

Members Newsletter

December 2024



From the President

Robert Brokenshire

On behalf of the SADA Board and Team, we wish all our members, volunteers, partners, and industry associates a safe and Merry Christmas. As we round out another big year for SADA, it's a time to reflect on our collective achievements and challenges.

The infographic above offers just a glimpse into what our small but dedicated team has accomplished over the past 12 months. Your membership has never been more valued than during these challenging times. From managing the complexities of the Beston administration to navigating flood recovery and now drought support across much of the state, our advocacy efforts remain at their peak. Agriculture is never without its challenges, but the dairy industry continues to lead with innovation. The rise of robotics and cutting-edge technology positions dairy at the forefront of agricultural advancements, outperforming many other sectors.

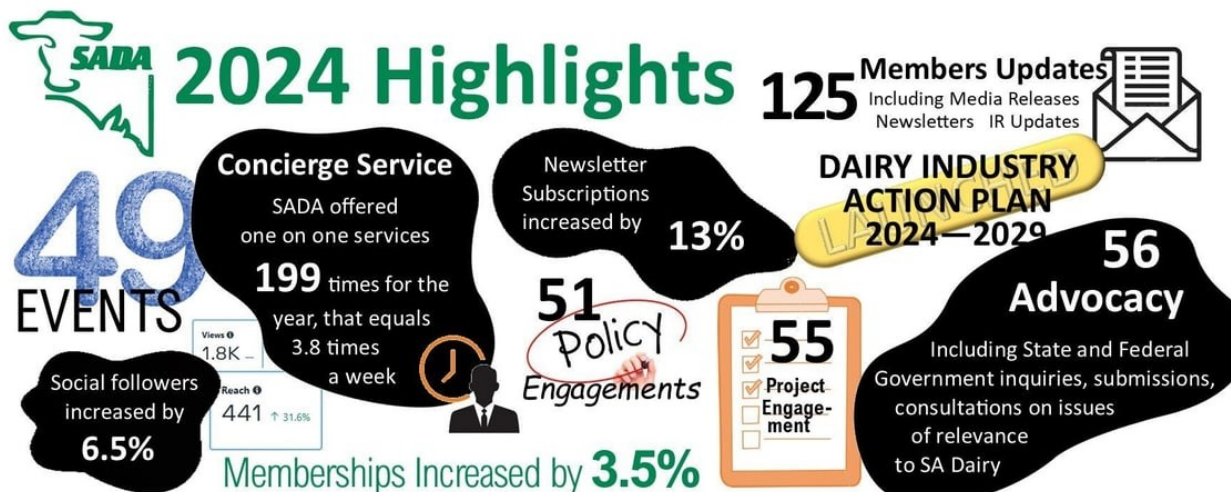
In November, we relaunched the [Do Dairy campaign](#) in response to the significant impact of losing Beston. While this has been a blow to the state, South Australians are resilient and parochial. We've spent the past month encouraging everyone to buy local, rallying support for our industry and producers. On a national front, the updated draft of the [New National Water Agreement](#) has been published. SADA has written to all Senators to highlight critical issues identified during the recent consultation period. With over 300 changes proposed to the existing National Water Initiative, the inclusion of concepts like cultural water and allocations—with limited detail—has left many struggling to understand the implications. This remains a priority for us as we advocate for clarity and fairness.

In state matters, the [Natural Resources Committee](#) of the Parliament of South Australia tabled its report, Inquiry into

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) in Primary Production, in both Houses on Tuesday, 26 November 2024. This report marks an important step in aligning sustainability and governance with the realities of primary production. On another critical front, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has commenced the [second review of the Dairy Code](#). We are pleased to announce that SADA's nominated representative has been accepted to participate in the Consultation Group, ensuring South Australian dairy farmers have a voice in shaping the future of our industry.

As we close out this eventful year, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support. Please take care over the festive season, and don't forget to celebrate with plenty of Aussie dairy products. Together, we will continue to face challenges head-on and lead our incredible industry.

