

June 2023

# Members Newsletter



Dear Fellow Dairyfarmers,  
Most of us are experiencing a very **wet start to winter** and whilst this brings challenges in managing our dairy herd it has fully saturated our soils and put water in dams, whilst the BOM are saying we are facing an El Nino our spring still looks encouraging due to high moisture levels.

You would have received your **opening price** from your processor by now and whilst it is disappointing to see some have reduced their price from last year, many have kept their opening price similar to last year with a couple opening with an increase. The processors with a focus on export are finding it a bit tougher with price reductions some of which are considerable throughout world markets. There are reports coming in recently where they are forecasting world market price improvement later this financial year, let's hope they are accurate and we see step ups.

Dairying like any business has its challenges however in all the years our family have been dairying I find this is probably the most **exciting time** so far, yes there are also some challenges but I want to reassure you your **SADA team** are constantly working on those and keep in close contact with all relevant players including Government and Members of Parliament.

At present the EPA are doing a review of **Effluent Management Codes and Plans** we have been talking with them and

will be invited to make a submission when it is a completed draft it is important that SADA have professional relationships with these agencies and if you have any concerns regarding obligations and requirements under the EPA Act please contact John Elferink at the SADA office. SADA have recently authorised **John to become a certified person to do design plans for the code and management plans**, he will start the course asap and once completed we will advise you of services in this area we can offer.

Please remember **SADA are here to serve our members** and if there are concerns you face at anytime I encourage you to reach out and we will do our best to help you. That is a priority for us together with Advocacy and policy development that helps to grow our industry in a sustainable, viable direction for the future.

Finally we recently sent you a **survey** which only takes a few minutes to complete but is important to us in ensuring our **Strategic Plan** is on track with your priorities. Please feel free to contact our office, any of your Board Members or myself at anytime if you want to chat about anything associated with Dairy my mobile is 0419 815 990.

Best Wishes

Robert Brokenshire President SADA.



After an overwhelming response to our annual Dairy Awards nominations, we are so proud to be announcing the winners at the upcoming Gala on Friday 4 August.

**Please join us for a great night of celebrating Dairy in our great state.**

Or alternatively you might like to attend the Cheese and Wine night. Tickets are only \$75. This will be a celebration of the state's finest produce and an informative evening learning from leading cheese and wine makers.



## Message from the Minister: State Budget

Treasurer Stephen Mullighan handed down the 2023-24 State Budget yesterday which highlights the strong commitment of the Malinauskas Government to our regions and primary producers with investment of \$588.4 million.

[Full Media Release here](#)



The Albanese Government is turbo-charging Australia's agricultural traceability systems, with \$11 million in government grants available to make it easier for farmers to get their goods to consumers and overseas markets.

[Full Report here](#)

The Government will fund \$6 million for innovative solutions through the RegTech grants round and \$5 million for the Food Agility Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) to invest in leading digital solutions.

A total of 15 projects were successful in the popular funding round and they will share in \$6 million of funding. The projects will run over two years from May 2023 to June 2025. Including SADA application for \$402,488 - Algorithmic auditing of milk supply chains.



WHEN | Wednesday July 5  
TIME | 10:30am to 2:30pm  
WHERE | 'River Room'  
Bridgeport Hotel, Murray Bridge  
REGISTER | [bit.ly/3BxyYbv](https://bit.ly/3BxyYbv)

Join Dairy SA for an interactive Lunch with Chas Cini, Principal of Mediation and Employment Relations Service (MERS) to discuss the latest changes to employment law and legislation. Get equipped with the right tools and information to be an Employer of Choice. Chas will be discussing the following topics:

- Key Updates to the Pastoral Award (Minimum wage & Superannuation)
- Employment Contracts and IFAs and Compensation claims
- Zombie Agreements and Sexual harassment
- Enterprise Agreements and Termination

Chas has been providing a workplace relations service to dairy farmers for many years! \*Morning Tea and Lunch Provided.



## Animal activist activity + updated Farm Trespass Toolkit

16 June, 2023

There has been an increase in animal activist activity in recent months, led by the Farm Transparency Project, a non-profit animal activist organisation in Melbourne (formerly known as Aussie Farms).

[Click here to download the 'Dairy Farmer Toolkit for Engaging in Social Media and the Animal Welfare Debate'.](#)

To date, the focus of this increased activism has been on piggeries in Victoria and the slaughter of pigs in Australia, however there is always a risk that dairy businesses may also be targeted.

