

Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) Update

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ADF Business Membership



Have you become a Business member of Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF)? Any dairy farmer who is a member of their State dairy body may join ADF at no additional cost.

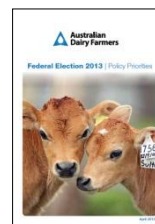
By becoming a Business member, dairy farmers can communicate with ADF directly on national issues, attend ADF annual general meetings and will be able to vote on the election of Business Directors.

Further information regarding ADF membership please visit www.australiandairyfarmers.com.au

We encourage all dairy farmers to join ADF by simply downloading the Membership Form on our website, and then complete and return the form to the ADF office.

Contact: Sarah Chahine

Australian Dairy Farmers call on all parties to look to an agriculture based future



With the Federal Election campaign now in full flight, Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) is calling on all political parties to place dairy firmly on the national agenda.

ADF President Noel Campbell is calling on all parties to announce and deliver policies that will help our industry to grow and prosper and achieve our goal of helping Australia become a world leader in innovation, sustainability and food production.

"Australian dairy is one of the few agricultural sectors that fully integrate from the farmgate to manufacturing to produce a wide range of high quality, value-added products which we sell in the Australian market and throughout the world," said Mr Campbell.

"This Federal election, we call upon all parties to announce, and then deliver, policies that will help our industry to grow and prosper," said Mr Campbell.

In April, the ADF announced its key policy priorities for the next federal government. These include:

- Markets and trade:** Establish a mandatory Supermarket Code of Conduct and appoint an Ombudsman with teeth to ensure compliance; modify the ACCC Collective Bargaining authorisation to provide balance in market power to dairy farmers; sign Free Trade Agreements with key markets China, Japan and South Korea.

- **People and workforce:** Help farmers staff their properties and extend the duration of 417 and 462 visas from six to 12 months as well include dairy on the list of eligible industries for the Seasonal Worker Scheme and on Schedule 1 of the Skilled Occupation List. Encourage people into careers in agriculture by including related courses under the National Priority Band for compulsory HECS-HELP repayments.
- **Sustainability:** Commit funding for grants to assist dairy farmers in undertaking energy efficiency assessments, and to transition to renewable energy technology and energy efficient equipment on farms under an Energy Efficiency Package; level the international playing field and accord dairy processors Emissions-Intensive, Trade-Exposed (EITE) status until all major dairy competitors are subject to similar emissions schemes.

To obtain a copy of the ADF Election Policy document please visit: www.australiandairyfarmers.com.au

Contact: Rachel Jones

No Australian domestic or export dairy products affected by NZ contaminates

The Australian dairy industry was put on high alert when it was recently revealed that there was a quality issue with three batches of whey protein concentrate (WPC80).

ADF and the Australian Dairy Industry Council (ADIC) worked closely with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Dairy Australia and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) to ascertain the impact on the Australian and export markets and after several busy days we were pleased to learn that all Australian dairy products were safe for human consumption.

Robert Poole, ADIC Vice Chairman said the industry was pleased that authorities were able to confirm that no Australian-made consumer products for use either in Australia or for export have been affected by the contaminated ingredients produced by Fonterra in New Zealand.

“Australian dairy is operating as business as usual and products will continue to be available to consumers. This includes products manufactured for Australian use as well as for export.”

With regards to animal feed, only two affected products were found to have been contaminated with New Zealand ingredients. One was never released to farmers and will be destroyed and another has been recalled.

“The industry will continue to work closely with authorities to ensure that Australian dairy continues to maintain high standards of safety and quality in our locally made products,” said Mr Poole.

Contact: David Losberg

Noel Campbell addresses the launch of Horizon 2020

Last month, ADF president Noel Campbell joined The Hon Sid Sidebottom MP, Dairy Farmer Matt Reid and David Nation from the Dairy Futures CRC to launch Dairy Australia's Horizon 2020 report.

