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SADA NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

Dairy Service Levy Poll

All dairy farmers will be able to have their say on the future of the industry's service levy.

Dairy Levy Poll Advisory Committee (LPAC) intends to run a nationwide poll in March 2022 as part of its review of the dairy service levy.

The LPAC consists of 12 farmers and three independents from industry and will determine the future levy options, including a preferred option to go on a voting paper by September 2021.

The LPAC is seeking farmer's views on whether the dairy service levy should increase, decrease or stay the same, and the reasons why.

South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association Chief Executive Officer Andrew Curtis said the poll would provide a great opportunity for local farmers to have their say.

"This review and the changes that may come from it will inform future investment, growth and profitability in the dairy industry," he said, "Because it is such an important review, it is vital South Australian dairy producers make their voices heard as part of this process."

There are a number of ways farmers can provide this feedback:

- Via the 'feedback' option on the [Dairy Levy Review website](#)
- Inform an LPAC member (contact details are available on the website)

In providing their views, farmers are urged to consider the impact of a levy change on the range of services delivered because of it, including:

- Research and innovation,
- Initiatives supporting farm business management,
- Tools to adapt to the environment and address climate change,
- Attracting people to the industry and building skills,
- Marketing and campaigns to drive community trust, and
- Policy research, market insights, and trade relations.

Many of these services are delivered through Dairy Australia's eight regions: DairySA, Murray Dairy, Gipps Dairy, West Vic Dairy, Western Dairy, Dairy Tas, Sub Tropical Dairy and Dairy NSW.

To assist farmers wanting to provide feedback to the LPAC, it is recommended they review the [Dairy Levy Review website](#) and view the [LPAC Report](#).

WISH WE WERE HERE - ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW CANCELLED

It was recently announced that the Show would very sadly not go ahead in 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

SADA would like to thank both the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA for its diligent attempts to run the event in the current climate and the numerous individuals who helped with preparations and also attempted to run some aspects of the Show - such as the dairy competitions. We feel for all exhibitors and competitors who will miss out on this year's event, but are hopeful the Show will be back up-and-running in 2022!



DRIVING FARM VEHICLES AT NIGHT

Often it's safer and easier to drive your farm machinery on the roads at night, but did you know that in some areas you could require a permit to do so?

Some councils, such as the Alexandrina and City of Victor Harbor, require permits to drive your farm machinery in certain conditions, including in the dark.

To find out if you require a permit, either contact your council or check the following National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) bulletins:

[Night Travel for Agricultural Machinery](#)

[Night Travel for Rubber Tracked Tractors](#)

To apply for a permit, visit an assessor will then gather all required information and send it to councils for approval, which can take up to 28 days.

During the application process you will need to select your council area. You will have the ability to choose either a single route or access permit, depending on the travel you need to undertake.

Each permit costs \$76 which is payable on application to NHVR.



Machinery Repair Experience

The Productivity Commission wants to hear about the repair experiences of agricultural machinery owners.

The Commission is interested in learning about farmers' most recent or most significant repair experience, to inform its inquiry into an Australian 'right to repair'.

If you own agricultural machinery that has recently been repaired, please fill out this short (5-10 mins) [questionnaire](#) by 26 August.



**Seeks Non-Executive
Directors: 2 POSITIONS**

DataGene Limited delivers innovative, pre-competitive services to the dairy herd improvement industry, allowing farmers to make timely and data-driven decisions in genetics and herd management.

In line with the DataGene constitution and schedule of Director nominations, they are now seeking two (2) applicants with the following skills and experience:

- Director - Herd Improvement Supply Chain: Strong background in milk production with a comprehensive understanding of dairy farm systems, and demonstrated capability in identifying and evaluating technology, including knowledge of modern herd improvement services.
- Director - Milk Producer: Strong background in milk production with a comprehensive understanding of dairy farm systems and demonstrated capability in identifying and evaluating technology, including knowledge of modern herd improvement services.

To enquire, phone Nigel Crawley on 1300 380 701 or apply via www.rimfireresources.com.au by Friday 27 August at 5pm. Upon receipt of your application, a candidate pack will be made available.

Nominations open for SADA board members

The South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association (SADA) is encouraging you to consider nominating for the SADA board. There are positions in the South East and Central regions up for election this year.

To nominate, producers must be a SADA member and must submit a nomination form on or before 5pm Friday 22 October, 2021. SADA chief executive officer Andrew Curtis called on all members to think about putting their name forward. "Being part of the SADA board is a wonderful opportunity for dairy farmers to contribute to the future of their industry," he said. "It's also a great opportunity on an individual level to gain an understanding of how the association works in advocating for the dairy industry."

For a nomination form, contact the SADA office on 8293 2399 or email sada@sada.asn.au.

Successful candidates will be announced at SADA an-

Annual survey to understand AgTech adoption

The SA Government is calling for local primary producers taking part in the 2021 AgTech survey so it can unlock the potential of AgTech in South Australia. The 2021 AgTech survey is designed to update on the opportunities and obstacles in the uptake of AgTech in South Australia.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development David Basham said the 2021 survey would build on the results of last year's inaugural AgTech survey.

"The Marshall Liberal Government sees AgTech as a key to greatly enhancing the productivity, profitability and sustainability of the agricultural sector in our state," Minister Basham said.

