts are now available. Click [here](#).

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has announced that they have released a [Water Information Dashboard](#) which will provide national up-to-date coverage of water storage levels and water market information. This dashboard allows you to compare water levels and volumes for more than 300 publicly owned lakes, reservoirs and weirs.

The Dairy Forecast Service

The **Dairy Forecast Service** can be found [here](#). This site gives concise information relevant to your area. Key features include:

- National Overviews
- 7 day Outlook toggle on the My Site page
- Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) weather observations

Events, Courses and Training

Please see the Murray Dairy Events calendar for all dairy related events, training and courses happening throughout the region. Click [here](#)

To be successful, the first thing you need to do is to fall in love with your work. *Sister Mary Laretta*

Q: What happens when a cow is exhausted?
A: It cowlapses.

With best regards from the Murray Dairy team.

Jenny Wilson
Chief Executive Officer
Murray Dairy

255 Ferguson Road Tatura Vic 3616
Phone: 03 5833 5312 Mobile: 0409 865 467
Email: admin@murraydairy.com.au

to unsubscribe from email communications

Dairy Australia

Level 5 IBM Tower
60 City Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3006