A working group of dairy farmers, industry analysts and food safety experts carried out 12 months of research into the factors likely to affect the future role, position and structure of the Australian dairy industry. Extensive consultation was also undertaken in Australia and internationally, with dairy and food industry participants, key influencers and opinion leaders.

The Horizon 2020 report makes 14 recommendations that support long-term industry direction and priority-setting. These range from understanding opportunities for new farm equity capital, creating opportunities for joint RD&E between industry investors and innovative farmers, and enhancing on-farm business decision-making in an international market environment.

Mr. Campbell said: “The Horizon 2020 report has challenged the dairy industry to reinvigorate our efforts in many areas. By keeping our eyes on the types of issues raised by the Horizon 2020 working group, the Australian dairy industry will be better-positioned into the future.”

The full report is available at www.dairyaustralia.com.au



Left to Right: Noel Campbell (Australian Dairy Farmers), Mary Hamey (Gardiner Foundation), Sid Sidebottom MP and Max Roberts (Dairy Australia) supporting the new industry blueprint.

Contact: Emma Clark

Western Victoria dairy farmers doing it tough

The financial difficulties of some dairy farmers in western Victoria were highlighted in ‘The Australian’ newspaper following the distribution of images of cows which had apparently starved to death.

The claims were soon found to be wrong and the cows had died from other causes, but the media coverage did serve to shine the light on the financial difficulties being experienced by some in the area.

ADF, the UDV, Dairy Australia and milk processors are working with farmers in Western Victoria to help them manage their farms. This includes one-on-one meetings

with farmers to discuss the financial management of their businesses.

It was also a timely reminder that animal welfare is a high priority on Australian dairy farms. Where a farmer is suffering financial distress, options available may include the sale of animals.

As a result of the public awareness brought by the media coverage, the Victorian Government signed-up for the Federal Farm Finance Package. Farmers in Queensland and NSW can also apply for lower interest loans following the signing of agreements by their state Governments. For more information go to: www.ruralfinance.com.au

If any farmer is undergoing difficulties please call upon the support that is available via the Rural Financial Counselling Service and organisations such as Beyond Blue.

Contact: David Losberg

Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports

ADF has expressed concern to the Federal Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon, about the proposed Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports.

The Minister acknowledged in his statement announcing the Inspector-General, "Australia has the strongest animal welfare assurance system in the world and we are the only country that requires specific animal welfare conditions are met for exported animals."

ADF does not see the need for an additional level of regulation and costs for a role that will oversee a system that the Minister has acknowledged is the strongest in the world.

ADF will wait to see the detail on the proposed role when the legislation to implement it is finalised. This absence of detail raises the issue of the lack of process around the development of this role. There has been very little consultation and a rushed approach which never leads to good policy outcomes.

Contact: David Losberg

Australian dairy farmers are LEGENDAIRY!

LEGENDAIRY This month, Dairy Australia launched Legendairy, an exciting new initiative showcasing the dairy industry's contribution to Australia's economy, its health and wellbeing, and to a sustainable future.

Legendairy shines the spotlight on the industry as a whole; telling inspirational stories of our dairy farmers, celebrating our high quality, locally produced dairy foods and promoting the industry's part in building a healthy Australia.

As the national voice for Australian dairy, ADF strongly supports this initiative. Australia's dairy industry is undoubtedly facing many pressures and challenges, but we

also have a great story to tell about a great industry with a great future.

Over the coming months you see will eight Legendairy advertisements that will air on TV channels across the nation. There will also be extensive support ranging from public relations to grassroots sponsorships and visibility in Australia's eight dairy regions.

For more details please visit www.legendairy.com.au or contact Dairy Australia.

Contact: Natalie Collard

457 changes disadvantage dairy farmers

The passing of the *Migration Amendment (Temporary Sponsored Visas) Bill* through Parliament in June has changed 457 visa conditions, increasing the bureaucratic burden for farmers. The changes place stronger regulations on employers seeking to sponsor skilled migrant workers on Subclass 457 visas.