"As part of our AgTech strategy, we committed to undertaking an annual survey to understand the uptake of technology by South Australian farmers.

"We want to hear from as many farmers as possible through this survey, as well as businesses involved in the AgTech supply chain."

Minister Basham said the government recognised that technology could provide growth in the sector.

"We continue to put platforms in place to support the uptake of AgTech by farmers in South Australia but it is important we continually collected data and feedback," he said.

"South Australia aims to be the national leader in AgTech through a collaborative and cohesive approach with initiatives such as an AgTech Strategic Plan, AgTech Demonstration Farms, AdvanceAg and AgTech Start-Up Hubs facilitated on the advice of the AgTech Advisory Group."

The inaugural survey contributed important information towards the state's first AgTech Strategic Plan, launched almost one year

ago.

"The AgTech Strategic Plan developed from advice by the AgTech advisory group is guiding the approach to increasing AgTech adoption in South Australia," Basham said.

"Full adoption of AgTech across the industry could return up to \$2.6 billion per annum to the state's economy.

"This is why the Marshall Liberal Government has invested \$7.6 million over the next four years to deliver a range of initiatives to drive in AgTech adoption in South Australia."

Minister Basham said the predominant feedback from the 2020 survey was most producers still needed to see and understand the value in AgTech before investing.

"By providing this updated snapshot on where AgTech adoption is successfully occurring and what areas still need addressing, we can then use the information from the survey to further assist our primary producers to embrace and benefit from the latest in agricultural technologies," Minister Basham said.

[2021 AgTech strategy survey closes 23 September](#)



Around the grounds

- Staff attended the board meeting in Mount Gambier. This was meant to be a face-to-face meeting, but the escalating COVID-19 danger meant it was partially attended by Zoom. The board meeting was supposed to have board members and staff in Mount Gambier attend a farmer's lunch, but the government called a lockdown so that was cancelled and all staff and members returned home.
- Elf attended the Dairy Code Review Reference Group's (DCRRG) second meeting. The DCRRG is advising the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture on the appropriate issues to be canvassed as part of the Dairy Code review. SADA has called for input from farmers regarding matters that should be considered in the review.
- Elf prepared the draft submission from SADA to the Dairy Code review. This is an extensive document which makes a number of recommendations to improve the Code, but from a perspective that the Code has so far served the industry well in leveling the playing field for contractual negotiations and farmers. While suggesting minor amendments SADA's overall position at this time is "...if it ain't broke don't fix it..."
- Elf also communicated with AMPI regarding the development of a hedging system for the dairy industry. SADA supports hedging in principle, however has expressed concern on how it is going to be rolled out for farmers and how it will relate to the operation of the Code.
- Ash attended a Rural Biz Training Seminar/Ag Career Expo that talked about the educational needs in agriculture and the opportunities available for school leavers. There were a range of different industries present with a major challenge notable in all industries being a labour workforce. Questions were put to educators and industry as to how to attract more younger people into the ag industry and remain in the industry.
- Ash attended the ADF Dairy Beef Forum. The main topics included animal welfare, bobby calf welfare and the opportunities for Australian dairy cattle to be sold predominately internationally as dairy beef. There were numerous international speakers especially from Canada and the United States that show the benefit of dairy beef in the consumer market as an option for bobby calves and the reduction of stigma. Interesting was the hear of the uptake in dairy beef as a business and enterprise option as the cost benefit to farmers in regards to the price of beef currently.
- Elf attended a meeting to discuss the two traceability projects that were underway with Beston Global Foods. Each party briefed the other on the current status of the projects and discussed the possibility of ever combining the projects to advance the SA position. It was agreed that such an approach should not be discounted if it is ever required.
- Elf briefed the National Farmers' Federation staff on the current state of Native Title in Australia. The NFF have turned to SADA for advice in the past on Native Title issues and continues to do so. The briefing was well received by staff and other NFF members alike and the NFF expressed its gratitude to SADA for the time given to the NFF on this topic.
- Elf also had a further conversation with AMPI regarding the milk supply hedging initiative and AMPI briefed SADA on proposed changes to the Code to accommodate hedging.
- Curtis and Elf met with NBN representatives about the future and reach of the NBN network and how that impacts on farmers. A number of issues were raised, particularly relating to bandwidth available to remote and regional farmers who are increasingly relying on technology for the running of their businesses.
- Ash and Elf engaged in multiple meetings with the various category nominees for the dairy industry awards. Nominees were interviewed by panels for the three categories namely, 'Best Relationship with a Processor', 'Young Farmer', and 'Best Innovation'.
- SADA and GPSA had a joint meeting of staff to examine crossover work being done by both sectors. This was a successful event which has created important networks between the grains sector and the dairy sector in South Australia.
- Elf assisted a non-dairy farmer with a Native Title related issue regarding access and egress from the farmer's particular property. The

COVID-19 UPDATE AUGUST 2021

Level 1 restrictions

- 3 people per 4 square metres (3/4) density for seated activities.
- Must take reasonable steps to maintain 1.5 m physical distancing.
- Contact tracing required (other than in-home health services).
- 1 person per 2 square metres (1/2) density for non-seated activities

For the full [list of authorised workers](#).

Please note however that if activities can be postponed, they should be.

WFI, proud alliance partner of the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association



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Good people to know.