

JOURNAL

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From the President

Robert Brokenshire

As we move into winter, dairy farmers across South Australia continue to navigate a challenging operating environment, with drought conditions, rising costs and ongoing uncertainty placing pressure on many farm businesses. Against this backdrop, the recently announced South Australian **State Budget** provided a mixed outcome for agriculture and regional communities. While there are welcome investments in key areas, SADA remains focused on ensuring that dairy farmers receive practical support that delivers real outcomes on farm, particularly as many producers continue to manage seasonal and financial pressures.

One of the most significant developments for our industry in recent weeks has been the announcement of **opening milk prices** for the 2026–27 season. While every farm business will assess the figures through the lens of their own circumstances, opening prices provide an important signal for confidence, planning and investment. SADA will continue to monitor processor announcements and advocate for a sustainable farmgate return that recognises the increasing cost of producing high-quality milk in South Australia.

At the same time, dairy businesses are facing an increasing administrative and regulatory burden. Recent changes affecting family businesses, including proposed **capital gains tax** arrangements and other taxation reforms, continue to create uncertainty for many farming

families as they plan for succession and future investment. In addition, the commencement of **weekly superannuation reporting** requirements from next month will add another layer of compliance for employers already managing significant reporting obligations.

These changes reinforce the importance of having access to trusted advice and support. Whether it is understanding new regulations, navigating employment obligations, interpreting tax changes or accessing specialist services, **SADA is here to help**. Our team works every day to ensure members have access to the information, resources and expertise needed to manage these additional administrative pressures and focus on what they do best—producing high-quality milk.

On a more positive note, nominations for the [South Australian Dairy Awards](#) are closing soon, and I strongly encourage members to submit their nominations before the 6 July. Every year we are reminded of the innovation, dedication and professionalism that exists throughout our dairy community. South Australia continues to lead the nation in participation and support for these awards, showcasing the outstanding people and businesses that drive our industry forward.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Dairy Industry Association of Australia (DIAA) for its continued partnership in delivering the **Dairy Awards program and Awards Night**.

The collaboration between our organisations provides an opportunity to celebrate excellence right across the dairy value chain, bringing together farmers, processors, service providers and industry supporters in recognition of the achievements that make our sector strong.

As SADA celebrates 90 years of representing South Australian dairy farmers, our commitment remains unchanged. We will continue advocating for practical policy outcomes, supporting members through industry change, and ensuring dairy farmers have a strong voice at both state and national levels.

Thank you for your ongoing support of SADA and our industry. I encourage you to reach out if there is any way we can assist your business.

Stay Vigilant Following H5 Bird Flu Detection

For the latest updates and practical information, visit birdflu.gov.au.

Preparedness and early reporting remain our best defence in protecting Australia's livestock industries.

www.sada.asn.au

Following the detection of H5 avian influenza in wild seabirds on Western Australia's southern coast. SADA encourages members to review on-farm biosecurity, ensure staff and visitors follow biosecurity requirements, and report any sick or unusual bird or animal deaths immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

UPCOMING EVENTS



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

2026 SA DAIRY AWARDS

SADA is proud to continue as Premier Partner of the South Australian Dairy Awards in 2026.

This prestigious event shines a spotlight on the outstanding contributions of South Australia's dairy farmers and processors – the passionate people behind the high-quality products found in our supermarket delis, cafés, restaurants, and homes. For 20 years, the Dairy Awards have been a key date on the industry calendar, honouring excellence in every facet of dairy production. The 2026 program will continue to showcase our three signature awards. We are also thrilled to again partner with Foodland to present the **Dairy Sustainability Award**, recognising leaders who are delivering nutritious food for a healthier world, in line with the Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework.



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DAIRY



SCAN HERE
Let's come together to celebrate the people who make SA dairy great

Save the Date
FRIDAY, 7 AUGUST 2026

- Young Farmer of the Year**
- Best Relationship with a Processor**
- Innovative Farmer of the Year**
- Foodland Dairy Sustainability Award**

90 YEARS OF ADVOCACY **SADA EST 1936**

★ Congratulations ★
2025 WINNER
YOUNG FARMER AWARD
NARELLE ZANKER
MANNUM, SA

The Young Dairy Farmer of the Year, Narelle Zanker from Mannum, represents another vital dimension of the industry's future.

