

Wednesday 6 December 2017

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)



Wednesday 6 December 2017

Your Levy at Work

Dear All,

This fortnight's edition contains the following:

[TODAY Accelerating Change Lucerne Masterclass](#)
[Events, Courses and Training](#)
[Managing Soils for Success Project](#)
[Young Dairy Network Celebration](#)
[Whorouly Focus Farm](#)
[Keely Focus Farm Round Up](#)
[Staff and Public Holidays information](#)
[Cups on Cups off](#)
[DairySage Mentoring](#)
[Help us to reduce the cost of treating liver fluke](#)
[Is solar for your farm?](#)
[Ease the Squeeze on Dairy Shed Costs](#)
[Re energized Farm Business Management Offering](#)
[Australian Government Mobile Service CentreAust.](#)
[Australian Dairy Conference 2018](#)
[Free Ticket to ADC](#)
[Want a Consultant to take your Business Forward?](#)
[Young in Dairy and want a discussion group?](#)
[Plan2Farm](#)

Power of Women in Dairy Very Fast Break - Seasonal Update BoM The Dairy Forecast Service

TODAY

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 6 December

Time: 10.30 am - 2pm Finishing with lunch

Venue: Scott Fitzgerald's, Day Road Tongala

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

Events, Courses, Training and Support

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

Managing soils for success 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.

Don't miss the biggest Young Dairy Network event of the year!

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. **Click [here](#) for details.**

Improving Herd Fertility - Whorouly Focus Farm Open Day

[Whorouly Focus Farm Open Day](#), 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

Date: Wednesday 13 December

Time: 10.30 am- 2.30 pm

RSVP [here](#) .

Keely Focus Farm Round Up

Rob Brown of Peppin Planners spoke at our Keely focus farm open day last week to share his many years of experience helping people with succession planning. Rob discussed the elements of a good succession needing to have, good business and financial outcome for all parties, ensure the successor can operate effectively and most of all, for family relationships to continue.

Presentation notes will be available on our website soon or click [here](#).

If you employ staff, then ensure you prepare for the public holidays

Dairy Australia has pulled together the key information to help you plan for the upcoming public holidays including information on: public holidays for your state, entitlements for working (and not working) on a public holiday and can you require employees to work on a public holiday. Click [here](#) to read more.

Cups On Cups Off

This two-day training course is designed by Dairy Australia and is 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 03 5833 5312

DairySage Mentoring Program

Do you wish you had somebody you could bounce ideas off – someone who has been in your position? Murray Dairy YDN is running a mentoring program in February to assist people from the dairy industry establish and formalise meaningful and rewarding mentoring partnerships. If you are keen to learn and develop yourself within in dairy, click [here](#) for info on the program.

Help us find ways to reduce the cost of treating liver fluke!

Dairy Australia and the Gardiner Foundation are supporting a PhD candidate to understand how farmers are controlling liver fluke and identify ways to reduce infections and prevent over treating. If you are a farmer, share farmer or manager please take a minute to fill in this [survey](#) about your current methods of control. For more information on this research click [here](#).

Is solar for your farm?

At the Solar information day held by Murray Dairy on November 30 we heard a number of presenters discuss the considerations to take when looking at solar and other energy generation alternatives for your farm. Grant opportunities that are currently available for small businesses to access this technology were also highlighted. The suite of presentations are available on our website and we encourage you to utilise these to help determine what, if any alternative energy options will work on your farm.

You can access some presentations below:

Sustainable Melbourne Fund, click [here](#)

Commpower presentation, click [here](#),

Dairy Farm Energy Reduction Essentials, click [here](#)

RDV Energy click [here](#).

Ease the Squeeze on Dairy Shed Costs

Rising power prices are hitting Australian dairy farmers from all sides. An anticipated 50–70% rise in energy costs in 2017–18 for dairy processors could shave 1¢ per litre off the farmgate milk price if passed on, while at the same time farmers are facing up to 20 per cent increases in their shed tariffs. A few simple steps could save farmers thousands on their power bills now, while more savings are possible with government assistance to improve on-farm energy efficiency. To find out more follow the link to the Dairy Australia information sheet "[Ease the squeeze on dairy shed power costs](#)"

Murray Dairy and Dairy Australia have re-energized the Farm Business Management offering:

Following the piloting of an all new Farm Business Management courses last year the opportunity now exists to enrol in re-written, re-focused and a re-energized offer.

Farm Business Fundamentals is for farmers wanting to:

- Have accurate information when you need it
- Understand what makes cash and drives profit
- Make profitable operational decisions

- Improve cost control
- Manage risk and increase resilience
- Create a farm recording system that works for you

For dates and locations for this course [click here](#).

Dairy Farm Business Analysis is for farmers want to:

- Assemble Analyze and interpret Farm Management Data
- Enter data and analyze farm performance using Dairybase
- Understand whole farm approach
- Key elements of analysis
- Setting Key performance indicators
- Monitoring and improving profit, cash-flow and over all farm performance

For dates and locations for this course [click here](#).

To register call Murray Dairy on 03 5833 5312 or email admin@murraydairy.com.au

Australian Government Mobile Service Centre

If you live in a rural area, you generally need to travel greater distances to access government payments and services. To make it easier for you to access these services, the Australian Government Mobile Service Centre is coming to the locations listed below. More information on this service can be seen [here](#) or click on the town name below for specific site information.

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 362

Australian Dairy Conference 2018

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

Young people in dairy – win a ticket to the Australian Dairy Conference

Would you like to attend Australia's premier dairy event? Well you can! Murray Dairy YDN is sponsoring two young farmers or farm employees to attend the event plus \$500 towards accommodation and travel. Click [here](#) to apply!

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.

Are you a young person or new to the area and wanting to join a local discussion group?

There are currently three young farmer discussion groups running in the Murray Dairy region. These groups are targeted at those wanting to further develop their dairy knowledge and expand their networks within the industry.

- Riverina Young Dairy Discussion Group - Finley, Blighty & Deniliquin area
- Numurkah Young Dairy Discussion Group - Numurkah, Cobram and Katandra area
- Campaspe Young Dairy Discussion Group - Rochester, Lockington & Bamawm area

If you would like to join one of the groups above, or get a group started in your local area, please contact Sarah - YDN Coordinator by calling or texting 0418 884 621 or email saraht@murraydairy.com.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.

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.

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.

With best regards from the Murray Dairy team.

Jenny Wilson
Chief Executive Officer

Murray Dairy