

Murray Dairy eNews 13 April 2017

Click to view this email in a
browser



Murray Dairy
eNews

Friday 13 April
2017

Dear All,

This fortnight's edition contains the following:

[Regional Network Group Meetings](#)
[Is your town Legendary?](#)
[Managing your water portfolio - save the date](#)
[Farm Business Management Fundamentals](#)
[Accelerating Change Updates](#)
[Dairy Advocacy](#)
[UDV Annual Meeting and Conference](#)
[Legendary Women's Network](#)
[Informational Videos](#)
[Explore your potential with AVCLP](#)
[Dairy Support](#)
[NCDE/Murray Dairy Courses](#)
[Community & Volunteer grants](#)
[Easter Holiday and Pay Rates](#)
[BOM](#)
[The Dairy Forecast Service](#)
[Events, Courses and Training](#)

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, admin@murraydairy.com.au
To download event flyer, click [here](#).

Is your town Legendairy?!

Closing Date extended. Nominations now close at 5pm on Friday 28 April 2017.

Nominations are now open for towns wanting to become Australia's Legendairy 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 Legendairy capital 2017 and receive a further grant of \$7500 for its nominated community project. Click [here](#) for Nomination form

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.

Farm Business Management (FBM) Fundamentals

Three upcoming courses are to be run, hosted by Murray Dairy.

1. Getting into Farm Data - 2 Day Course

This two day program provides participants with the skills and knowledge to collect, organise, interpret and analyse farm data using DairyBase. It will focus on physical farm data organisation and analysis, and introduce financial farm data collection. Two day course, three locations running through May and June 2017. Click [here](#) for more information.

2. Getting into Farm Business Management (FBM) - 3 Day Course

This three day course allows participants to gain foundation FBM knowledge, understand business compliance, getting organized (electronically), financial data and budgeting and monitoring and reporting. This is a three day course

which will run in three locations through May and June 2017. Click [here](#) for more information.

3. Dairy Farm Analysis - 2 Day Course

A two day program which provides participants with an understanding of farm business management and the use of DairyBase. This will run in Kyabram on Thursday June 22 and Tuesday 29 June, 2017. Click [here](#) for more information.

Successful Summer Cropping – Summer Conservation & Preparation for Winter

Have you tested the density of your silage stack? Are you checking the quality of processing? Is Shredlage for you? The Accelerating Change website provides tips for optimising the quality of your silage. See them [here](#).

Sowing cereals? Have you soil tested? Nutrient levels could be deficient after a wet year and bigger crop in 2016. For information to assist you in optimising this year's winter cropping, have a look at the resources from Accelerating Change's Successful Summer Cropping workshop, now available [on our website](#).

Dairy Advocacy for the Future

Advocacy is an important part of securing the future for the dairy industry. Victorian dairy farmers are conducting an independent study of the challenges and opportunities for the leadership, governance and effectiveness of advocacy for the dairy industry in Victoria and in a national context.

The Dairy Advocacy Review Team (DART) has been established to provide recommendations on the most effective advocacy model to take the industry forward over the next 20 years. The project is supported by the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria (UDV), the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) and with UDV project funds from Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF).

The DART consists of a group independent, successful, young farmers brought together by UDV Vice-President and Gippsland dairy farmer John Verstedden, with former Department of Primary Industries Executive Director Dr Clive Noble as Executive Officer.

To learn more about the DART and the opportunity to make comment, please visit www.darteam.com.au

UDV Annual Meeting and Conference

The United Dairyfarmers of Victoria will discuss lessons from 2016 and the way forward at this year's conference. Join the UDV on **Friday 12 May at the Melbourne Cricket Ground** to explore the tools being created to help rebuild our dairy industry and bring about the change we need. Click [here](#) for event

flyer. Click [here](#) for draft agenda.

