

## Media Release

6 June 2011

# Young group primed to lead nation's dairy industry

Policies, regulation and decision making for the dairy sector of tomorrow is in good hands now the pilot Developing Dairy Leaders Program has been completed.

A group of 15 young people from across Australia (listed below) completed the program which involved a four-day residential skills development program in Melbourne with state and national industry leaders and time in Canberra learning about advocacy and policy development at a national level.

The program, developed by Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) and Dairy Australia and delivered by the National Centre for Dairy Education Australia (NCDEA), aims to build on the leadership skills of people aged 18-30 who are committed to the dairy industry and have been identified as potential future leaders.

Throughout the program participants learned to articulate, present and debate ideas, provide advocacy and representation and participate as a member of a board. The group was also given media training and now know how to lead community or industry organisations and balance work and professional development. Participants have also gained formal accreditation through the NCDEA as a result of the program.

Gippsland participant Sally Pate said the program provided an in depth look into the operations of the Australian dairy industry and the many leadership avenues available.

"The media training provided throughout the program has helped me develop some key skills in how to present myself and communicate more effectively," Ms Pate said.

Ty Maidment, from Meadows in South Australia, said the program had helped him develop his leadership and networking skills and strengthen his knowledge of the overall industry.

"It's been a great opportunity for me to learn about industry board structures, corporate governance and government related issues and I've been able to hone in on my public speaking skills. It's definitely going to help me in the future in the industry and open up different options for me."

ADF Vice President Adrian Drury said the program was a key activity in supporting the development of the dairy industry's state level leaders and the dedication and willingness of participants to put something back into their industry was great to see.

"I have met the participants of the Developing Dairy Leaders Program and believe them to be a group of young people who are more than capable of responding to any challenge thrown at them, leading our industry and staying true to themselves," Mr Drury said.

Dairy Australia managing director Ian Halliday said the course had attracted a group of enthusiastic and passionate young people from the industry.

"It is very encouraging to see a group of young people so keen to build on their dairy careers, which just goes to show the future of our industry, is in extremely good hands," Mr Halliday said.

The program was developed in response to the Australian Dairy Industry Council (ADIC) Dairy Leadership – An Industry Blueprint 2010-15, which identified that 200 leadership roles are required across the industry - 40 new people each year.

Participants who completed the pilot Developing Dairy Leaders Program are:

Rebecca	Gell,	Kyabram	VIC
Jason	Smith,	Gunbower	VIC
Ashley	Hogg,	Lang Lang	VIC
Denise	Jones,	Leongatha	VIC
Sally	Pate,	Leongatha North	VIC
Rowan	Ault,	Allansford	VIC
Tahnee	King,	Warrnambool	VIC
Andrew	Aldridge,	Branxholm	TAS
Christopher	Haynes,	Ulverstone	TAS
Duncan	Macdonald,	Yolla	TAS
Nick	Brokenshire,	Mt.Compass	SA
Ty	Maidment,	Meadows	SA
Melissa	Bailey,	Gerringong	NSW
Kristen	Clark,	Tocumwal	NSW
Michael	Giumelli,	Benger	WA

The Developing Dairy Leaders Program is one of the many examples of the dairy service levy at work. Farmers receive a benefit of \$3 for every \$1 invested by Dairy Australia on their behalf. For more information on this and other levy investments visit [www.dairyaustralia.com.au](http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au)

*Dairy Australia is the national services body for the Australian dairy industry. The company acts as the collective investment arm of the industry, investing in essential research, development, extension and industry services.*

#### **Media enquiries:**

**Felicity Gallagher** — External Communications Manager, Dairy Australia  
03 9694 3894 | 0417 540 059 | [fgallagher@dairyaustralia.com.au](mailto:fgallagher@dairyaustralia.com.au)