
In this issue, link to information about:

- Opportunities
 - Call for applications for Dairy NSW Director Positions
 - Effluent design course – August and September
- Upcoming events
 - AGM – Far South Coast – 28 July
 - Regional dinners – Mid Coast 23 July and South Coast & Highlands 16 September
 - Raeland's focus farm open day 11 August
 - Social Media workshops – 12 and 13 August
 - Healthy Bones Actions week – 5-9 August
 - Feeding Pastures for Profit Southern delivery – September
- Resources
 - DairyBase launch
 - DPI's online resources
 - Sexed Semen - video recording
 - Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper
 - Sustainable farm profitability report
- Research
 - Energy savings
- Weather
 - El Nino Alert
- Have your say
 - How will Australian cows be milked in the future?

Opportunities

Call for applications for Dairy NSW Director Positions

The Dairy NSW Annual General Meeting will be held via teleconference on **13 October 2015**. At the AGM, three Dairy NSW Board Directors terms expire this year - two skills based and one farmer director. As a result, Dairy NSW is calling for nominations for three vacancies on its Board. To be elected as a Director, applicants undergo a selection process overseen by the Board Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee is now seeking and accepting applications from interested and appropriately skills individuals. Please complete the attached application and return to the Dairy NSW Executive Officer. If you have any questions, please contact the office or Michael Perich, Dairy NSW Chair.

Application closing date: All applications must be returned to Dairy NSW by Friday 21 August 2015. Applications will be accepted via email or post. To download a copy of the Director application, click: [HERE](#)

Effluent design course

A 2015/2016 Design Livestock Effluent Systems course will be conducted at Tocal Agricultural College and via a webinar series. The course is aimed at farm advisors who would like to seek skills in designing effluent systems for the dairy industry. Please take note of the background sought for participants of this course and contact Marguerite White if you have any questions.

Course details can be found on the **Dairy NSW event calendar** for September:

- 4 x 1hr webinar series will commence 10 August
- 3 day face to face workshop will be 16-18 September at Tocal Ag College
- Successful completion of two Effluent Management Plans will be required.

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](#)

AGM – Far South Coast – 28 July

Far South Coast Dairy Development Group AGM, 28 July, 10.30am, Local Land Services meeting room.

Regional dinners – July and September

Mid Coast Dairy Advancement Group annual dinner – 23 July, 6.30pm for 7pm, Taree Race Course.

South Coast and Highlands Dairy Industry Group annual dinner – 16 September, Shoalhaven Ex Services Club Worrigeer.

Raeland's 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 – 12 & 13 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

Healthy Bones Action Week – 3-9 August

This year DA is targeting women aged 50+ who are most at risk of accelerated bone loss due to menopause. From today women are encouraging women to sign up for the Fit, Fab & 50 Challenge to kick-start their journey towards better bone health by helping them to take action for stronger bones. There will be suggestions on ways to their 4 serves of calcium-rich dairy foods, do weight-bearing exercise and get enough Vitamin D from sunshine each day. As an incentive, 70 winners will receive a \$100 supermarket voucher and one lucky first prize winner will take home a Michael Kors handbag.

Take the challenge and click: [HERE](#)

Feeding Pastures for Profit: Southern delivery – September

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.

Bega – 15 Sept, contact Greg Duncan
Nowra – 16 Sept, contact Greg Duncan

Forbes – 17 Sept, contact Josh Hack
Wagga Wagga – 18 Sept, contact Josh Hack

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

Department of Primary Industries online resources

Did you know you have access to dairy podcasts, dairy facts and figures for NSW, the new *Automatic Milking Systems* newsletter and Facebook site, and ... much more with the DPI livestock website for dairy farmers?

To explore what is on offer, click: [HERE](#)

Sexed semen - video recording

Advances in sex-sorting technology are enabling farmers to increase the proportion of heifer calves produced by artificial insemination (AI). Sexed semen has the potential to help you raise more replacement heifers, improve voluntary culling options, productivity and fertility. However, AI programs using sexed semen need to be well constructed, planned and implemented to achieve good conception rates. To help you understand the risks and maximise the benefits of sexed semen, watch two experts provide an update on emerging technology and practical guidance on getting the best results.

Watch the video recording of a live webinar presented on the 27th of May, 2015 by Dr Andrew Perry and Dr John Kelly by clicking: [HERE](#)

Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper

The White Paper, released on 4 July 2015, sets out the Australian Government's roadmap of practical actions to grow our agriculture sector because stronger farmers mean a stronger economy. It is a \$4 billion investment in Australian farmers and the competitiveness and profitability of our agriculture sector.

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

Sustainable farm profitability report

Sustainable Farm Profitability 2015 is a reference document of tactical and strategic management guidance that, when used in conjunction with other resources, will enable dairy farmers to make more money from milk. The report recognises that dairy farms are infinitely more successful when farmers are good at managing their business across the board, with a combination of technical and financial skills that achieves balance to allow business to flourish and better mitigate risks.

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

Research

Energy savings

An analysis of the energy assessment data from the 2014 *Smarter Energy Use on Australian Dairy Farms* project reveals that more than half (55%) of the assessments identified on-farm savings of up to \$2,000 per year. 40% of properties have the potential to save between \$2,000–\$10,000 annually. More substantial savings (of up to \$29,000 annually) were identified for approximately 5% of assessments.

The most commonly identified savings were associated with:

- Improved functioning of equipment for milk cooling, including function of the plate-cooler and the compressors on the vats and using cooler water sources
- Pre-heating hot water for hot water systems, using heat exchange units (where appropriate) and using correct water temperatures
- Installing variable speed drives (VSDs) on vacuum pumps.

In addition to cutting energy costs, further dollar savings were found at some farms with electricity billing arrangements and changeover to time of use contracts.

To read the NSW analysis, click: [HERE](#)

Weather alert

Preparing for Drought and El Niño conditions

El Niño conditions are associated with below average rainfall over southern and eastern inland areas of Australia and above-average daytime temperatures over the southern half of the country during the second half of the year.

The [Bureau of Meteorology](#) says the 2015 El Niño is strengthening. While El Niño cannot be guaranteed, it may be useful for dairy farmers to put some back up plans in place. Things to think about include:

- A feed budget and alternative options if fodder becomes less available
- Alternative sources of fibre to fill a shortfall in your region

- How a warm and dry spring could affect your operations in the longer term.

And, don't forget to monitor farm input reports, such as:

- **Hay and Grain report** which tracks feed prices locally and nationally. Information is regularly updated weekly or fortnightly. It contains useful and up to date insights on market changes and availability.
- **Production Inputs Monitor** which provides a monthly update on farm input costs including water, hay, grain and fertiliser.

For other valuable resources to assist farmers with feed budgeting and so forth, click: [HERE](#)

Have your say

How will Australian cows be milked in the future?

Participate in a national survey to understand adoption rates of milk harvesting technology on Australian dairy farms and help drive work and investment in order to help farmers have the best milking system in the future.

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

Thanks to everyone who supported, participated and/or attended Dairy NSW Members' Council and Industry forum in June here in Camden.



Dairy NSW Regional Manager

If you don't want to hear from us, you can be removed from our list or update your profile to edit your preferences. Tell us by clicking: [HERE](#)



Your Levy at Work

Email: info@dairynsw.com.au
