



Dairy NSW Snapshot - June 2015

Read the latest June edition of [The Milk Flow](#) featuring the regional dairy groups.

In this issue of *Dairy NSW's Snapshot*, link to information about:

Upcoming events

- Unpacking the ESKi (Wagga Wagga) – 15 June
- Join the dairy industry events in Camden – 16 June
- Dairy Research Foundation (DRF) 2015 Symposium – 17-18 June
- Feeding Pastures for Profit Southern delivery – 22-30 June
- ADHIS Webinar on new breed indices – 25 June
- Dairy Industry Association of Australia – Short course offerings

Date Claimers

- Regional dinners – Hunter, Mid Coast and South Coast & Highlands
- Raelands focus farm open day 11 August
- Social Media workshops – 12 and 13 August

Opportunities

- Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship
- Coles announce fund for small food businesses

Resources

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- Dairy Australia's library
- New Guide for managing mastitis
- Fortnightly Update
- Inputs Production Monitor

Research

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- El Nino Alert
- Botulism shift warning
- Longer milk tankers on their way

As Executive Officer, congratulations to the following individuals who applied and received bursaries to attend the Industry forum and Dairy Research Foundation's 2015 Symposium.

Will Russell Tom Middlebrook Amanda Smith Ben Clarke Dan Cochrane

Regards,

Roxanne Cooley
Executive Officer
Dairy NSW

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UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information about workshops, select the month and day in the Dairy NSW's Event Calendar by clicking: [HERE](#)

For contact details to Dairy NSW's staff, click: [HERE](#)

Unpacking the ESKi

Unpacking the ESKI workshops will show you how to access resources to help manage people. The aim of these workshops is to raise awareness to recent changes to the Commonwealth's *Pastoral Award 2010* (updated July 2014) and *Fair Work Act 2009* using DA's resources:

- [People in Dairy website](#)
- [Employment Starter Kit \(ESKi\)](#)

Mon 15th June 2015 Contact: Meet at the Grape and Wine Centre, McKeown Drive ,
Greg Duncan Charles Sturt University. Wagga Wagga

Join the dairy industry events in Camden on 16 June

Dairy NSW will hold its mid-year Members' Council alongside an inaugural NSW Industry Forum with Dairy Connect, NSW Farmers and the Dairy Research Foundation in Camden on 16 June.

This invitation is extended to dairy farmers, researchers, NSW government representatives and service providers.

RSVP Now

RSVP by 12 June 2015

NSW Farmers' Association Dairy Committee AGM 9.30am at the Centre for Carbon, Food and Water, 420 Werombi Road, Camden

Dairy Connect Dairy Group AGM 11.00am in Room 104, General Teaching Block, University of Sydney, 415 Werombi Road, Camden

Members' Council 1.45pm in the Liz Kernohan Conference Centre, located on the University of Sydney Camden campus, 410 Werombi Road, Camden

1:00pm	Lunch
1:45	Michael Perich, Welcome and introduction to Dairy NSW Board members and staff
2:00	Clayton Alley & James McRae, Australian Dairy Conference 2015 bursary winners
2:15	Discussion panel with Regional Dairy Group representatives on Sustainability (Financial, Environmental and Social & Wellbeing)

NSW Industry Forum in the Liz Kernohan Conference Centre, located on the University of Sydney Camden campus, 410 Werombi Road, Camden

3:00pm	Niall Blair MLC Minister for Primary Industries, Land & Water
3.30	Afternoon tea
4:15	Bruce Christie, NSW Deputy Director General Biosecurity & Food Safety
5:00	Charlie McElhone, Dairy Australia's Trade & Strategy Group Manager
5:45	Julie Iommi, Dairy Australia's Issues Manager

Dairy Research Foundation 2015 Symposium 17-18 June

The DRF 2015 Symposium will commence on 16 June in Camden with a welcome function at the Liz Kernohan Conference Centre, located on the University of Sydney Camden campus, 410 Werombi Road, Brownhill Hill (Camden).

To view the 2015 Symposium program and register, click: [HERE](#)

Feeding Pastures for Profit: Southern delivery

Phil Shannon returns for the first on-farm workshop in the feedbase series. Details of the farm locations and topics to be delivered will be communicated directly to participants.

Parkes – 22 June, contact Josh	Bega – 29 June, contact Greg
Wagga Wagga – 23 June, contact Josh	Nowra – 30 June, contact Greg

ADHIS webinar on the new breeding indices - 25th June

Michelle Axford will introduce Australia's three new breeding indices to help you choose the best index for your herd and use it to boost genetic gains.

To register for the 12 noon ADHIS webinar on the new breeding indices, click: [HERE](#)

Dairy Industry Association of Australia – Short Courses

On 6-8 July 2015, the DIAA will be hosting two concurrent science and technology short courses. The intensive cheese course will be presented by Dr Mark Johnson from the UW-Madison College of Ag & Life Sciences in the US. The intensive ice-cream course will be hosted by Prof.

