

# JOURNAL

The official publication of the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association Inc.

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## From the President

Robert Brokenshire

As we move through April, there's no doubt it's been a challenging start to the season for many across South Australia. Dry conditions and rising input costs are continuing to test our businesses—but what also stands out is the resilience, adaptability and forward thinking that defines our dairy farmers.

Across the state, I've seen farmers making practical decisions to manage conditions, protect their herds, and keep their operations moving forward. Whether it's adjusting stocking rates, sourcing feed, or planning infrastructure upgrades, there's a strong focus on long-term sustainability despite the short-term pressures.

At an industry level, we've been actively advocating for better support settings—particularly around the State Government's

drought loan scheme. While it's a positive step, we're continuing to push for broader access so that all dairy regions facing the impact of dry conditions can benefit. It's important that policy reflects the reality on the ground, and we will keep that conversation going.

Input costs remain front of mind. Fuel, fertiliser and now key infrastructure materials like poly-pipe are all seeing significant increases. While this is frustrating, it also reinforces the importance of the smart investments many of you have already made in efficiency, water management, and technology. These decisions are positioning your businesses well to navigate volatility and remain productive.

Importantly, demand for South Australian milk remains strong, and our reputation for

high-quality production continues to hold us in good stead. That's a credit to the work happening on farms every day and the strong partnerships across our supply chain.

We're also seeing great collaboration across the industry—farmers, processors, service providers and government all working together to respond to current challenges. These connections are critical, and they're a real strength of our sector here in South Australia.

While there are pressures, there is also opportunity. The decisions being made now—around efficiency, herd management, and resource use—will set us up well for when conditions turn.

Thank you for your continued commitment to your farms, your animals, and our industry. The work you do matters—not just to your own businesses, but to regional communities and the broader South Australian economy.

Let's stay focused, support each other, and keep building a strong future for SA dairy.

## Last chance to join the celebration of a century in the making! SADA's 90-Year Gala Dinner – Last minute tickets available.

Don't miss your chance to be part of this milestone event.

After 90 years of strong advocacy, leadership and commitment to South Australian dairy farmers, the momentum is building and the excitement is real. Join us for a special night to reconnect, reflect, and celebrate the people and progress that have shaped our industry.

**Secure your spot now and be part of the celebration.**

This is one night you won't want to miss.

Celebrating  
90 YEARS  
OF SADA

FRIDAY MAY 15  
CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS



# From the SADA Desk: What you need to know

These are things that have come to our attention over the past month which might be of interest to you. If there is anything that you think we have missed or you would like to see in the newsletter, please email: [sada@sada.asn.au](mailto:sada@sada.asn.au)

Hon Clare Scriven MLC  
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development  
Minister for Forest Industries



## Working together to make lasting impact

It's a great privilege to continue serving as Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and Minister for Forest Industries. Over the past four years, we have worked closely with industry to support South Australia's primary industries and regional communities through significant challenges and opportunities. More

The Hon Julie Collins MP  
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



## New drought hardship RIC loans, adding \$1 billion to the program.

The federal government has put forward \$1 billion in funding for Regional Investment Corporation loans, including a new drought hardship loan. The funding envelope set aside for the new product takes the RIC's loan capacity to \$5B. The new product targets farm businesses that have endured drought for at least two years and expect conditions to persist, allowing farmers to borrow up to \$250,000 over five years at concessional rates, with no repayments required for the first two years.



## 'Dairy copping it every way': cost hikes fuel calls for loan scheme expansion

Michael Connor, Nangkita Dairies, is backing SADA's call to expand the SA Drought Loan Scheme beyond the three regions eligible.

As the price and availability of fuel and fertiliser continues to be a concern and eating into the bottom line of farmers, SADA have called for a low interest drought loan scheme to be broadened to help counteract the financial hit.

[Under the \\$200m SA Drought Loan Scheme](#) announced by the state government in February, only farmers in council areas in the Murray Mallee, Riverland and Upper North

regions were made eligible. SADA president Robert Brokenshire said while the organisation supported the drought loan scheme in principle, it had flaws and needed to be broadened.



## Urrbrae Agricultural High School hosts scholars marking 70th anniversary

The special occasion celebrated students enrolled in 1956, many of whom continued in agriculture careers and pursuits after leaving school. Like SADA Members, Trevor and Raelene Thorpe pictured here, whose still dairying in Meadows.

## Farm Safe Australia seeks farmer advocates to tackle industry death rate.



A new program aims to tackle agriculture's deadly safety record by training farmer advocates, as the industry faces one of Australia's highest workplace death rates. **Saving lives and safeguarding access to quad bikes.**

Recognises the essential nature of quad bikes to many Australian farm businesses. We all need to be committed to safeguarding farmers' continued access to quad bikes by supporting sensible, evidence-backed measures to significantly improve the safety of these vehicles - ensuring that legal and regulatory consequences of their associated dangers do not constrict their availability in the future.

## [Quad Bike Safety Policy](#)



'Almost 90 per cent' of 450GL buybacks target. Murray Darling Basin farmers face a \$1.8bn water buyout assault this year despite official analysis showing minimal environmental benefits for most river systems.



## MEDIA RELEASE | [April 15, 2026](#)

ADF welcome temporary price support, call for sustained price increases by all processors and retailers.

## MEDIA RELEASE | [April 28, 2026](#)

Farmers call for fair milk pricing to secure Australia's food supply.



## Getting Your Numbers Ready for EOFY

Across SA businesses are moving from managing the season in front of them to starting to think about year-end decisions.

## Bendigo Bank Deep dives

The insights team perform industry deep dives on agri issues topical for Australian primary producers.

