

Wednesday 22 November
2017

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Your Levy at Work



Murray Dairy eNews

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2017

Dear All,

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[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

[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 and 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 by 27th November 2017

Contact Murray Dairy on (03) 5833 5312 for more information or **click [here](#) for event flyer**

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.

Date: Wednesday 6th December
Time: 10.30 am -2pm Finishing with lunch
Venue: Scott Fitzgerald's, 782 Day Road Tongala
RSVP: Murray Dairy (03) 5833 5312

More details can be found [here](#).

North East Mentor Farm Project

The final day of the Mentor Farm series revisiting: Managing Soils for Success. Christian Bannan will be back in the region to share his practical knowledge on improving soils to drive profit.

We will be using three soil pits to look beneath the surface and unearth how the Sheppard's are planning to:

- Get more years and higher production from their perennial ryegrass
- Manage the different soil types across their property
- Discuss where, how and why other forages can be introduced to improve the property and the profits

Date: Thursday 7 December 2017,
Time: 10 am 12.30pm
Host: The Sheppards
Locations: 4805 Wangaratta-Whitfield Rd, WHITFIELD, VIC 3733

Click [here](#) for event flyer.

Are you looking to employ someone on your dairy farm?

The Victorian Government's Back To Work Scheme provides up to \$5,000 funding for employers who employ someone that has been retrenched from the dairy industry, whether that be from an on-farm job or in a factory.

There is also an additional \$4,000 for employers who provide accredited training for these new staff members. Click [here](#) for details.

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.

Strathmerton: Thursday 7 December, 9:30am - 2:30pm *Lunch provided* & Friday 8 December 9:30am - 12:30pm, Click [here](#) for event flyer

Tatura: Monday 11 December 2017 9:30am – 2:30pm *Lunch provided* & Tuesday 12 December 2017 9:30am – 12:30pm. Click [here](#) for event flyer

Cohuna: Thursday 14 December 2017 9:30am – 2:30pm. *Lunch provided* & Friday 15 December 2017 9:30am – 12:30pm. Click [here](#) for event flyer

Cost \$180

To register call Murray Dairy Admin 03 5833 5312

Are you looking to transition your dairy farm business in the next 5 years? Do you have a plan in place?

Dairy farming is in your blood but it's inevitable that one day you will need to stop. If you have a 'Game Plan' then it can be on your terms. Murray Dairy is running two workshops in Tangamablanga (Tue 28 November) and Cobram (Wed 29 November) that will help you explore the next steps of transition or family succession. This workshop is for farm owners considering reducing their level of active farm involvement or those that are wanting to step up in the farm business. Click [here](#) for details.

Soil Compaction Survey for the Goulburn Valley

If you would like to take part in a Soil Compaction Survey for the Goulburn Valley. Please contact Andrew Sneyd on 0403 468 814. This project has been funded through the GB CMA and will have results by March 2018.

Social night out for young people in dairy

The annual **Young Dairy Network End of Year Celebration** is set to be held in Yarrawonga on Friday 15 December. Young people working in the industry are encouraged to come along to unwind and finish off the year with a social night out overlooking the water in Yarrawonga. It will be a night filled with great entertainment, delicious food, excellent company and new friends. Contact Sarah, the YDN Coordinator on 0418 884 621 to RSVP.

Have you taken up the Quad Bike Safety rebate scheme of up to \$1,200?

Farmers are eligible to take part in the rebate scheme for approved safety solutions to help reduce quad bike deaths in Victoria. Farmers are able to get up to two rebates of \$600 for operator protection devices (OPD) or \$1,200 rebate on the purchase of a side-by-side vehicle. Don't wait – take advantage of this rebate whilst it is still available. Click [here](#) for details.

