



## Dairy NSW Snapshot – December 2015

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- Wellbeing survey

Happy holidays,

Roxanne Cooley  
Regional Manager, Dairy NSW

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Information sessions on the Dairy Farm Monitor Project and Dairy Base

The NSW DPI will run workshop to unpack the 2015 Dairy Farm Monitor Project (DFMP) results and introduce Dairy Base. The DFMP provides profitability and productivity data for a range of farms across New South Wales. It allows farmers to compare their performance against other farms and identify areas for improvement. The collaborators on this project with the NSW DPI include Dairy Australia (DA) and the Victorian Department of Economic Development. Dairy NSW (DNSW) staff and resources contributed to the production of the webinar and the information sessions.

To access the 2015 report, click: [HERE](#)

To access the 2015 webinar, click: [HERE](#)

#### Information sessions details

- Tuesday 8th December Taree at the TAFE college, Montgomery Cres, Taree NSW
- Wednesday 9th December Gloucester at the Neighbourhood Centre, Boundary Street, Gloucester NSW
- Tuesday 15th December for the Next Gen Group, Berry Hotel, Queen St., Berry NSW
- Tuesday 19th January for Bodalla (venue to be determined)
- Wednesday 20th January at the Bega Cheese Training Centre, Bega

Contact: [Kerry Kempton](#), T: 02 4939 8945 | M: 0427 114 602

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## DATE CLAIMERS

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## **Countdown 2020 Advisor's Training – 15 April 2016**

To existing Countdown advisors and those of you who want to train as a Countdown Advisor, DA will conduct a one-day refresher workshop in Camden on 15 April 2016. The training is suitable for milk technicians, veterinarians, dairy processing companies field offers and pharmaceutical company representatives. For enquiries, contact [Mark Humphris](#).

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## **YOU'VE ASKED, WE'RE DELIVERING**

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### **Making Sense (part 1 of 2) – Dairy Farm Business Management course**

With the release of DA's [Standard Charter of Account](#), the Part 1 of the Making Sense extension course will focus on setting up reporting, basic financial principles, cash flow and then finally DairyBase. In particular the [DA cash flow tool](#) (soon to be available) combined with the Chart of Accounts will be of great value for farmers and aid in understanding and entry of data into Dairybase. DNSW will commence delivery of these courses from February 2016 in all subregions.

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## **OPPORTUNITIES**

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### **Young farmers – Bursary offer to the 2016 Australian Dairy Conference**

The ADC has donated to DNSW one registration for a young dairy farmer to attend the [2016 Australian Dairy Conference](#) in Shepparton Victoria in February 2016. To help pay for travel and accommodation costs, DA has offered an additional reimbursement of up to \$1,000 per person. To obtain an Express of Interest application for this special opportunity, contact us before Christmas by clicking: [HERE](#)

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### **Organisers of women's and men's groups**

Dairy Discussion Group funding is now available to support new or existing groups. For more information, contact us by clicking: [HERE](#)

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### **Free information seminars throughout NSW**

The Office of State Revenue is offering seminars about important updates to state business and property taxes, home benefits, unclaimed money, Jobs Action Plan and the recently introduced \$2000 Small Business Grant. The seminars are 1.5 hours. For a full list of locations & dates or to register, click: [HERE](#)

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### **Australian Agriculture Scholarship**

Sponsored by Coca-Cola and the Australian Council of Agricultural Societies, \$2,000 scholarships are now open for applications from young farmers to pursue further education in an agriculture related field at University or TAFE. The purpose of these scholarships is to support rural youth to complete tertiary studies in courses that will benefit regional Australia. NSW closing date is 29 February 2016. To apply, click: [HERE](#)

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## RESOURCES

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### Body condition scoring smart phone app

The Body Condition Scoring smart app helps farmers take greater control over their herd's feeding. Body condition scoring is a visual assessment of the amount of muscle and fat covering the bones of a cow, involves assessing specific locations on the cow to determine how thin or fat the cow is and uses an 8-point scale for a quick, easy and consistent way to assess body condition. To read or listen to the benefits, click: [HERE](#)

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### Robot milking guidelines

FutureDairy has launched a web-based resource on automatic milking systems for large herds. This visual resource introduces key concepts and is designed for people at various stages in the robotic milking journey. To access these guidelines, click: [HERE](#)

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### Looking after yourself over the holidays

The vision for the Sustainable Farm Families program is to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of farm families. This is a major issue facing agricultural business because farmers are:

- Getting older
- Working harder and longer
- Relying more on family members for extra labour
- Experience high injury rates, illness and premature death.