Her work on-farm, combined with her Dairy Adventures initiative, is helping bridge the gap between consumers and agriculture. By opening farm gates and classrooms to the public, she is strengthening understanding of modern dairy farming and building trust with the wider community.

Her leadership reflects a new generation of farmers who see communication and education as part of their role in the industry.

LEADERSHIP INNOVATION EDUCATION COMMUNITY

NOMINATE NOW
for the **2026 SA DAIRY AWARDS!**
Recognising excellence. Supporting the future.

Thank you
FOR INSPIRING THE FUTURE OF OUR INDUSTRY

90 YEARS OF ADVOCACY **SADA EST 1936**

★ Congratulations ★
2025 WINNER
OF THE **SA DAIRY AWARD**
BEST RELATIONSHIP WITH A PROCESSOR
MARK CHANDLER
MULGUNDAWA DAIRY

Among the standout recipients, Mark Chandler of Mulgundawa Dairy was recognised for Best Relationship with a Processor alongside Udder Delights.

Their long-standing partnership highlights that trust and communication across the supply chain remain fundamental to a stable and profitable dairy sector.

As a time of rising input costs and market volatility, these relationships provide the certainty farmers need to plan for the long term.

TRUST COMMUNICATION PARTNERSHIP POSSIBILITY

NOMINATE NOW
for the **2026 SA DAIRY AWARDS!**
Recognising excellence. Supporting the future.

Thank you
FOR BUILDING STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS AND A STRONGER DAIRY INDUSTRY

90 YEARS OF ADVOCACY **SADA EST 1936**

★ Congratulations ★
2025 WINNER
OF THE **SA DAIRY AWARDS**
INNOVATIVE FARMER
REECE DONHARDT
NANGKITA DAIRY

Reece Donhardt from Nangkita Dairy was named Innovative Farmer of the Year for his forward-thinking approach to technology and farm design.

His use of robotics, drone application systems and precision farming tools demonstrates how innovation is reshaping dairy production.

Importantly, his work also shows how technology can unlock productivity from challenging landscapes, turning constraints into opportunities.

INNOVATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTIVITY OPPORTUNITY

NOMINATE NOW
for the **2026 SA DAIRY AWARDS!**
Recognising excellence. Supporting the future.

Thank you
FOR DRIVING INNOVATION AND STRENGTHENING OUR DAIRY INDUSTRY

90 YEARS OF ADVOCACY **SADA EST 1936**

★ Congratulations ★
2025 WINNER
OF THE **SA DAIRY AWARDS**
FOODLAND SUSTAINABILITY AWARD
Proudly supported by **FOODLAND**
THE MIGHTY SOUTH AUSSIES
BRAD FISCHER
CAMPBELLHOUSE DAIRY
MENINGIE, SA

Sustainability was also a defining theme of the 2025 awards, with Brad Fischer of Campbellhouse Dairy in Meningie recognised through the Foodland Sustainability Award and the Premier's Food and Wine Primary Producer Award.

His commitment to integrating technology, improving resource efficiency and meeting in environmental outcomes demonstrates that sustainability is not an add-on, but a core business strategy.

From renewable energy systems to large-scale revegetation projects, his approach shows environmental stewardship and commercial viability can work together.

SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION STEWARDSHIP FUTURE FOCUSED

NOMINATE NOW
for the **2026 SA DAIRY AWARDS!**
Recognising excellence. Supporting the future.

Thank you
FOR LEADING THE WAY TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND PROSPEROUS DAIRY INDUSTRY

Fertiliser Supply Improves, But Price Pressures Remain

There is some positive news for South Australian dairy farmers as Australia's fertiliser supply begins to stabilise following recent global disruptions.

A shipment of 47,000 tonnes of urea has arrived in Brisbane from Indonesia, marking the first major delivery since conflict in the Middle East disrupted supply chains earlier this year. The shipment represents around 35–40% of one month's urea requirements for one of Australia's largest fertiliser suppliers, with additional cargoes already on the way.

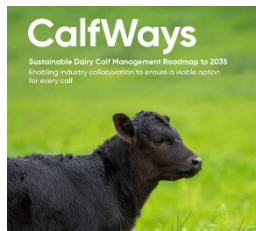
The Australian and Indonesian governments have also worked with industry to secure an additional 250,000 tonnes of urea from Indonesian manufacturer PT Pupuk, helping diversify Australia's supply away from its traditional reliance on the Middle East. The latest [Fertiliser Dashboard](#) shows global and Australian urea prices have continued to decline from the peaks experienced earlier this year.