Australia's LEGENDAIRY Women's Network (ALWN)

This network connects like-minded women from across Australia who are involved in dairy. ALWN works alongside, supports and connects members, provides opportunities for women to improve skills and capabilities and, in doing so, adds value to dairy businesses and communities. For more information [click here](#).

Informational Videos

Dairy Australia is making it easier for farmers to get relevant information when it suits them through the release of a number of short videos on [its Youtube channel](#). Recent videos include:

- Reducing emissions and costs associated with moving water - Click [here](#)
- Practical nitrogen use timing for summer/ winter grass system - Click [here](#)
- Economic benefits of shelter belts in dairy - Click [here](#)
- Monitoring and weighing heifers - Click [here](#)
- Reducing embedded emissions through best practice waste management - Click [here](#)

Explore your potential with the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program

Do you care for your community and want to make a difference?

The **Gardiner Foundation** is offering a full scholarship for our **2017-2018** Program. AVCLP are seeking an emerging community leader actively involved in the Dairy industry in North-Eastern Victoria, or an active community member in the Mitta Valley (whether involved in dairy or not). Applications close 13th June 2017. To access the website click [here](#) or click [here](#) for more information.

Dairy Support - Financial, Health and Community Assistance

Need help 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.

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](#).

Rural Skills Connect Commences in Murray Dairy Region

Rural Skills Connect is a program funded by the Victorian Government and is aimed at providing employment and training guidance for dairy farmers, their family members or employees and affected dairy farm service providers to support them as the dairy industry recovers.

The Program engages with people impacted by the downturn in the dairy industry who need to seek new employment or explore new opportunities through training.

Workers in the dairy industry have a broad range of existing skills and knowledge to be job-ready candidates for existing job vacancies within the region. The program's aim is to identify those transferable skills of dairy farm workers and if required, further develop them to meet local workforce needs. This is achieved through engagement with employers, industry and registered training organisations to identify current opportunities and connecting them with participants who are registered in the program.

The program will:

- assist affected workers by brokering new employment
- assist farmers to support their workers who may have lost their job or had reduced hours
- assist farmers to supplement farm business income with off-farm income
- undertake a skills gap analysis and work with the training sector to facilitate appropriate training opportunities which will lead to employment
- increase the accredited skills base across the industry
- assist farm businesses to become more resilient against economic or environmental stresses in the future

For further information or a confidential discussion, please contact Joanne Turner, Program Manager - Rural Skills Connect for the Murray Dairy region via telephone 03 5722 7115 or 0472 863 050 or via

joanne.turner@ecodev.vic.gov.au

To access the Back to work dairy fact sheet, 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, 6-9.30pm.

Wangaratta. Click [here](#) 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.

- assist farmers to supplement farm business income with off-farm income
- undertake a skills gap analysis and work with the training sector to facilitate appropriate training opportunities which will lead to employment
- increase the accredited skills base across the industry

assist farm businesses to become more resilient against economic or environmental stresses in the future-

For further information or a confidential discussion, please contact Joanne Turner, Program Manager - Rural Skills Connect for the Murray Dairy region via telephone 03 5722 7115 or 0472 863 050 or via

joanne.turner@ecodev.vic.gov.au

To access the Back to work dairy fact sheet, click [here](#).

[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 Wed 19 & Wed 26 April at Shepparton

CoCo Mon 8 & Tue 9 May at Kyabram

Contact Murray Dairy for more information

Grant applications are now open for the Biodiversity On-ground Action Community & Volunteer Action grants.

Grant applications will be accepted until midnight 10th May 2017

The Community & Volunteer Action grants;

- are offering funding for projects between \$5,000 and \$50,000,
- include the option of single or multi-year projects and
- have a broad biodiversity focus.

Funding of up to \$1 million is available for these grants in 2017. Community groups and not-for-profit organisations primarily focused on environmental projects such as biodiversity conservation or habitat protection and restoration projects are encouraged to apply. For further information, including a link to the application form, please [click](#) here.

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](#)

What happened to the lost cattle?
(Nobody's herd!)

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