

Wednesday 8 November 2017

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Your Levy at Work



Murray Dairy eNews

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Dear All,

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Whitfield Focus Farm

North East Mentor Farm Project - the final day of the Mentor Farm series revisiting: Managing Soils for Success. Click [here](#) for event flyer. Contact Lachlan Barnes on 0438 092 352 or click here to [RSVP](#)

When: Thursday 16 November 2017, 10am to 12.30pm

Hosted by : Sheppard's at 4805 Wangaratta-Whitfield Rd, Whitfield, VIC 3733

Would you like to hear about the fundamentals of Succession Planning?

The Keely Focus Farm Open Day will be held on **Thursday 30 November** at the Fletcher's farm. The day will highlight key achievements and challenges for the farm business over the past 12 months and give attendees the chance to see the herd and the farm. The second component of the day will be a workshop on the fundamentals of Succession Planning and how it can be executed effectively by farming families. Click [here](#) for further information.

Improving Herd Fertility - Whorouly Focus Farm Open Day

Whorouly open day, planned for **Wednesday 13 December**, will be looking at Pethybridges strategy towards improving their herd fertility and Heifer management with Adam Williams from Wangaratta Vets and Ellen Fitzgibbon from Riverlea. More information to follow or call Murray Dairy on (03) 5833 5312

Dairy Business Professional Development

Come along on **Thursday 14 November** and find out about Dairy Australia's Farm Business Management offering. Learn about new tools, terminology and increase the value you provide

to dairy clients. 9am - 4pm, **Murray Dairy, 255 Ferguson Rd, Tatura (AgVic Offices)**. Click [here](#) for more information. Click here to [RSVP](#)

Dairy Accounting 2017

In association with Murray Dairy, Sofra Partners are providing you with an opportunity to come along on **Wednesday 22 November** and spend some time Working on the Business & Focusing on the Profits. 10.00am-3.00pm, 255 Ferguson Road, Tatura (Ag Vic Office). Click [here](#) for event flyer or here to [RSVP](#)

What's the alternative? Is solar for your farm?

Join us to determine the suitable energy options for your farm business. Topics for discussion will include solar, generators, battery storage, thermal heat recovery, hot water.

What to expect:

- Commpower representatives to present on various options for farm businesses to consider - solar, battery storage, generators
- A number of 'trade displays' to allow you to discuss your farm requirements with a range of providers
- Thermal heat recovery
- Solar rentals and sales
- Methane digesters (TBC)
- Representatives from Powercorp and SP Austnet to provide information on grid considerations (TBC)

Date: Thursday 30th November 2017

Time: 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Venue: Rich River Golf Club Resort

Address: 3333 Twenty-four Lane Moama

RSVP: Essential for catering purposes – 27th November 2017

Contact Murray Dairy on (03) 5833 5312 for more information

Accelerating Change Lucerne Masterclass

Are you growing lucerne and looking to raise the bar? Join us for an in-crop discussion on the agronomic and irrigation management of lucerne in our region.

- Scott Fitzgerald and his agronomist, Luke Nagle, will discuss seasonal opportunities and plans for managing the current crop
- We will also hear about recent research on persistence and irrigation strategies
- With the use of soil pits, Soil Scientist, Christian Bannan, will highlight what goes on beneath the surface and how you can better manage soil and irrigation to optimise production.
- Agronomist, Jono Fenwick, will share insights from his recent trip to the US, including new varieties to look out for.

When: Wednesday 6th December

Where: Tongala

Details to follow. Call Murray Dairy for more information or to RSVP. Ph: (03) 5833 5312.

Cups On Cups Off

This two-day training course designed by Dairy Australia and delivered by Dairy Australia's education partners and Countdown trained experts in mastitis and milk quality. Cups On Cups Off helps dairy farmers achieve best practice in milk harvesting, with the emphasis on the detection, treatment and prevention of clinical mastitis.

Expressions of Interest to participate in this course are now being accepted. For more information, [click](#) here

Regional Network Group Meetings

Our next round of Regional Network Group meetings are to be held over the last week of November and the first week of December.

Fiona Smolenaars from Innovative Outcomes will be in attendance. Fiona has been contracted to undertake a review of Regional Network Group priority setting process and reporting. This review will give farmers the opportunity to provide feedback on how Murray Dairy identifies and reports on industry priorities in our Region.

Meetings will be held:

North West – Monday 27 November 2017 at Bower Hotel, Cohuna

Eastern – Tuesday 28 November 2017 at Shamrock Hotel, Numurkah

Central – Monday 4 December 2017 at Blue Brick Hotel, Kyabram

Riverina – Tuesday 5 December 2017 at Returned Services Club, Finley

All meetings start at 7pm. Meal provided.

For catering purposes please RSVP: admin@murraydairy.com.au or (03) 5833 5312.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the meeting flyer

Responsible Euthanasia of Livestock - Training Workshop Finley

Murray Dairy, in conjunction with Dairy Australia and TOCAL, are conducting a training session on **Tuesday 5 December** to give farm owners and their employee's up-to-date information on best practice methods when carrying out euthanasia of livestock. Click [here](#) for more information.

Milk Production Report

Dairy Australia's "milk production reports" contain a monthly update on national, state and regional milk production, fat and protein.

> [Go to latest milk production summary](#)

Key points:

National September 2017 showed a 0.6% decrease on September 2016, whilst national year-to-date was up 1.0%.