## Varroa mite Biosecurity Notice: Varroa Mite Detection Update

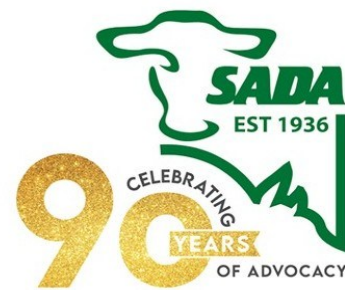
Hive inspection results submitted contribute to the [Varroa Surveillance Map](#).



## Supporting the Dairy Sector with high quality migration services

For many years, Agribusiness Recruitment (ABR) has supported Australia's dairy sector, working closely with producers to deliver practical workforce solutions tailored to the demands of modern farm operations. With a strong understanding of the South Australian dairy landscape, ABR has built a reputation for helping businesses secure reliable, skilled staff in an increasingly tight labour market.

# IN THE KNOW



www.sada.asn.au

## Member Reminder: Check Your JD Dairy Score Status

Just a quick reminder to check your Johne's Disease (JD) Dairy Score status.

The South Australian JD Dairy Score Program continues to provide a consistent, trusted framework for managing JD risk across the state. For many of you, this includes certificates and risk ratings that have been maintained over a long period, in partnership with your private veterinarian.

If you've previously consented to share your details, you can expect: Ongoing certificate issuance and Reminders for any required testing.

Continued collaboration with your vet to support your participation.

If you're not currently involved, it's worth considering joining this uniquely South Australian program. It supports on-farm productivity, strengthens market access, and underpins the high product quality our state is known for.

The JD Dairy Score Program (formerly Dairy ManaJD) has been a cornerstone of the SA dairy industry since 2004, built on strong collaboration between producers, processors, vets, and industry bodies. It remains a valuable tool in maintaining herd health and industry confidence.

[For more information](#), refer to the JD Dairy Score Manual or contact the office if you have any questions.

*Let's keep SA dairy strong—together.*

**Celebrating 90 Years of SADA** We're excited to be bringing together an incredible lineup of partners for the night, including a special showcase of local South Australian produce, premium beverages and the valued support of our Premium Sponsor, **PIRSA**.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

**Premium Sponsor**

PIRSA — proudly backing SA dairy for 90 years, and leading the way into the future.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

**Beverage Sponsor**

Thank you to Hither & Non for their generous support and for organising the premium products we'll all enjoy on the night.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

**Gold Sponsor**

Thank you to DIAA for their generous support and for organising the premium products we'll all enjoy on the night.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

**Silver Sponsor**

A big thank you to Dairy Australia, whose ongoing support reflects the strength of collaboration and the enduring partnerships that underpin our dairy industry.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

**Thank you**  
for your continued support  
and for helping make  
this event possible.

Thank you to Rabobank for their generous support and for organising the premium products we'll all enjoy on the night.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

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Thank you to LELY for their generous support and for organising the premium products we'll all enjoy on the night.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

**Thank you**  
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and for helping make  
this event possible.

Thank you to Telstra for their generous support and for organising the premium products we'll all enjoy on the night.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

**Thank you**  
for your continued support  
and for helping make  
this event possible.

Thank you to the Government of South Australia, Department of Environment and Water for their generous support and for organising the premium products we'll all enjoy on the night.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Central Conference 2026

DairySA looks forward to welcoming you to Central Conference 2026!



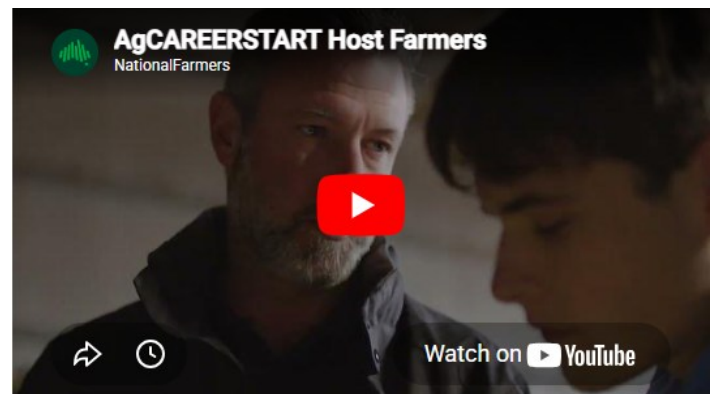
Wed, 6 May 2026  
9am—4pm

## The DairySA Central Conference

brings together producers, service providers and industry leaders for a day grounded in what matters most on farm, profitability, practical innovation and future focused decision making. This is not a sit and listen conference. It is designed to challenge thinking, share what is working right now and connect people with ideas they can take home and apply immediately.

## AG CAREERSTART Growing tomorrow's farmers

- Employ a young Australian to work on your farm for 10-12 months.
- Share your skills, knowledge, and industry insights as a farm-host.
- Contribute to the future ag workforce by giving someone a start in the industry.
- Access labour markets by leveraging Ag-CAREERSTART's recruitment process.
- Challenge yourself and develop skills as an employer and a mentor.



[APPLY NOW](#)

18<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE  
Equity & transformation:  
shaping rural health, disability & ageing

14-16 SEPTEMBER 2026  
ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE  
TARNTANYA SA

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



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Nuffield Australia

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## Stay Informed. Stay Connected. Become a Valued SADA Member

We've had a few new Members recently, If you've considered becoming a valued member of your industry body, now's the time!

You're not only supporting a strong, united voice for South Australian dairy— you're also gaining access to the most up-to-date and relevant information affecting your business. [JOIN NOW](#)