To support dairy farm businesses, we have updated our 'Farm Trespass Toolkit'. This Toolkit provides information on proactive measures to prepare your farm and offers guidance on handling farm trespass events, should they ever occur on your property

[Click here to download the 'Farm Trespass Toolkit'.](#)

Farmers may also see an increase in animal activist activity on social media platforms. To provide useful tips for engaging online in these circumstances, we have also developed a Dairy Farmer Toolkit for Engaging in Social Media and the Animal Welfare Debate'.

**Did you miss any of our updates?**



[sada.asn.au](https://sada.asn.au)

**Industrial relations changes are to occur on the first pay period commencing on or after 1 July 2023.**  
**[Full Award Rates can be downloaded here](#)**



Good people to know.  
1300 934 934

# Situation and Outlook

May 2023

## SORTING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'RECYCLING' AND 'CIRCULAR'

Sustainable Brands has picked up on confusion between the terms, 'recyclable' and 'circular', putting pen to paper (or rather, pixel to screen) to set out the differences. The piece recognises that "promoting sustainability starts with tackling the misperceptions of recyclability and recycling rates and clarifying the definition of a circular economy".

[Sort out the difference here.](#)

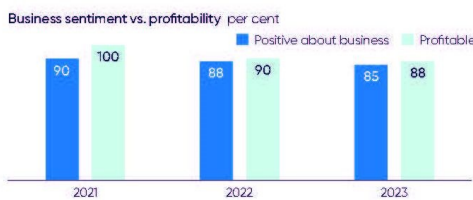
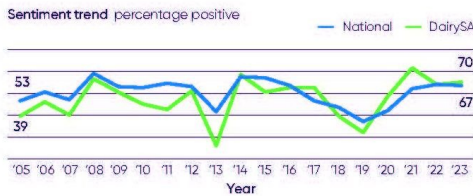
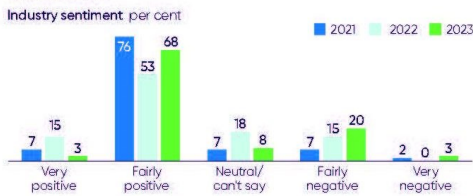
### DairySA Regional NDFS results at a glance\*

While 7 in 10 respondents continue to be positive towards the industry's future, the proportion very positive has decreased significantly over the past 12 months. In contrast, a high 9 in 10 respondents remain positive about their own businesses, probably due to widespread profitability in 2021/22 which is expected to continue this financial year.

Currently, 3 in 10 businesses are expanding (highest result since 2012) and there is evidence of milking herd growth.

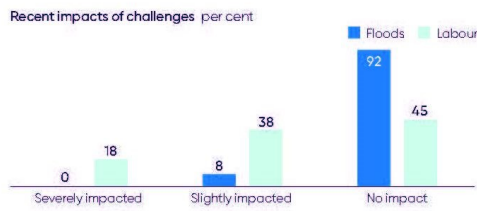
Over the next 6 months, labour is the most commonly anticipated challenge in this region. They are also the region most likely to be concerned about feed production and availability.

### Sentiment

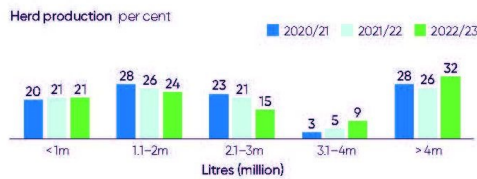
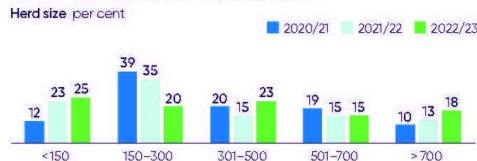


### Profitability and investment

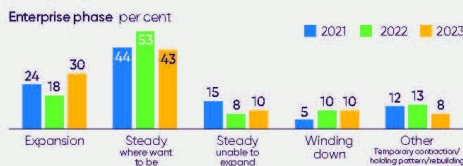
88% Expect profit 2022/23	80% Plan to invest 2023-25
55% Profit higher than 5-year average	28% Plan minor investment
30% Profit about same/unsure	27% Plan moderate investment
15% Profit lower than 5-year average	25% Plan major investment



### Current herd size and production



### Farm profile



### The 'average' DairySA farmer

- 8% Changed milk factory supplied
- 13% Intend/desire to change milk factory
- 2.0t Average tonnes fed per cow per year
- 460 Average herd size
- 8% May exit industry next 2 years

\*The NDFS was conducted before any flood impacts in this region.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

HR update with Chas Cini - 5 July  
Cheese and Wine Night - July 14  
SA Dairy Awards - 4 August

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL TOWN *of the* YEAR

### Voting is now open!

Support your favourite town by voting for it to be part of the 2023 Agricultural Town of the Year award. You can vote for any of the 49 nominated towns until Wednesday 28 June.



IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM

@sada\_5037



# Around the grounds

- SADA met with the EPA on a member's farm to finalise the details of an interim effluent management plan. The EPA has, as a result of greater number of complaints, insisted on particular models being developed in accordance with specific tools. SADA has sought to be included in training for the use of the tool and has successfully negotiated directly with a provider to deliver the course so SADA can continue to deliver this important service to its members.
- Robert and Andrew attended ADF National Council meeting which was held virtually. Key matters for discussion were the proposed acquisition by Coles of selected Saputo processing facilities, and Modernising Agricultural Levies Survey.
- Andrew attended (on Robert's behalf) the Q4 PPSA Council Meeting were key matters for discussion included PPSA Carbon Farming Policy, Spray drift/chemical trespass action plan, forecast New Biodiversity Act (SA), DAWE National Farm Safety Education Fund: Improving Farm Safety Practices, and NFF Regional Forum – South Australia, Friday 7 July 2023
- Andrew and Elf met with Woolworths, Datahash, the Fleurieu Milk Company, Inspira and a number of other interested parties to begin to map out the National Traceability Trial. SADA has the role of project coordinator with its partner Datahash to deliver this half million dollar trial. SADA is being recognised

as a national leader in this space and the work being done by SADA is being closely watched by increasing numbers of interested supply chain parties.

- Andrew continued visiting dewatering sites across the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Areas (LMRIA). It is great to see the progress that has been made in many of these areas although there remains much to be done before they are "back to normal".
- Alison continued to ensure the team remained focus and active.
- Andrew attended the Agribusiness, Food and Wine/Beverages Industry Skills Council Meeting. Topic discussed included the Renewal SA – Regional Housing Authority program, School to Work (Foundation Skills Research) and future developments within Skills SA.
- Andrew met to discuss and plan for an EAD event with officers from PIRSA, Dairy Australia, Dairy Safe and Dairy SA. Further discussions are

planned with a view to enabling the continued operation of the milk supply chain in the event of an outbreak.

- Elf met with a processor regarding contracting issues. Matter related to ACCC compliance with the Dairy Industry Code.
- Elf met with a farmer who signed up to be a new SADA member as a result of the meeting. SADA welcomes Nick Mignanelli to the SADA fold.
- Elf took the necessary steps to inquire into and to secure the Effluent Management Design Course which is slated to occur in July. This course will enable SADA to develop effluent management plans for dairy farmers in South Australia.
- Andrew met with officers from Dairy Australia to discuss Murray Darling Basin policy, Farm Biosecurity, Risk Management and Sustainability
- Andrew attended the UDV Policy Council meeting and discussed the role and functioning of SADA and of agricultural advocacy in South Australia



The Secretary reported that no fodder from the **Hay Acquisition Committee** would be made available to cream producers, it was felt a number of these dairymen would endeavour to come on the whole milk market to enable them to obtain fodder. This was revealed to be a fact at the last zoning meeting when a number of applications were received, including one as far north as Balaclava, and as far south as Bordertown. At the close of the Zoning meeting, Mr. Elliott rang the Chairman of the Hay Acquisition Committee and pointed out the difficulty of maintaining the dairy herds of the cream suppliers unless able to obtain fodder. Mr. Rice informed him that the hay position was so acute that they could not make any fodder available to the cream producers.

Later on during the same week, the General Secretary said he took the matter up with the Secretary of the Hay Acquisition Committee, as the result of which Mr. Rice rang him the following day. After a lengthy conversation, the Chairman of the Hay Acquisition Committee said he would call his members together the following morning and asked the General Secretary to attend. A full morning was spent with the Hay Acquisition Committee to go into ways and means of making available some fodder to the cream producers. As no finality was reached, he decided to take the matter up with the Premier, and after drafting a letter he personally took it and handed it to the Premier, and at the interview requested that at least 200 tonnes of fodder per week be made available to the cream producer. As the result of all these negotiations, he was pleased to announce that the Hay Acquisition Committee will make available, during July, 200 tonnes of fodder per week to the cream producer.

*"What a champion Col. A.H.Nelson was, you must admire his ability at getting things done, and he worked very closely with the Premier of the day, Tom Playford".*