As at 18 June 2026, the global fertiliser-grade urea indicator price was down 55% from its April conflict-related peak, while the Australian urea indicator price had fallen 27% from its May peak.

The dashboard also reports that 78% of forecast fertiliser requirements for the November 2025 to October 2026 season had been received by 22 June, providing a positive indication for supply availability heading into the new season.

Members can also access information on import volumes and trends for other key fertilisers through the dashboard.

SADA encourages members to continue planning fertiliser requirements early and maintain regular communication with their suppliers as the market continues to adjust.



CalfWays Roadmap Continues to Build Momentum

The [CalfWays Roadmap](#) implementation continues to make strong

progress, with several key projects advancing towards major milestones. Dairy Australia's CalfWays Steering Committee met in May and highlighted the growing momentum across producer engagement, communications, and industry collaboration. A major achievement has been the successful launch of the Tasmanian CalfWays Action Plan at AgFest, while the Alpine Valleys producer group pilot remains on track for completion by the end of June. Work is also progressing on the Growing Beef from Dairy program and a Beef from Dairy Profitability project, which will provide valuable economic insights for dairy farmers.

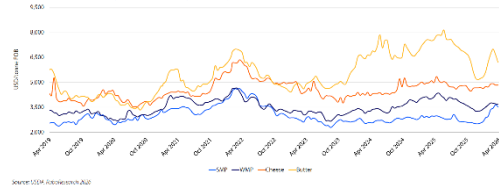
The CalfWays website continues to expand, now featuring 17 endorsing organisations, with new producer resources, factsheets and training materials currently under development.

The Steering Committee also emphasised the importance of robust data, economic analysis and stronger partnerships across the dairy and beef supply chains to support future investment and opportunities for producers. SADA will continue to keep members informed as the program develops.

Dairy

Protein price rally loses some momentum

Oceania spot prices for dairy commodities, May 2019-May 2026



New Season Milk Pricing in line with expectations

National milk production has remained slightly below prior year levels in 2025/26, with total output declining by 0.3% year to date to April (7.11bn litres).

[FULL REPORT HERE](#)

Have your say

Have Your Say on Fossil Methane Emissions

The Climate Change Authority is seeking feedback on its consultation paper, **Accelerating Action on Fossil Methane Emissions**, with submissions open until **7 August 2026**.

While the consultation focuses on reducing methane emissions from the coal and gas sectors, SADA encourages members with an interest or expertise in emissions management, methane reduction technologies, or climate policy to review the paper and consider making a submission.

The Authority is seeking practical input on:

- Technologies and practices that are ready for deployment.
- Barriers preventing the uptake of methane abatement.
- Whether current policy settings will deliver meaningful emissions reductions.
- Additional measures that could accelerate action.

Feedback received will help inform the Authority's advice to the Australian Government later this year.

Members can access the consultation paper and lodge a submission through the Climate Change Authority's Consultation Hub before **7 August 2026**.

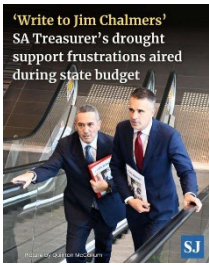


A reminder for all dairy employers that from **1 July 2026**, employers must pay Super Guarantee (SG)

contributions at the same time as employee wages, replacing quarterly payments.

- ✓ Review your payroll systems
- ✓ Check with your payroll provider.
- ✓ Be ready for new compliance requirements

Act now to ensure your business is prepared.



'Write to Jim Chalmers'
SA Treasurer's drought
support frustrations aired
during state budget

State Budget Highlights Drought Support Frustrations

The South Australian Government has used the 2026–27 State Budget to highlight its frustration with the level of drought assistance being provided by the Commonwealth, with Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis calling on farmers to lobby Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers for greater support. While the Budget includes the previously announced \$200 million drought loan scheme for eligible farmers in the Murray Mallee, Riverland and Upper North, there was little new agriculture-specific funding announced. Mr Koutsantonis argued that drought assistance should be led by the Commonwealth, noting the State Government does not have the same revenue-raising capacity. Key agriculture-related measures include continued delivery of the drought loan package, funding for biosecurity initiatives, mandatory eID implementation, alternative water supply efficiency programs, biodiversity projects, and support for innovation and industrial hemp trials. An additional \$13 million has also been allocated to the Country Fire Service. Regional health and education were the major beneficiaries of new spending, with significant investments in hospitals, transport assistance, ambulance services and regional schooling initiatives across South Australia.