Douglas Goff from the University of Guelph in Canada.

Registrations are closing soon, with only a few spots still available.

To find out more and download a registration form, click: [HERE](#)

DATE CLAIMERS

Mark your calendars for upcoming regional dinners

Hunter Dairy Development Group flood recovery dinners – Royal Hotel, Dungog 9 June & Singleton Heights RSL 10 June

Mid Coast Dairy Advancement Group annual dinner – 23 July

South Coast and Highlands Dairy Industry Group annual dinner – 16 September

Raelands Focus Farm Open Day 11 August

Join the McRae focus farm family at their property, Raelands, located at 345 Barrington East Road, Barrington on Tuesday 11 August for an open field day. Contact Josh Hack for further details.

Social media workshops coming in August

Louise Stock, Communications and Project Coordinator for Dairy South Australia returns to NSW to deliver two workshops for Dairy NSW. Contact Greg Duncan for further information.

Club Bega – 12 August

Bomaderry Bowling Club – 13 August

OPPORTUNITIES

Applications for 2016 Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarships open

Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarships close 30 June. Don't miss out! The scholarship application brochure can be viewed by clicking: [HERE](#)

Coles announces \$50 million fund for food and grocery businesses

The "Nurture Fund" is designed to "help small Australian food and grocery producers, farmers and manufacturers to innovate and grow their business". Through the Coles Nurture Fund, Coles will allocate \$50 million over five years in grants and interest-free loans to fund the development of new market-leading products, technologies and processes.

Funding is open to small businesses. Applications close on 12 June 2015. For the application form, click: [HERE](#)

RESOURCES

DairyBase launch

Analysing and understanding your overall farm business performance has just become easier,

with Dairy Australia's new web-based farm business management tool – DairyBase. Dairy farmers and service providers can now access DairyBase. The website has supporting resources to help:

- Get started – Getting started guide for first time users
- Use the data repository – DairyBase user guide
- Case studies
- Input check list/preparation guide
- FAQs
- Key events such as webinars and seminars

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

For further support there is a help line **1800 548 073** or email dairybasesupport@dairyaustralia.com.au

Dairy Australia's Library

Did you know you have access to one of the best libraries of dairy information in the world? All levy payers have access to the DA library portal. To ensure you are provided with the best services to help your business and research, it has been recently upgraded.

The new system is intuitive and can be accessed by clicking: [HERE](#)

New guide for managing mastitis

The new guide focuses on improving the wellbeing of the nation's cows. The wet winter months increase the risk of the disease, which is not only painful for the cow but damaging for milk quality, production and business profitability.

The Countdown Shed Guides and Videos feature key aspects of the Countdown 2020 Farm Guidelines and clearly illustrate the steps required to prevent, monitor and treat mastitis through a pictorial format. The new Countdown Shed Guides also includes a bonus high-quality milking apron which will be available free to all those undertaking Cups On-Cups Off courses.

To view this webpage which also features a series of short videos showing the practices in action, click: [HERE](#)

Fortnightly update

Dairy Australia's 'Fortnightly Update' provides a summary of the latest dairy market news. Key points:

- A more stable GDT result, but little hint of recovery
- 2015 / 16 milk price forecasts revealed in NZ
- 3% price cut for Arla Foods' UK suppliers
- Fonterra's new mozzarella plant operational
- Fonterra Australia unveils 2015 / 16 Fixed Base Milk Price and Milk Price Range
- Burra Foods expect to pay suppliers over \$6/kg MS for the third consecutive year in 2016
- Lion opens upgraded specialty cheese plant.

For the full report, click: [HERE](#)

Production Inputs Monitor

Dairy Australia's Production Inputs Monitor contains a monthly update on a range of farm input costs, including hay, grain, fertiliser and water. **Key points:**

- Gap opens between international benchmark and domestic Australian wheat prices.
- The onset of winter has seen increased enquiries for hay.
- Many water storages remain below year-earlier levels.
- Temporary water continues to be relatively expensive.
- Manufacturing beef demand continues to support cull cow values.

For the full report, click: [HERE](#)

RESEARCH

Dairy for athletes

We are excited to announce the release of a new piece of research produced with Dairy Australia and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) which identifies a new benefit of dairy foods for athletes.

Building on what athletes and their nutritionists around the world already know about dairy foods for recovery, the research found the following:

- A pre-exercise calcium boost from a high-dairy breakfast counteracted calcium losses in sweat, resulting in reduced bone breakdown during and after exercise
- Cyclists who had a high-dairy breakfast experienced no detrimental effects on gut comfort or time-trial performance compared to athletes who had a dairy-free meal.

Read the media release by clicking: [Experts advise athletes to increase dairy to improve bone health - new research](#)

Better buffer for acidosis

Queensland and South African researchers have found a treatment twice as effective against acidosis as sodium bicarbonate buffer.