The volume change by state was as follows:

	Month	Litres ('000)	Year-to-date
NSW	-3.5%	-3,561	-0.1%
VIC	-1.3%	-7,600	0.9%
QLD	-6.8%	-2,631	-4.1%
SA	17.8%	7,546	12.7%

WA	-0.9%	-317	-1.9%
TAS	1.5%	1,129	0.7%

The Victorian regional growth by state was as follows:

	Month	Litres ('000)	Year-to-date
Gippsland	2.6%	5,282	2.2%
Northern	1.5%	2,672	3.8%
Western	-7.3%	-15,555	-2.0%

North East Agriculture Summit 2017

A one day Agriculture Business Summit on **Tuesday 21 November** will identify the key sectors that contribute to the wealth of the region and how they are managing a changing economy, climate and social environment and positioning themselves for growth. Click [here](#) for more information.

Tallangatta Bush Dance

Pull up a hay bale and enjoy live music and supper with friends. BYO Drinks. **Saturday 25 November 2017** Tallangatta Memorial Hall. Click [here](#) for more information

New 2nd Edition of Rearing Healthy Calves

The new 2nd editions of [Rearing healthy Calves](#) and [Incalf](#) book for Dairyfarmers are now available. You can download from the Dairy Australia website or order hard copies on 03 9694 3777.

Tough Love Seminar

Do you know someone caught up in addiction but have no idea how to help? This seminar might have some more information for you, click [here](#) to see event flyer.

Tuff Stuff Workshop

Invitation - "The Tuff Stuff" Workshop

Free Volunteer training workshop dealing with conflict, communications and performance management of volunteers. Creating a culture of respect and co-operation between volunteers and staff. **Monday 27th November, 9:00am - 1:00pm at the Echuca library.** Click [here](#) for more information

Do you want a consultant to help take your business forward?

Taking Stock is a free 1:1 business assessment and support service providing clarity and advice on your business operation. This is available to all levy paying farmers, regardless of who they supply. Call Lachlan Barnes on 0438 092 352 or click [here](#) to find out more.

This program is supported by the Australian Government and Gardiner Foundation.

New Alpine Valleys Discussion Group, EOJ setting a solid base for your dairy career

If you are a Farmer or Service Provider in North East Victoria with the desire to gain foundation skills and knowledge, or increase industry and peer contacts then we encouraged

you to join. This is your opportunity to participate in a new discussion group with a firm focus on setting you on the right track with in the dairy industry. Click [here](#) for more information

Take some of the guesswork out of irrigating

Spring can be one of the most difficult, but most rewarding times to get irrigation right. Boost forage growth and water efficiency on your farm by subscribing to the weekly 'Irrigation Requirements' email service. This service funded by Murray Dairy and AgVic provides up-to-date information and a simple new tool that helps to tailor irrigations to your unique pasture and crop needs. To subscribe, contact robert.oconnor@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Plan2Farm

Your farming future is in your hands with Plan2Farm. Murray Dairy is part of the alliance that can guide you through a Plan2Farm program. Click [here](#) to register.

Energy Assessment Grants

DAIRY farmers wanting to save dollars are encouraged to access energy assessment grants available in Victoria and NSW. **Sustainability Victoria's Boosting Productivity** grant application process has been simplified to help the assessment journey flow more smoothly, with a new two-page registration form all that's needed to kick-start the process.

A \$2000 or \$6000 grant (covering 50% of the cost of an energy assessment) is available to help businesses carry out an energy assessment, and identify and put in place energy improvements, plus a \$3000 implementation bonus.

Grants are available to businesses with less than 200 full time employees, spending over \$20,000 a year on energy bills.

More details can be found at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/energy-assessment-grants via the application page.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage's Energy efficiency for your business program can connect you to an energy specialist to identify energy savings opportunities, and access funding for your project, including the Energy Savings Scheme. More details can be found at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/business/efficient-agribusiness-irrigation.htm>

The Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) offers low-cost finance for energy efficient equipment, renewable energy and low emissions projects on farms. For more information, contact Dave Johnson on 02 6272 2373, or dave.johnson@agriculture.gov.au

Legendairy Update

LEGENDAIRY Capital of Australia for 2017 is **Ringarooma**, from the heart of Tasmania's north-east. All the eight regional Capitals deserve congratulations – to celebrate their achievement the LEGENDAIRY Capital team produced a short film highlighting the town's community spirit. Take a look at these videos [here](#).

Financial Management for Boards and Committees

Do you rely mostly on your Treasurer's advice to approve financial statements? Can you find the story of how your organisation is performing from the maze of numbers on the page? Want to know what to look for when reading financial papers? Then this workshop in **Wangaratta on 15 November** is for you! Click [here](#) for more information

Australian Dairy Conference 2018

The 2018 **Australian Dairy Conference** is set to be held in Melbourne in February. Click [here](#) for the latest information.

Melt the ICE in our community

As a community we are stronger and more effective when we work together. As a community, we can take ownership to find solutions for the ICE issues on our doorstep.. Click [here](#) for more information

Very Fast Break

The [latest edition](#) of this seasonal update is now out.

BoM

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

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has released a [Water Information Dashboard](#) which will provide national up-to-date coverage of water storage levels and water market information.

The Dairy Forecast Service

The [Dairy Forecast Service](#) site gives concise information relevant to your area.

Events, Courses, Training and Support

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

With best regards from the Murray Dairy team.

Jenny Wilson
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