

# Members Newsletter

March 2025

Vol 66 #9



## From the President

Robert Brokenshire

South Australian farmers are facing one of the worst droughts in over a century, yet the crisis is barely registering beyond our borders. While the 2018–19 drought drew national attention, the current situation in SA and western Victoria has been overshadowed by floods in Queensland and fires in Victoria. With most of the state's productive farmland experiencing very much below average rainfall — and some areas recording the driest conditions in over 100 years — farmers are entering this season without subsoil moisture. Recovery will take time, even if rain returns soon. SADA is joining with PPSA and other commodity groups to meet with the Premier this week. We will continue advocating to ensure SA's dairy farmers get the recognition and support they deserve. Tough times are not new to our industry — and together, we will get through this.

The US trade war with Canada and Mexico presents both opportunities and risks for Australian dairy. Rising tariffs on US dairy exports to Mexico could create openings for Australian producers to enter this key market, where US products have traditionally dominated. However, SADA is concerned that surplus US dairy, especially cheese, may be dumped into the **Australian market** at low prices, undermining local producers and driving down farmgate prices. "SADA has written to the both the **Trade Minister** and Federal Ag Minister to protect Australian farmers from unfair competition while helping them seize new export opportunities, on top of this SADA has issued a media release highlighting these concerns and calling for action to safeguard the competitiveness of Australian dairy.

SADA has submitted a detailed response to the **Australian Agricultural Traceability Alliance's Assuring Sustainability Working Group**, highlighting the South Australian dairy industry's integrated approach to sustainability. Rather than treating sustainability as a separate issue, SADA's submission outlines how it is embedded within broader industry goals and supply chain management. The submission covers the industry's ambitions, the role of sustainability in achieving them, and the technologies being developed to support this approach.

By positioning sustainability as a core part of the industry's framework, SADA aims to ensure that environmental responsibility and long-term viability go hand in hand.

It's been a busy month for our small team, and you will see in this newsletter more upcoming events on top of some important advocacy events. If you have any events that you'd like included in this publication, please reach out to the office via email [sada@sada.asn.au](mailto:sada@sada.asn.au) or ph. 8293 2399



**Maximise your farm's efficiency with Pinion Advisory's specialised effluent management services. From system assessments to nutrient monitoring and green water reuse, we help South Australian dairy farmers enhance productivity on farm**

**while meeting compliance obligations. Our tailored solutions integrate sustainable practices, supporting both operational success and long-term farm resilience.**

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## Time to draw a line in the sand on farm safety.

The latest data released by AgriFutures Australia and collated by the team at Ag-Health Australia has revealed a sharp and deeply concerning rise in on-farm fatalities and serious injuries, with 72 lives lost and 133 serious injuries recorded in 2024. Farmsafe Australia, the national peak body for farm safety, is calling for urgent action, declaring that it is time to draw a line in the sand and make farm safety a non-negotiable priority.

## Help shape SA Power Networks' new Emergency Response Vehicle



Power outages can be disruptive, especially during storms or high winds. At SA

Power Networks, we're always looking for ways to better support our communities during these times.

That's why we're creating a Mobile Community Response Vehicle - to provide on-the-ground support during prolonged outages. Whether it's access to Wi-Fi, portable power banks, or even a hot coffee, this vehicle is being designed with customers' needs in mind.

"We're asking our customers to help us build the Emergency Response Vehicle by sharing what would make the biggest difference to them in an outage. Features like charging stations, mobile coverage enhancement, or community updates during an outage could all provide critical support - and this input will guide our decisions," said Alex Lewis, Stakeholder Engagement Manager.

We want to hear from you. What features or services would make the biggest difference to you during an outage? Have your

say on what will work for you and your community. Join us in shaping a community-focused solution by sharing your ideas in this [short survey](#).



National  
Farmers  
Federation

**MEDIA  
RELEASE**

### Farmers welcome national food plan commitment

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) welcomes the Australian Government's commitment to a National Food Security Strategy, Feeding Australia – a key ask of the NFF in the lead-up to the election.

NFF President David Jochinke said the strategy was an important step in ensuring agriculture was all about safeguarding our farm sector and food supply in an increasingly volatile world.

"With the backing of members, we've long called for a national plan to safeguard Australia's food system, and we welcome this commitment from the Government," Mr Jochinke said.

"Australia is lucky to have a strong and resilient food system, but we're not bulletproof. Farmers are facing workforce shortages, skyrocketing costs, supply chain pressures, and increasing regulatory hurdles.

"Farmers rely heavily on imported fuel, fertiliser and chemicals to grow our crops, exposing us to global disruptions. As a nation, we can't afford to take our food security for granted.

"This strategy needs to deliver a clear framework to understand where our supply chains are vulnerable, and work strategically to address those vulnerabilities."

Mr Jochinke said the NFF is ready to work with the Government and stakeholders across the supply chain to ensure the strategy delivered real outcomes.

