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## March 2020 SADA NEWSLETTER

As the world, the country, the state and the industry quite rightly focus on Corona Virus, we are happy to report that there are some other things happening.

Following the SA Dairy Summit in November 2019 a number of actions were identified. Although the Coronavirus pandemic has slowed some of the actions that we were working on, we are able to report the following progress on actions:

### DIAA SA

Over the next 3 years processors will need at least 200 million litres of milk.

We hope this gives hope to farmers to keep in business and that it will strengthen the relationship between farmers and processors.

### EDUCATION

SADA spoke to TAFE SA about the possibility of developing a Certificate III in Food Processing (Dairy Processing). This would be the first of its kind in Australia to focus mainly on dairy processing and would enable graduates of the course to have the necessary skills to enter the workforce (which would save time, money and training on the processors part).

In addition to the dairy processing course we would also like to implement a number of "Dairy Value Adding Courses" focusing on

Cheese Making (already in place), Ice Cream/Gelato Making, Butter Making and Yoghurt Making.

SADA has spoken with Skilling SA as well as Foundation Skills about the possibility of creating "Pre-Apprenticeship Courses" to provide basic skills. These short courses will still have accredited modules (which can then be used as recognition of prior learning if willing to undertake the certificate) but will not take the same time length and study load of the full course. We hope that this makes people more employable in the future.

DairySafe is also looking at education courses (either separate or combined with the processing course). Information is available at [www.dairy-safe.com.au](http://www.dairy-safe.com.au).

### TRACEABILITY

SADA applied for the Department of Agriculture's Traceability Grant Program.

This grant should enable us to improve upon the traceability in the dairy supply chain and build on the 'one step forward, one step back' method currently in place.

This would also introduce quality assurance measures that would have to be compliant with ISO 22005:2007.

We have DIAA and Dairy Safe backing this project proposal.

### Staying Informed and Healthy

As a valued member of ours we hope that you and your business are coping with the strains and uncertainties imposed on you by COVID-19 (coronavirus).

As your respected voice in the Dairy industry we are here to help you. Being part of an Australia-wide family network of dairy farmers means that we have in place contingency plans to ensure that we will be able to meet all your needs without delay.

We are here to help.

The team at SADA.

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- Australian Dairy Plan

# COVID 19—Australian Dairy Industry Risks

As you're doubtlessly aware the rise of the COVID – 19 Corona Virus has settled upon the world. SADA is actively engaged with state and national bodies representing the interests of South Australian Dairy Farmers. SADA will keep you regularly updated on what is being done in the industry both in the state and in the national domain.

## Closing the Borders

The SA Government has effectively declared the borders to be closed. However, this isn't a complete lockdown. The SA Government has announced that:

- People who typically and regularly move across the border will be permitted to do so
- SAPOL are working on protocols but not expecting these to be a barrier to transport.

This means that food and other essentials, including your milk and dairy products will still be able to cross state borders. Saputo has been one of the processors to confirm that they have enjoyed the same advice in Victoria.

## The national response

SADA is part of the national response. There are some things to know:

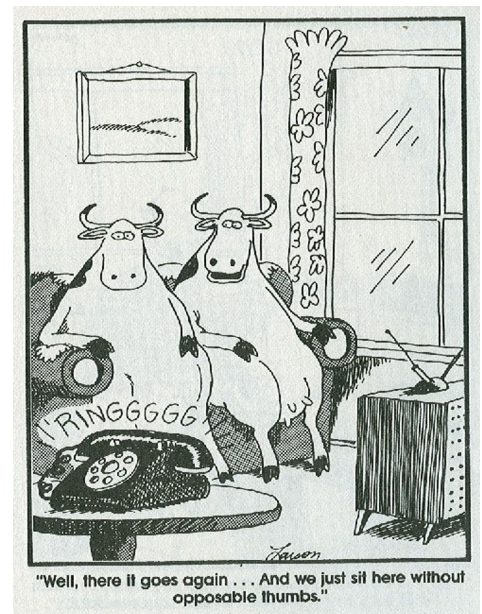
- An industry group has been set up over the last 3 weeks which reports to a National response group made up of ADF, ADPF &

DA, they feed information through the appropriate channels in government and also channel information back to the national and state organisations as necessary. These groups are meeting every 2 days or when required.

- Dairy is part of the food and grocery sector group.
- The Commonwealth Government has indicated that they expect State Governments to advise that Dairy is essential. This extends to service providers including stock transport, stock agents and allied workers.
- As indicated above all providers who normally travel across borders will be allowed to do so.
- All the information required is on the DA website, go to <https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/news-listing/coronavirus-covid19-farm-business-update?id=37251F5A348F41518200C1675BB6E10F> to stay abreast of current information. This site has a number of useful links.
- Back packers visas have been extended from 6 months to 12 months. While this was a product of the bushfire crisis the intent and scope of the scheme is pertinent to the current crisis.
- Farm fertiliser and other additives which are not produced in Australia have become impacted by the international trade

environment however, supplies are still moving albeit more slowly than historically.