ADF President Noel Campbell said this disadvantages dairy farmers who have a genuine need to seek overseas workers due to the lack of available local labour for essential tasks such as milking.

"At a time when there is a critical shortage of skilled dairy workers, the dairy industry relies heavily on skilled migration to bolster its workforce and help our farmers fill labour shortages," said Mr Campbell.

"Many dairy employers rely on skilled migrants brought to Australia under 457 visas to fill core on-farm roles."

The key changes resulting from the Bill are an increase in skills requirements for applicants and the strengthening of labour market testing requirements. These changes are in addition to the application fee almost doubling from \$455 to \$900.

Most of the changes came into effect on 1 July 2013, with the guidelines for the labour market testing requirements still being determined. These guidelines are expected to be released in November.

Contact: Rachel Jones

ADF welcomes Rebecca Coll, Business Support Officer

ADF is pleased to announce the appointment of Rebecca Coll to the ADF team as Business Support Officer.

Rebecca joins the ADF team after 7 years working within the Telecommunications industry. She has worked in a number of roles with a focus on business support and account management. Rebecca has a great passion for the Dairy Industry having grown up on an original soldier settlement dairy farm in Northern Victoria.

Contact: Natalie Collard

Applications now open for the ADF Project Fund

State Member Dairy Farmer Organisations are invited to apply for funding from the ADF Project Fund.

The purpose of the fund is to deliver long-term growth and strong performance for the ADF and our members.

Funding will be determined by an independent panel and will be awarded to projects that are directly linked to an ADF strategic goal and add value to the ADF and/or state member organisations.

There is a maximum of \$270,000 available each year for three years with individual amounts allocated to each state dairy farmer organisation on a proportionate basis.

Applications close on 30 August 2013. Successful projects will be announced on 12 September 2013.

Contact: Rebecca Coll

ADF Board Election

Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) is now calling for nominations from ADF Business members who are eligible to submit an application for the role of Business Director.

As defined in the ADF Constitution, one Business Director position, which is currently occupied by Noel Campbell, will be vacated.

Business Director Eligibility criteria:

- Must be in the business of dairy farming in Australia; and
- Must be a Business member of Australian Dairy Farmers Limited

Mr Campbell is eligible for, and will be renominating for, the Business Director position.

To obtain a position description and an application form please contact Rebecca Coll at the ADF office. Applications close midday (AEST) Friday 23 August. The position will be voted upon at the ADF Annual General Meeting on Thursday 28 November.

Contact: Rebecca Coll

Farm upgrades beat buybacks, increase productivity and boost regional economic activity

Last month, the ADF partnered with Dairy Australia (DA) to launch a DA-commissioned report, *Cost Benefit Analysis of Farm Irrigation Modernisation*.

The report used case studies of 10 properties within the Murray Darling Basin in northern Victoria and southern NSW. As a result, it found that farm upgrades cost the Government around \$3,700 a megalitre (ML) of water savings for the environment and at the same time delivered gross productivity gains to farmers worth an average \$9,800/ML of water savings. In turn, increased farm production generates additional regional economic activity worth \$6,200/ML.

ADF Natural Resources Policy Advisory Group Chair, Daryl Hoey, welcomed the report saying it confirms what the industry has been arguing for years – that substantial water savings can be achieved and that water buy-backs are just one small part of the solution.

“The report shows that by working to upgrade farms, substantial economic benefits can be achieved both for the farmer and the broader community. By comparing a range of farms, this report shows once and for all that there are real and long-lasting benefits for local farmers and regional economies from upgrades to irrigation systems,” said Mr Hoey.

To highlight the on-farm improvements made, the launch was held in Rochester on the farm of Bryan and Lee Rushton who were one of the case studies featured in the report.

The National Farmers Federation and the Ricegrowers' Association of Australia (RGA) both issued media releases in support of the report's findings.

Media and industry interest in the report's findings were also very strong with coverage on WIN TV throughout Victoria, The Australian, the Weekly Times, Stock and Land and the Country News.