*Wishing you a joyous
Christmas and a
prosperous New Year!*





Fire Danger Season is here

South Australia's fire danger season is here. Bushfires pose a threat to lives, property and electrical infrastructure. It's everyone's responsibility to be prepared. Bushfires pose significant risks, not just to properties but also to the power distribution network. Fire-damaged powerlines and infrastructure could result in extended outages, while bushfires can threaten critical electrical assets. Strong winds during bushfire conditions increase the likelihood of trees and debris coming into contact with powerlines, which can further escalate risks. To minimise these dangers, it's important to prepare both your property and your household for the upcoming bushfire season, especially in the event of a power outage.

Click [here](#) to read about what you can do to prepare for bushfire danger season.



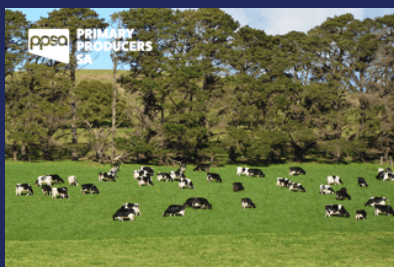
now open

On-farm Drought Infrastructure Rebate Scheme

As you may be aware, the state government announced [a new drought support package](#) last month, which is part of an \$18m State Government investment in drought assistance. More detail are available at [Drought - PIRSA](#), including:

On-farm drought infrastructure grants: [Applications are now open](#)

Connecting Communities events grants: [Applications are now open](#)

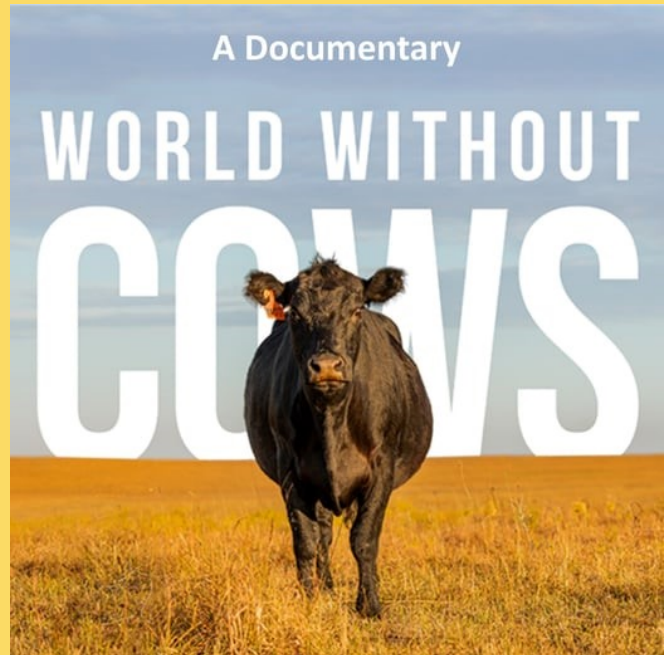
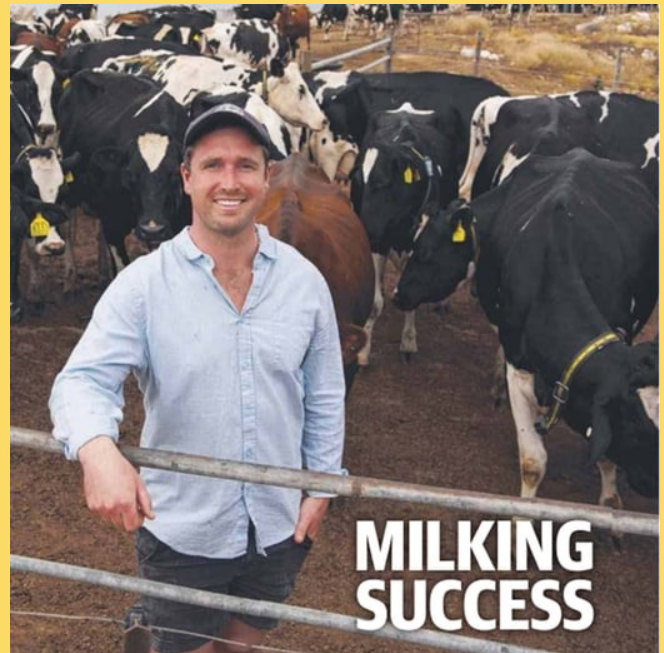