- The total Government stimulus package is \$189 billion over the two announced tranches. This includes business support loans which are being supported by Australia's banks. As information comes to hand regarding these support measures, we will advise members.
- SA Dairy is looking for opportunities in the current environment to support supermarkets and consumers to assist with the supply of milk into the marketplace.
- Different SA processors have indicated different response plans in SA should their staff be impacted. Check with your processor what they are intending to do in the case of a positive test in their factory.



# Advance Ag – Adopting AgTech

## Advance Ag – Adopting AgTech in South Australia

Written by Ashleigh Pulford—Monday 24 Feb 2020

The event was opened by the Hon Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia who highlighted the importance of using and adopting technology into all aspects of agriculture.

The Keynote Speaker for the event – Dr Astorre Modena – talked about how the adoption of technology in Israel has not only helped make their agriculture more productive, increased the size and variety of exporting material but has helped other sectors such as engineering and health.

Darren Thomas from Thomas Foods International (TFI) gave an insight to the progress of their new meat processing facility using technology. He quoted that “we will be able to process 10 whole carcasses in about a minute” showing the efficiency of technology. He also discussed their implementation of Blockchain traceability systems for all their products, which is similar to what we would like to achieve in the dairy industry. Further he stated that TFI’s main goals were to:

Optimise the supply chain for profitability

Highlight animal welfare standards

Premiumisation of products

The next sessions of the day were small group presentations focusing on three main streams being Farm Management, Remote Sensing and IoT Devices.

I attended the Smart yards and virtual fencing talk presented by Jason Chaffey (CEO Agersens and eShep-

herd). This was quite interesting seeing how audio and pulse technology can be used to fence cattle and herd if they do manage to escape. Unfortunately, due to the animal welfare regulations in SA this technology is not able to be used here at the moment. Hopefully with more field trials and a change in regulation this technology will be able to be implemented.

The water management for livestock session highlighted the use of “Farmbot” in monitoring and managing water movement and levels. This piece of tech provides precise information to farmers about multiple water sources as well as extreme changes so that farmers can move livestock according to water levels.

Another interesting talk was about automatic milking systems through Lely Australia. Joshua Clark, a Dairy Farmer from the South East of SA spoke as a user of this technology in his own herd, highlighting the ease of use and reduced amount of labor that was needed to milk cattle. He also stated that he was expecting an increase in production as cattle were “happier” and could be milked when they were ready to. It would be great to see more of this technology implemented onto farms.

The afternoon session talked about the integration of AgTech in emergency situations. One of the main limiting factors talked about was how to use the tech if they were damaged or lost reception. This would present some real challenges and highlighted the developments that are still required in using tech in agriculture.

The event was closed by the Hon Tim Whetstone MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development SA who also talked about the importance of AgTech.

Follow this link for video of all sessions, which will be uploaded in due course.

[https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/primary\\_industry/agtech/advance\\_ag](https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/agtech/advance_ag)



royal adelaide  
**SHOW**

## DAIRY CATTLE COMPETITION

There will be five Dairy Cattle breeds judged this year: Ayrshire, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey and Illawarra. The 2020 Feature Breed is Illawarra.

Register now:

<https://www.theshow.com.au/competitions/livestock/dairy-cattle/>

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



## More Business Links

Increased Asset Write Off

<https://www.business.gov.au/Risk-management/Emergency-management/Coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/Instant-Asset-Write-Off>

Backing Business Investment

<https://www.business.gov.au/Risk-management/Emergency-management/Coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/Backing-Business-Investment-BBI>

Increased and accelerated income support

<https://www.business.gov.au/Risk-management/Emergency-management/Coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/Increased-and-accelerated-income-support>

SME Guarantee Scheme

<https://www.business.gov.au/Risk-management/Emergency-management/Coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/Coronavirus-SME-Guarantee-Scheme>

Early Superannuation Access

<https://www.business.gov.au/Risk-management/Emergency-management/Coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/Early-access-to-superannuation>

### Insurance Tailored to your farm.

At WFI, we take the time to thoroughly understand your business and how it operates. Because when we get to know a business, we can protect everything that matters.

We're available to meet with you face-to-face to discuss your insurance requirements. That's just one of the reasons why we're good people to know for insurance.

### Why not call us for a quote?

With 100 years experience in the insurance business, WFI knows what you're looking for.

To find out more about WFI's products, or to request a quote, contact your local Area Manager by calling 1300 934 934 or simply visit [wfi.com.au](http://wfi.com.au)



**1300 934 934**  
**wfi.com.au**



## Farwell to The DEVONDALER

SADA recognises and congratulates the efforts of Saputo Dairy Australia (SPA) for publishing an exemplary communication piece for the past 34 years, that's 396 issues of shared ideas among farmers, employees and those who provided services to the then Murray Goulburn Co-operative.

***This has inspired us to do a little soul searching ourselves?***

What do you want to see in your local monthly newsletter. Answer this quick survey so we can better serve our com-

munity. This should not take any more than a couple of minutes of your time, thanking you all in advance.

<Survey Link>