To access details about the Sustainable Farm Families program, click: [HERE](#)

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### Revised Labour Agreement

Dairy farmers experiencing difficulties recruiting suitably experienced and skilled employees now have the option to recruit senior farmhands overseas under a Dairy Industry Labour Agreement with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

The agreement is a standard template setting out the terms and conditions under which these people can now come to Australia under the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa program (457), and

work for an approved business for up to four years. For frequently asked questions, an employment letter of offer and a template labour agreement, click: [HERE](#)

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### **New Chart of Accounts for the dairy industry**

Dairy farmers will now be able to extract greater value from the accounting process and make better informed business decisions with the launch of a new Standard Chart of Accounts for the dairy industry. Developed by DA in response to requests from farmers and service providers, the Standard Chart of Accounts will also drive consistency in how the dairy industry reports and discusses farm business performance. Locate the new chart of accounts on the Dairy Base site by clicking: [HERE](#)

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## **SUBSCRIBE TO VALUABLE RESOURCES**

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### **Dairy Australia reports**

DA produces a wealth of resources and regular reports to which you can subscribe:

- ***Dairy Weekly*** provides a snapshot of key dairy commodity price indicators. To subscribe or make enquiries, contact [John Droppert](#).
  - ***Fortnightly update*** provides a summary of the latest dairy market news. To subscribe or make enquiries, contact [Amy Bellhouse](#).
  - **Production inputs monitor** - Monthly update on farm inputs including: Water, Hay and grain, Fertiliser and Weather.
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### **Dairy Australia's advance knowledge portal (library)**

Learning to use the DA knowledge portal has been made simple with [two short videos](#) giving an overview of the resources and instructions for accessing them. Also, in a 2-minute podcast, Dr Davis explains the impacts of mastitis on cow fertility and how a few simple steps can potentially save dairy farmers thousands of dollars. [Listen HERE](#).

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### **Dairy farmer summer update**

Among other topics, the summer update contains some resources and tips about farming in dry conditions including fact sheets on different feeding options to help manage nutrition. Also included is a link to basic principles and practicalities in producing and storing silage and the Cool Cows website. To view the video, click: [HERE](#)

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## **NEWS**

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## **Announcing new Dairy NSW staff**

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Jessica Micallef as project officer to lead Project 2020 on behalf of DNSW, DA, DPI and Subtropical Dairy.

We are also excited to have commenced two young dairy networkers – Sam Nicholson and Maddy Miller. Sam will work from Taree and organise a young dairy network with farmers in the Hunter and DAG sub-regions. Maddy will work from Berry and do the same with farmers in the DIG and Far South Coast sub-regions.

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## **Sunday pay rates for milking staff**

Under the Pastoral Award 2010 - Penalty rates for overtime are only paid once 152 hours has been worked in a 4 week period. Then and **only then** it applies at 150% for all overtime, except overtime that falls on a Sunday which is remunerated at 200%.

Milking is **not considered** to be feeding and watering stock. So Sundays are only 200% after the 152 hours has been worked in a 4 week period. And you should be able to roster around this. This applies to all permanent employees and casuals. Part time employees are paid overtime at the same rates once their agreed part time hours have been worked so technically this could include Sundays at 200%.

To learn more, the People in Dairy website offers recorded webinars organised by DNSW on the management of people on farm. There are three available to watch now and four more to come in 2016. To access these, click: [HERE](#)

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## **Combating pest animals and weeds in drought affected NSW**

The Australian Government continues to deliver on its commitment to help drought affected farmers, providing \$3 million to the New South Wales government for pest animal and weeds management, in line with its commitment under the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper. Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, and New South Wales Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water, Niall Blair, said the Australian and New South Wales governments would team up to tackle wild dogs, feral animals and pest weeds in drought affected parts of the state. To read more, click: [HERE](#)

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## **New DPI program to reduce Johne's disease in reared dairy calves**

NSW DPI program introduces a program to reduce the risk of the debilitating Johne's disease in reared dairy calves. To find out more, read the media release by clicking: [HERE](#)

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## **Fertility testing bumps up dairy production**

The Australian Cattle Veterinarians, a special interest group of the Australian Veterinary Association, recently undertook interviews with dairy producers, on the issue of accurate pregnancy testing in cows and fertility checks in bulls. In particular, they were interested in ascertaining the benefits accurate testing can deliver producers. To read their case study, click:

[HERE](#)

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### **Dairy and oyster farmers work together to improve environment**

Dairy farmers and the oyster industry have been working together to better manage the environmental footprint. In the past year, the dairy and oyster industries in both the Shoalhaven and Hasting River areas have met to understand and improve environmental. To read more, click:

[HERE](#)

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### **DPI works to increase its value to drive economic growth across NSW**

DPI manages a broad range of initiatives from resource to industry, including natural resource management, research and development, pest and disease management, food safety, industry engagement, and market access and competition. In a short video, the role of DPI is outlined. To read the DPI Strategic Plan and/or watch the video, click: [HERE](#)

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### **Prepare for seasonal changes**

We urge all dairy farmers to consider the following in anticipation of likely seasonal changes:

- Accept El Nino will impact the industry
- Prepare for the change by forward contracting feed and maintaining irrigation equipment
- Implement steps to maintain milk production, cow health and welfare.

Calculators can aid in comparing feeds and producing a feed budget for your farm. DPI NSW have a [feed calculator](#) which allows you to compare multiple feeds for price and quality. Also available in an App for Android or Apple: [Drought Feed Calculator](#).

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## **HAVE YOUR SAY**

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### **Wellbeing survey**

The University of Canberra's 2015 Regional Wellbeing Survey is now live. Each year the survey asks people about the quality of life in their community, their own wellbeing, and their views about a number of issues affecting rural and regional Australians.

Everyone aged 18 or over who takes part in the survey can enter the draw to win one of 15 prizes worth a total of \$7,000. **Complete the survey any time before 31 December either online at**

[www.regionalwellbeing.org.au](http://www.regionalwellbeing.org.au) or call **1800 981 499** if you'd like help or a paper survey posted to you.

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