"Any plan about food security must include farmers from the get-go. We need to ensure that this isn't just another report, but a meaningful blueprint that supports the future of food production in Australia."

The NFF also welcomed the Government committing to examining the potential to grow a biofuels feedstock industry – another ask in the NFF's election platform to en-

sure a sustainable and consistent supply of raw materials.

"NFF members now call on all sides of politics to commit to a National Food Plan, one that protects farmers' supply chains," Mr Jochinke said.

"This isn't just an issue for farmers, but for every Australian who serves up Australian grown food at the dinner table."

The NFF's full election platform can be found [here](#).



**Rabobank Dairy prices**

## to remain elevated despite modest global supply growth.

The global dairy market is poised for modest supply growth in 2025, driven by steady production expansion and export demand, according to a new report by food and agribusiness banking specialist Rabobank.

However, with the slow growth rate not expected to translate into surging stocks or general oversupply, global dairy prices look set to remain at elevated levels.

For Australia, the report says, dairy farm margins are poised to benefit from improving farmgate prices through 2025, high commodity returns and a softer currency.

In its Q1 Global Dairy Quarterly report, titled Modest growth amid trade shifts, Rabobank says it expects milk production in the Big 7 dairy-export regions (the EU, US, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay) to expand by 0.8% year on year (YOY) for 2025, with a similar gain in the first half of 2026.

The report says this forecast is driven largely by a return to production growth in both the EU, where production has oscillated between growth and contraction in recent quarters, and the US, where the typical annual production gains of 1% have stagnated in recent years.

"US supply expansion is expected in 2025, but it's likely to be modest at sub-1%," report co-author, RaboResearch senior dairy analyst Michael Harvey said. "Production gains are also expected from Oceania and

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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If there is anything that you think we have missed or you would like to see in the newsletter,

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South America, largely driven by prior year declines that are easy to surmount. Overall, we anticipate milk production from the 'Big 7' will reach 325.8 million metric tonnes (mt) in 2025, up from 323.2 million mt last year."

For Australia, the report says, despite milk production beginning to decline in late 2024, after seven months of the current season, overall production is 0.4% higher YOY.

Mr Harvey says production is weak in western Victoria and Tasmania, but remains strong in eastern and northern Victoria and in New South Wales. "The outlook for milk production heading into the seasonal spring peak this year – and for the 2025/26 season overall – will be heavily dependent on rain-fall and weather conditions," he said.

RaboResearch forecasts overall Australian milk production growth of 0.7% YOY for the 2025/26 season.



## Record investment to build a skilled workforce for

**critical sectors.** The South Australian Government is investing a record \$1.44 billion, on top of an additional \$880 million from the Commonwealth, as part of the National Skills Agreement (NSA), to shore up workers in crucial fields – with funding rolling out this year. It's the largest investment in skills and training in the state's history and is designed to ensure apprentices and trainees are being trained in the sectors South Australia needs for the future of the economy – and that young people are getting jobs in trades and professions the state needs. [Read More](#)

## Updated Water Management Resources Now Available

SADA has refreshed our [Water Management](#) page to reflect the latest developments in water use and management for dairy farmers.

The updated page includes key information on:

- ✓ **Transfer of Water Allocations** – Understand how to transfer water allocations efficiently.
- ✓ **Carryover of Water Allocation** – Get the latest guidelines on carrying over unused water.
- ✓ **Restoring Our Rivers: 450 GL Implementation Plan Update** – Stay informed on the latest updates to the plan aimed at improving river health.
- ✓ **Environmental Land Management Allocation (ELMA) Watering Tool** – A new tool to help manage ELMA watering is now available.
- ✓ **LMRIA Levee Governance and Management Strategy Workshop** – Mark your calendar for **25 March 2025** to have your say on levee governance and management in the Lower Murray.
- ✓ **Tintinara Coonalpyn Water Allocation Plan Review** – The plan is set to be reviewed – stay tuned for consultation opportunities.

Visit the [updated page](#) to stay informed and make the most of these resources!



## ADC RECAP: Congratulations to Grant Rogers from Tasmania being named the winner of 2025 ADC Innovator Award.

Grant introduced his [Knowby Platform](#) to Australian Dairy Conference delegates helping improve communication doing everyday simple farm tasks and receives \$3,000 travel bursary to assist ongoing professional development in their chosen field. Grant Rogers is an ex Kiwi turn Tasmanian dairy farmer building from 190 cows to 550 fully self-contained using a mixture of NZ and Tasmanian systems and is a winner of the Tasmanian & Australian Low Input Dairy Business Awards.

Since selling the dairy farm Grant has reverted to his former career as a dairy vet. His Knowby platform brainchild was born from frustration with staff/ tasks and his inability to communicate accurately. The game changing platform allows the production of quick visual step-by-step instructions and is currently used across 30 different industries and 20 countries around the world.