Left to right: Charles Thompson, Partner, RMCG (the report consultants); Claire Miller, Manager, Policy Strategy, Dairy Australia; Daryl Hoey, Chair, Australian Dairy Farmers Natural Resources Policy Group; Noel Campbell, President, Australian Dairy Farmers; Lee & Bryan Rushton, Dairy Farmers

Contact: Emma Clark

Government grants available for On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program

Farmers looking to implement water saving initiatives are encouraged to apply for funding from the Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program.

Projects seeking funding under the program must demonstrate an ability to secure a long-term sustainable future for irrigation communities, secure real improvements in river health, deliver substantial and lasting returns of water to the environment, and represent good value for money.

Applications for funding close at **4.00 pm (Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time) on Monday, 14 October 2013**. More information and application forms are available at:

www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/srwui/irrigation-efficiency.html or phone 1800 218 478.

Contact: Irene Clarke

How do we measure the sustainability of the dairy industry?

The Sustainability Framework for the dairy industry sets goals and objectives for enhancing livelihoods, improving wellbeing and reducing environmental impact. Targets are being developed to measure our progress towards achieving the objectives.



Consultation on draft targets took place through May and June 2013 with the opportunity for comment and input through SDFOs, manufacturers and industry networks. DA also hosted a session with the consultative forum on 25 June for discussion and comment from interested groups outside the dairy industry including people involved in

research, banking, other agricultural sectors, food manufacturing, retailing, environmental advocacy, animal welfare promotion, and health services. The forum provided useful feedback on how the industry, our challenges and our targets are perceived from outside.

The Steering Committee has considered the feedback and is working towards finalising a set of targets in September for recommendation to the ADIC.

The first report against the Sustainability Framework is due at the end of November 2013.

Contact: Irene Clarke

Do you use dairy cleansers containing Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QACs)?

Farm practice in the approach to dairy cleaning and sanitising has recently been reviewed by some manufacturers. This is to ensure any QAC chemical residues do not exceed the very strict requirements of international customers.

Even though these sanitisers are registered and safe, restrictions can be imposed by customers with their own requirements.

Products containing QACs may list the following "active constituents": Benzalkonium Chloride; Quaternary Ammonium Compound; or N-Alkyl Dimethyl Benzyl Ammonium Chloride. Options are available to ensure minimal risk of QAC residues in milk supply, including use of alternative sanitisers that do not contain QAC. Farmers are encouraged to work with their manufacturers and chemical providers about the options available.

Further information about dairy cleaning including a list of registered products containing QACs is available on the Dairy Australia website.

Contact: Irene Clarke

ADF AH&W Policy Advisory Group Meeting

The ADF Animal Health & Welfare Policy Advisory Group met at the ADF offices on Thursday 25 July 2013. Key matters discussed included:

- SAFEMEAT activities
- Calving induction
- Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines
 - Cattle
 - Bobby calf time off feed
 - Saleyard Standards and Guidelines
- Dairy heifer exports
- Proactive communications

Contact: David Losberg

ABARES report on dairy farm performance

In July 2013, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) released their report showing the regional results from their annual dairy industry survey. It reports on the survey results from 2010-11 to 2012-13. The average farm cash income is estimated to decline from \$143000 in 2011-12 to \$87000 in 2012-13 around 2% below the 10 year average.

The report identifies the factors contributing to this decline and the regional figures for farm income, milk production, costs and future intentions. The report can be accessed by visiting:

http://www.daff.gov.au/abares/publications_remote_content/publication_series/australian_dairy

ABARES have started the survey for the next annual period. These ABARES surveys provide essential information about the financial and productivity performance of dairy farms so if you have been asked to participate in the survey; we encourage you to do so.

Contact: Irene Clarke

Udderly Fantastic

With all that is happening in our industry, why not join Udderly Fantastic?

Udderly Fantastic is a secure website and a great way to



share your stories, photos and discuss the many different issues currently facing the dairy industry. Join up to find out more!

Contact: Sarah Chahine