E.W. STEVENS APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
Trust Fund

Apply via the PPSA website

Do you know a student in a remote or regional area who needs a hand with their study? Applications are now open for scholarships of up to \$2500 for 2025 through the E.W. Stevens Trust Fund, administered by Primary Producers SA. For more information and to apply, visit ppsa.org.au/scholarships/

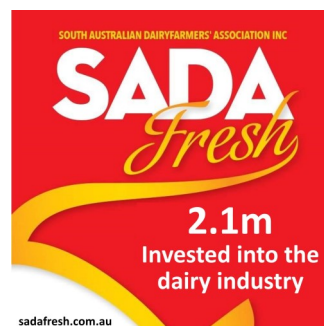
SNAPSHOTS in DAIRY



WFI SADA Partnership:

If you take out a policy with WFI, SADA receives a commission from WFI of 7.5% of the policy premium.

Make sure when your next speaking with WFI that you mention your a SADA Member.





Workforce and Skills: Have Your Say

Your input is critical to ensuring these migration and training programs meet the needs of South Australian dairy farmers. Please share your thoughts with us to help shape the future of training and skills in our industry.

Feedback on Training Projects

SADA is seeking your feedback on the latest training initiatives being developed under the Jobs and Skills Council. These projects are vital for ensuring that training and skills development align with the needs of our industry.

Key projects include:

- **DAMA (Designated Area Migration Agreement)** – Exploring pathways to address workforce shortages in regional areas.
- **Livestock Operations Project** – Focused on improving training programs for livestock management and farm operations.
- **Rural Operations Project** – Aiming to enhance training pathways for broader rural and agricultural operations.
- **Skilled Visa Program** – Supporting the streamlining and accessibility of skilled migration for the agricultural sector.

The Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) is an overarching five-year agreement between the [South Australian](#) and the Australian Governments that provides concessions to criteria for employer-sponsored visas. South Australia's two DAMAs, the Adelaide Technology and Innovation Advancement Agreement and the **South Australian Regional Workforce Agreement**, are due to cease in June 2025.

Consultation is now open to help inform the South Australian Government's approach to negotiations to establish a new iteration of the South Australian DAMA in 2025.

SADA is asking for your feedback on SA's new DAMA. This needs to be submitted no later than 10 January 2025. Your important feedback will inform the State's business case to the Australian Department of Home Affairs. **You can also complete this [short 5 minute survey](#)**

The DAMA provides a range of concessions to Commonwealth criteria for employer sponsored visas including work experience, age, English language ability and salary. They enable South Australian employers to sponsor skilled overseas workers for positions they are unable to fill with local workers and allow for more flexible requirements than are available via the standard skilled visa programs.

More information about the current DAMA including the occupation list is available [here](#).

Livestock Operations Project | Finalisation Stage

This project has reviewed the Certificate III in Feedlot Operations and 70 units of competency that support the skills of the livestock industry. Through extensive industry consultation, the qualification and units have been updated to align with current technology and practices so that learners are equipped with the skills required to work safely and effectively with and around livestock.

The final draft units of competency and qualification have been submitted to the Assurance Body, after which they will be forwarded to the Skills Ministers for endorsement. The drafts have undergone an anti-discrimination assessment and consideration by the Senior Responsible Officers. [READ MORE](#)

Rural Operations Project | Development Stage

Research was undertaken as part of this project to understand how the AHC21216 Certificate II in Rural Operations is used to prepare workers for various industries and whether it reflects the necessary skills.

A Research Summary and Product Development Proposal outlining findings to date and recommendations for next steps has been put together for consideration by the project Technical Committee when the project recommences. [READ MORE](#)

Important changes to skilled visa program begin

A modernised skilled occupation list and a new Skills in Demand (SID) visa are included in changes to Australia's skilled visa program begin on 7 December 2024. [READ MORE](#)