

Murray Dairy eNews 28 April 2017

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Your Levy at Work



Dairy
Australia

Murray Dairy eNews

Friday 28 April
2017

Dear All,

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Did you know that by completing a **Taking Stock** with Murray Dairy you can have at your finger tips the **cost of production** and know the **break even milk price coming into the new financial year?**

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.

[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](#).

[Summer Survival of Pasture - Drying of Perennial Pastures Field Day](#)

Join us on one of two dates to see the latest research that is well underway looking at the persistence of perennial ryegrass pasture under no to limited irrigation water over the summer. A number of cultivars are being evaluated under grazed (on-farm) and ungrazed conditions. **Presenters on the day will be Kevin Kelly, Alister Lawson and Mary-Jane Rogers, Research**

Scientists from AgVic Tatura.

Time: 10.15 am for a 10.30 start. Finish with lunch

Location: Daryl Hoey's paddock, Shinnicks Rd, Katunga.

Date: Tuesday 16 May.

Location: Greg Ault's farm, 390 Dingee Rd, Rochester

Date: Thursday 18 May.

Click [here](#) for event flyer.

Managing Wet Paddocks

After rain earlier this week many paddocks are now very wet and will be susceptible to pugging damage if grazed. Remember the grazing rules for ryegrass (between 2-3 leaves or canopy closure), if you decide to skip these paddocks that are at canopy closure now the pasture quality will decline but is this loss of quality more favourable in the long run versus badly pugged paddocks? Consider using on-off grazing if paddocks really have to be grazed or keep the cows completely off the grass until it dries a bit and feedlot them with hay and/or silage. Click [here](#) to see information from Ag Vic regarding on-off grazing. Click [here](#) for Dairy Australia's *Managing Wet Soils* fact sheet

Watch for increasing Bacto Counts

With recent rain it may be timely to revisit this information from a wet August last year. Below are the three clips that Durham Prewett, from Fonterra, outlines practical tips for farmers in the Murray Dairy Region.

Getting on Top of your milk quality - keeping your bato low in wet and muddy conditions

Part 1- Click [here](#)

Part 2- Click [here](#)

Part 3- Click [here](#)

Are you interested in digital agriculture?

Do you want to take a lead in evaluating opportunities for adoption in the dairy industry? Accelerating Change is sponsoring two spots to the Australian Farm Institute's forum on *Harvesting the Benefits of Digital Agriculture*. For details on the forum click [here](#).

To apply, submit an EOI no longer than one page and your resume answering the following questions:

1. How would you and your business benefit from attending the conference?
2. How would you share the learnings from the conference to the broader industry?

Applications are open to farmers and service providers and close on 22 May

2017. For more information please contact Amy Fay, 0400 911286, email: amyf@murraydairy.com.au

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. This two day course will be run across three locations 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.

Flexible Feeding Systems

Are you looking at making a shift in your feedbase? Do you have a perennial pasture based system and are considering a more complex mix of forage types? Do you want to investigate some options to reduce your exposure to variable water prices? The Flexible Feeding Systems project is looking for case study farms in this situation. For more information click [here](#).

Is your town Legendairy?!

Nominations close TODAY 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.

Find Ag & Farming Apps Easily

There are a huge amount of farming and agricultural apps out there but they are often hard to find in the App Store or Google Play. Why? Because the search engine often returns hits for children's farming games, rather than agricultural tools! To assist in choosing an app suitable for you — and to ensure your device doesn't become overloaded with irrelevant apps — the Central Station website has collated those relevant to you. Click [here](#) to check it out.

Complimentary Safety Assessments

WorkSafe Victoria is offering complimentary safety assessments for small businesses with fewer than 20 employees with a WorkSafe Insurance Policy. The assessments will help identify potential hazards and risks, and a WorkSafe assessor will work with you to develop a safety action plan for your farm business. If you'd like more information, check out the [WorkSafe 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). 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.

Proactive Dairy Management Workshops- Zoetis

These workshops, hosted Zoetis and supported by Murray Dairy and MG Trading will present on Animal Welfare, Genetic Merit of Heifer Management, Bull Management and an update on Teatseal for preventing sub clinical mastitis. Tuesday 16 May at Mitta United FC, Eskdale Sports Reserve. 10.30 am Click [here](#) for event flyer.

Australian Fodder Industry Association - Quality is King at Acocks

The Australian Fodder Industry Association (AFIA), in partnership with TPC Agriculture, is excited to announce an Our Place workshop that will focus on fodder decisions designed to improve production and profit for dairy farmers. The first of ten Our Place workshops to be conducted by the partnership in 2017, the “Quality is King” workshop will be held from 10.30am on Friday, 12 May 2017 at Tom and Mick Acocks’ dairy farm, 348 Bonn Road, Rochester, Victoria. Immediately following the workshop, a tour of Jenharwill Baling at Elmore will be conducted. Click [here](#) for a copy of the event flyer. Click [here](#) for a copy of the Media Release

Scholarships

now

open

Nuffield scholarships are now open to Australians aged 28 – 45, who are engaged in farming or fishing as an owner, manager or active member of a farming business. As well as individual regional scholarships, there are dairy-specific scholarships sponsored by Dairy Australia, the Australian Dairy conference and the Gardiner Dairy Foundation Deadline June 16. Visit www.nuffield.com.au

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 Tuesday 13 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.

For further information or a confidential discussion, please contact Joanne Turner, Program Manager - Rural Skills Connect on 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.

Rosie Batty 2015 Australian of the Year

Rosie Batty, who's belief that "tragedy gives you an opportunity to make a difference", will be presenting at three events in the Campaspe area on Friday 2 June. The first is for **Service Providers** and will be held in **Echuca**. Click [here](#) for more information.

Afternoon Tea, Kyabram. All Welcome. Raising awareness of domestic violence within the local community and advocating for change. Click [here](#) for more information

Dinner event, Moama. All welcome. Three course meal. Raising awareness of domestic violence within the local community and advocating for

change. Click [here](#) for more information. *All funds raised at this event will support the work of the Campaspe Family Violence Action Group.*

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 (NCDE) to help dairy farmers achieve best practice in milk harvesting, with an emphasis on detection, treatment and prevention of clinical mastitis.

CoCo Mon 8 & Tue 9 May at Kyabram

Contact Murray Dairy or click [here](#) for more information

Nominations are now open for the 2017 Victorian Regional Achievement & Community Awards!

The awards are designed to encourage, acknowledge and reward the valuable contributions individuals, communities and businesses are making throughout regional and rural Victoria. In particular the **Prime Super Agricultural Innovation Award** is open for nominations! To find out more about the awards please [click here](#). Nominations can be completed online to access the online nomination form please [click here](#)

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](#)

There are more than 2000 varieties of cheese available worldwide, mozzarella is the favorite around the globe, and the most consumed.

How many serves of dairy do you need? Click [here](#) for more information

With best regards from the Murray Dairy team.

Jenny Wilson
Chief Executive Officer
Murray Dairy

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