## Securing Regional Banking Services.

The Albanese Government has secured commitments from the banks to ensure banking services remain available in the regions. Banks have a responsibility to regional communities and we're holding them to it. We are making sure bank branches stay open in the bush. Since 2017, 36 per cent of bank branches in regional Australia have closed and we are taking action to arrest this decline in regional banking services. The Albanese Government governs for the whole country and we take our responsibilities to the regions seriously. We are standing up for regional Australians, helping to secure the banking services they need and deserve. More than banking, this is about keeping regional communities, that contribute so much to our national economy, connected and thriving. People are increasingly using digital banking and payment methods, but face-to-face services remain essential, particularly for people and small businesses in regional areas, where digital alternatives may not always be accessible or meet their needs.

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# SNAPSHOTS in DAIRY

## Is your SA JD Dairy Score Risk Rating and Certificate up to date?

### New to the Program?

SADA is now managing the SA JD Dairy Score program to ensure that risk ratings and certificates remain current and consistent with industry standards.

If you're already enrolled, we'll continue to work with your vet to maintain your status. If you're new to the program, now's the perfect time to get involved and benefit from improved herd health, trade access, and product quality. [Read more.](#)

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**2025**  
**DAIRYSA INNOVATION DAY**  
Cows And Carbon Can Be Friends  
Wednesday 28 May 2025 at  
The Barn, Mount Gambier  
Join SADA for Dairy Innovation Day  
and help shape the future of dairy in the carbon space!  
#DairyInnovation #CowsAndCarbon



**Stock Journal**  
No. 1000, Volume 100  
March 12 2023

**Hamilton family boosts  
dairy productivity with  
data-driven breeding**

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**2025  
AgriFutures  
Rural Women's  
Award**  
Meet our  
South Australian  
finalists  
Learn more  
[agrifutures.com.au/awards](#)

AgriFutures' Rural Women's Award  
Government of South Australia  
Department of Primary Industries and Regions  
National Winner

Annabelle Homer Emma Gilbert  
Kelly Johnson Marie Ellul



**IN FOCUS**  
E-News - March 2025  
**RURAL BUSINESS  
SUPPORT**  
RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING SA/NT

*In an industry where financial security is paramount, the Personal Property Securities Register (PPSR) is a simple yet powerful tool that can prevent costly mistakes. A quick online search before making a major purchase can save farmers from unexpected financial risks and ensure they have full ownership clarity over key assets.*

Brett Smith - CEO, Rural Business Support



**SADA Health & Safety  
Resources**

- Farm Safety
- Wellbeing
- Q Fever
- Tackling Tough Topics

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**DO  
DAIRY**  
Support SA



**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DAIRYFARMERS' ASSOCIATION INC**  
**SADA**  
*Fresh*  
**2.1m**  
Invested into the  
dairy industry  
[sadafresh.com.au](#)



**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**Carbon Farm Workshops**

- Ashbourne 3 April
- Mount Compass 10 April
- Clarendon 15 May

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**wfi**  
Good people to know.  
1300 934 934

## 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.

Upcoming Events can be  
registered on our Website,  
send through your event  
details on our online

[registration form](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Whispering Pines Lely Robotic Dairy Open Day

**Wednesday 9 April 10am – 2pm**

**Open Farm Day online registration link**

**Don't miss your chance to visit The Whispering Pines Robotic dairy farm!**

**After installing 8 Lely Astronaut A5 Milking Robots, Hicks-Jacobs Dairies Partners have experienced fantastic benefits such as improved milk quality and the ability to expand their herd to 500 cows.**

**They are inviting you to their Open Day Wednesday 9 April 10am – 2pm. Come and see/hear how the new technology is integrated into their pasture grazing system with labour, cow health, pasture grazing and monitoring benefits.**

**Please note  
online registration  
is essential.**

**[More information in this link.](#)**





# UPCOMING EVENTS

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

invites you to a special screening of

## JUST A FARMER

A compelling film which is sparking much needed conversations about the mental health challenges facing farmers in regional Australia and the silent struggles many farmers face and the impact it has on both their families and their communities.

**Wednesday, 9 April 2025**  
**at the Capri Theatre, Goodwood**  
**6:30pm for a 7pm start**

All ticket proceeds will go to the RBS Relief Fund to support mental health and wellbeing in rural communities.



**PRIMARY  
PRODUCERS  
SA**



Government of South Australia  
Department of Primary Industries  
and Regions



## Raising mental health awareness and appreciation for our farmers

The State Government, in partnership with Primary Producers SA, is proud to announce it will be hosting a special community event screening of the Australian film [Just a Farmer](#) to raise mental health awareness and funds to support mental health and wellbeing in rural communities.

Just A Farmer is a compelling film that delves into the often-overlooked lives of our farmers, revealing their resilience, sacrifices and pivotal role in sustaining our nation's food security. It is sparking much needed conversations about the mental health challenges facing farmers in regional Australia and the silent struggles that many farmers face and the impact it has on both their families and their communities.

[Message from the Minister State Government](#)