Kyabram Dairy Discussion Group

Next meeting will be held on **Friday 1 December, 2017**. With Guest speaker Rob O'Connor, this meeting will discuss irrigation scheduling and soil moisture monitoring including how to optimize water productivity with a focus on irrigation scheduling and the use of evapotranspiration (ET) information and soil moisture monitoring (SMM)

Venue: Paul and Kerrie Prices', 134 Graham Road, Kyabram

Time: 11 am to 2pm

BYO lunch and chair. Call Rob for more information. 0409 548 453

Australian Government Mobile Service Centre

If you live in a rural area, you may need to travel greater distances to access government payments and services. To make it easier for you to access these services, they will be brought to you and your community. More information on this service can be seen [here](#) or click on the town name below for specific site information.

5/12/2017	Tuesday	Corryong 3707
6/12/2017	Wednesday	Tallangatta 3700
7/12/2017	Thursday	Tangambalanga 3691
8/12/2017	Friday	Cobram 3644
11/12/2017	Monday	Nathalia 3638
12/12/2017	Tuesday	Rochester 3561
13/12/2017	Wednesday	Murchison AM 3610
13/12/2017	Wednesday	Tatura PM 3616
14/12/2017	Thursday	Kyabram 3620

Do you ever wish you had somebody you could bounce ideas off – someone who has been in your same position?

How about meeting new people in the industry, developing a new skill or accelerating your career plan?

DairySage Mentoring is an exciting initiative for anyone involved in the dairy industry. Farmers, employers, employees, factory staff and service providers - just about everyone can benefit from mentoring. If you would like to get the benefits from being matched with an experienced industry mentor, you need to register to participate in DairySage Mentoring

today! It is a FREE Program. Contact Sarah the YDN Coordinator on saraht@murraydairy.com.au or click [here](#) for more information.

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.

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

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.

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 [here](#).

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 [here](#)

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

Power of Women in Dairy

Hats for Hope in 2018 at International Dairy Week. Tuesday 23 January 2018, 7pm - 9.30pm. Click [here](#) to see event flyer.

The Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program (LMCLP) is currently looking for Dairy industry representatives for our 2018 Program

LMCLP is a highly sought after 10 month (part time) leadership development program that aims to support those who are passionate about and proactive in their community, industry or sector by building their skills and confidence, introducing them to regional issues and innovative ideas for action, leaders from all walks of life, and expanding their current networks and impact. In the recruitment phase we look for 'can do' people who are already, or would like to become more proactive members of their community or industry. Some may already be on their leadership path, others may not consider themselves 'leaders' but will demonstrate leadership qualities: i.e.: See something that needs to be done, learn how to get involved constructively, and take a lead in making a difference.

The link for further information is [here](#), or contact Melinda Mann at graduate@cilm.org.au or phone 0427 936 972

Grants for land management

Smart Farms Small Grants offer between \$5K and \$100K to support on-ground projects that increase the knowledge and capacity of farmers and fishers and facilitate the adoption of tools, technologies and improved land management practices. Deadline 2pm December 7. Click [here](#) for more information.

SMART farm funding on offer

The Federal Government is allocating \$134m in funding soon through the Smart Farms Program to support Landcare-type projects. 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.

Are you interested in Healthy Eating Active Living or Gender Equity?

[Campaspe Primary Care Partnership](#), Echuca Regional Health and [Kyabram District Health Service](#) are looking for members of the community to participate in workshops which will actively explore and discuss these topics.

Each workshop will run from 10:00am – 12:30pm and include lunch and a gift for participating. Children are also welcome to attend, activities will be provided.

- [Gender Equity workshop](#): Wednesday 22nd November – Shire of Campaspe Function Room, Echuca
- [Healthy Eating Active Living workshop](#): Wednesday 29th November – Echuca Moama Visitor Information Centre, 2 Heygarth Street Echuca

If you are interested in attending a workshop or would like more information, please contact Jacinta Masters on (03) 5485 5809 or email jmasters@erh.org.au

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
Chief Executive Officer
Murray Dairy

Did you know?

Australian **dairy** farmers produce 9,539 million litres of whole milk per year with the farmgate value of milk production being \$4.3 billion.

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