Tax Reform Win Delivers Confidence for Farm Businesses

SADA welcomes the National Farmers' Federation's successful advocacy to expand access to the small business Capital Gains Tax (CGT) 50% active asset concession, with the Federal Government confirming the turnover threshold will increase from **\$2 million to \$10 million**.

This significant change means around **99% of Australian farm businesses**, including the vast majority of South Australian dairy farms, will now be eligible to access the concession when planning succession, restructuring their business or investing for the future.

The reform recognises the capital-intensive nature of modern farming and provides greater certainty for family businesses making long-term decisions. It is also a strong example of the value of coordinated industry advocacy, with the NFF working closely with its members and Government to deliver practical tax settings that better reflect the realities of Australian agriculture. SADA will continue to work alongside our national industry partners to ensure dairy farmers' priorities are represented and that policy reforms support the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of family farm businesses.

Attention employers

To find out about employing workers from the Pacific Islands and Timor-Leste register for the **free webinar** on 28 July 2026

www.sada.asn.au

Are you interested in employing overseas workers from the Pacific Islands and Timor-Leste using the **Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM)** scheme or the Pacific Engagement Visa (PEV)? A free webinar is being held for any business or organisation that would like information on these visas. Thursday 28 July 2026 at 10.30am ACST. [REGISTER HERE](#)

DANGEROUS POISON
4Farmers
PARAQUAT 300
HERBICIDE

REVIEW UPDATE

"paraquat remains an important weed management tool for Australian farmers"

www.sada.asn.au

The **APVMA** has confirmed paraquat and diquat will remain available for use following its independent scientific review. While the review found no evidence that approved paraquat use increases the risk of Parkinson's disease, new safety and label requirements will be introduced, with a two-year transition period for industry. **SADA will keep members informed as the new requirements are rolled out.**

What you can do

If you see multiple sick or dead birds or other animals, **don't touch them:**

- Avoid contact with sick or dead birds and **keep pets away**, including preventing cats from roaming and keeping dogs on leashes.
- Record relevant details**, including date, time, location, species and numbers.
- Report observations to the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline** on **1800 675 888**

Or email: pirsa.biosecuritysa@sa.gov.au

Local Members in the Spotlight

Celebrating the achievements,
innovation and stories of
South Australian dairy farmers.



Celebrating Women in Dairy on World Milk Day.

Drink the white stuff on World Milk Day provided an opportunity to recognise the important contribution women make to Australia's dairy industry, with women now representing 35 per cent of the dairy farming workforce. Among those celebrated was South Australian dairy farmer **Narelle Zanker** from Mannum. After beginning her career as a teacher, Narelle transitioned into dairy farming. June 1



Rain and growing pastures bring relief to dairy farmers facing a cost squeeze.

Dairy farmers across southern Australia have welcomed improved seasonal conditions after a brutal year, but soaring input costs are tempering hopes of a full recovery.

"This year, an early April break followed by consistent rainfall – 76mm in May – has the operation firing"

[@fiona sheean](#) | June 9, 2026 | **The Weekly Times**



Justin Zweck, Donava Holsteins, Blyth, with three-year-old twin daughters Hazel and Maeve, amongst the nearly ready barley silage crop.

Pictures: [Chelsea Ashmeade](#) | June 22 2026

First ever July cut of silage: Beast barley is on the move at Blyth.

Rain, coupled with warm weather, has been a winner for the Zweck family, as they restock silage supplies for their milking herd. Planted on March 20, standing nearly a metre tall in some spots, with 212 millimetres of rain so far, their first cut of silage should happen in two to three weeks'. Mr Zweck said they had capitalised on warmth and early rainfall.

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](#)



MEMBER UPDATE
NEWSLETTER



Podcast Episode

Australian dairy outlook – Resilience amid wavering confidence
RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness Australia/NZ



Unpacking
Ag

**The insights you need
to run a successful farm**

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RURAL BUSINESS SUPPORT
RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SA/NT