Tests conducted by Brisbane's OSI Group and Tanqua Feeds in South Africa tested dietary buffers on six Holsteins, comparing responses to calcareous marine algae (sea weed *Lithothamnium calcareum*), limestone and sodium bicarbonate plus limestone. The algae treatment returned the highest daily milk, 4% fat-corrected milk, and energy-corrected milk yields and increased protein yield.

"Results indicated that buffer inclusion in high-concentrate diets for lactating dairy cows had a positive effect on milk production and milk composition. Calcareous marine algae, at a level of 90g/cow per day, had a greater effect on rumen pH, milk production and milk composition, and efficiency of feed conversion into milk than sodium bicarbonate at a level of 180 g/cow per day."

Cow care unaffected by herd size: Australian study

Herd size does not appear to affect cow welfare in terms of reported disease or contentment levels, according to a new Australian study.

A survey of 13% of the nation's dairy farms found that more than 95% of farmers believed that their cows were content most of the time, and cows were reported as well behaved on more than

90% of farms. The survey of 863 Australian dairy farms for that herd size was not associated with reported increases in mastitis or lameness treatments. Some disease conditions, such as milk fever, gut problems, and down cows, were reported less in larger herds. Larger herds were more likely to have routine veterinary herd health visits, separate milking of the main herd and the sick herd, transition diets before calving, and written protocols for disease treatment. They were more likely to use monitoring systems such as electronic ID in the dairy, computerised records, daily milk yield or cell count monitoring, and pedometers or activity meters.

Euthanasia methods were consistent between herds of varying sizes, and it was noted that less than 3% of farms make use of captive-bolt devices. Increasing herd size was related to increased herd milking time, increased time away from the paddock, and increased distance walked.

“If the milking order of cows is consistent, this may result in reduced feed access for late-milking-order cows because of a difference in time away from the paddock,” reported the researchers from the University of Melbourne’s Animal Welfare Science Centre. They noted that increasing herd size was associated with increases in stocking density, stock per labour unit, and grain fed per day — “all of which could reasonably be hypothesised to increase the risk of adverse welfare outcomes unless carefully managed. However, increasing herd size was also associated with an increased likelihood of staff with formal and industry-based training qualifications.”

No LOL4UHT

Australians continue to defy world trends and snub UHT, preferring fresh milk instead.

Seven out of every 10 Australians aged 14+ (or 13.6 m people) drink fresh milk in an average seven days, while fewer than two in 10 (2.9 m people) drink UHT, according to Roy Morgan Research. There has been little change in these figures over the past five years. Long-life/UHT milk is most likely to be consumed in older households (18%) and least likely to be consumed in households of young parents and their families (12%).

Ultrasound for milk separation: Australian discovery

Australian scientists are using ultrasound to separate cream from whole milk.

The Swinburne University of Technology in Australia and CSIRO researchers have discovered an ultrasound technique that can process up to 30 litres/hour at faster separation rates; about 10 to 20 minutes compared with hours for conventional methods. The next step is to work with small cheese makers to pilot-trial the technique. The Australian researchers will present their findings at the annual meeting of the Acoustical Society of America at the end of May.

NEWS & WEATHER ALERT

Dairy must-haves campaign

In the coming months Dairy Australia is launching the dairy must-haves campaign to health care professionals such as GP’s, Practice Nurses, Dietitians and Maternal Child Health Nurses. The dairy must-haves campaign is reminding health professionals that most Australians need to increase their intake of milk, cheese and yogurt in order to meet the Australian Dietary Guidelines recommendations.

To read more, click: [HERE](#)

EL NINO alert

The Bureau’s ENSO Tracker status has moved from ALERT to EL NINO, signalling the official declaration by the Bureau of Meteorology of El Niño 2015. The current outlook is for a ‘wetter than average’ May to July but start thinking through plans to deal with El Niño conditions during the

second half of 2015.

To read the announcement, click [HERE](#)

Botulism shift warning

A NSW vet is reporting a change in the way botulism affects some herds.

Bega-based Local Land Services district veterinarian Helen Schaefer said: “What we've become more aware of lately is that the signs might be more subtle - where you are not getting the sudden deaths. Rather than getting the sudden deaths - 50 cows dead – there might be 10, a dozen or 20 cows going down over two to three weeks. They don't respond to the normal milk fever treatment,” she said. A local farmer lost 10 dairy cows to botulism several months ago after displaying the atypical symptoms, she added. “We'd recommend the annual vaccine that does provide really good protection It's a good insurance policy if you're using conserved fodder, particularly in the form of a partial or total mixed ration, where you are tending to mix up silage with grain and other products.”

Longer tankers on their way

Four-axle B-doubles capable of carrying about 20% more milk are expected on roads nationally following approval from Canberra and the Victorian Government.

Manufacturer Byfords Equipment claims the new trucks are 47% more efficient than single axle and B-double tankers. Compliance officer Chris Nisbet said: “We can actually carry 10 tonnes per axle rather than two groups of 17.” The new trailer is 1m longer than the 19m single trailer and the absence of shear forces is said to protect tyres and road surfaces. Each new truck could save an estimated \$30,000/year, he said.

