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## **ADF Urges Industry Support for Animal Health and Welfare Programs**

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**For immediate release**

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The Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) Board agreed at a meeting on 3 August 2010, to encourage industry support for an increase in dairy industry levy funding to Animal Health Australia (AHA).

Wes Judd President of the ADF said that the increase is aimed at maintaining the dairy industry commitment to important national animal health and welfare programs in partnership with other animal industries, the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments.

"In reaching this decision the ADF acknowledged the importance of the dairy industry pulling its weight in supporting Australian animal health and welfare programs," Mr Judd said

The proposed increase from the equivalent of 0.0044 cents per litre to 0.0070 cents per litre would mean that the average Australian dairy farm contribution to national Animal Health and Welfare Programs would increase to about \$80 per year.

AHA Programs supported by the dairy animal health levy include Core Programs covering:

- Disease Surveillance
- Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness
- Livestock Health
- Biosecurity
- Livestock welfare
- Training
- Communications
- AHA Corporate activities

These Core Programs are supported by all industries, the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments.

As well the dairy industry contributes to selected AHA Special Program activities including the development of uniform national Cattle Welfare Standards and Guidelines in association with other relevant industries, State, Territory and Commonwealth governments.

Mr Judd said that since the AHA dairy levy was last adjusted in 2003 there have been a number of programs introduced to address industry animal health and welfare concerns, including the boosting of Australia's preparedness for an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease.

"It is evident from our analysis that the existing levy will be insufficient to maintain the industry commitment to these programs and the increase will ensure the dairy industry continues to support this vital industry / government partnership in the years ahead.

"We will be actively encouraging industry support for this proposal through the state dairy farmer organisation network, prior to taking the matter up with the Commonwealth Government.

“The ADF provides ongoing input and oversight to AHA on all animal health and welfare programs on behalf of the dairy industry, Mr Judd said.

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