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## SADA NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021

# Traceability Trail Launch

### The SADA traceability trial is officially underway.

In an Australian first on 10 September, SADA embarked on a trial using cutting-edge technologies to improve supply chain visibility and industry transparency.

SADA Dairy Action Plan Officer Ashleigh Pulford said the trial, which would be funded completely by the SA Dairy Industry Fund, was about creating the most open and transparent supply chain in history.

"This trial is about the use of blockchain and distributed ledger digital technologies so there will be complete visibility across the supply chain," she said.

"SA is leading the way in the development of this technology by using the Hedera Hashgraph protocol, the same distributed ledger system being governed and endorsed by companies such as Google, IBM and Boeing.

"Until now labelling has been the source of trust for consumers in Australian and international markets, but this technology will allow all participants in the supply chain - including consumers -- to track the milk from the farm to the product they hold in their hand.

"Consumers will be able to see details as simple as temperature every step of the way, while farmers will be able to see wherever in the world their milk ends up."

SADA President John Hunt said the State Government set a direction when in September 2020 it launched an industry-led plan to grow SA's food, wine and agribusiness sectors to \$23 billion by 2030.

"The dairy industry is delighted the government heard our call and adopted SADA's Dairy Industry Action Plan 2019-2024 as part of its \$23 billion by 2030 plan," he said.

He said in 2017/18 farm gate sales of milk contributed \$195 million to the State economy and just four years later that amount rose to almost \$284 million.

"The industry is committed to both continuing that growth and to increasing production amount from 500 million litres per year to 700 million," he said.

South Australian Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development David Basham said the trial was an exciting step for the South Australian dairy industry.

"South Australia's dairy industry punches well above its weight and this trial is another shining example of that," he said.

"The Marshall Liberal Government has taken on the Dairy Industry Action Plan policy in the \$23 billion by 2030 plan and this trial is another fantastic step in the right direction."



*SADA's Alpha Traceability Trial was launched by Primary Industries Minister David Basham at SADA board vice-president Nick Brokenshire's Mount Compass dairy on 10 September.*

# SA DAIRY AWARD WINNERS 2021

The South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association (SADA) recognised several outstanding members of the industry at SA dairy's night of nights.

Bool Lagoon's Andrew Cavill, Jamie Nietschke from Moppa and Meningie's Timothy Wright were named SADA-sponsored award winners at the South Australian Dairy Awards 2021 at Adelaide Oval on 25 August, an event where SADA was the premier partner.

Over the coming months SADA will profile the winners, so keep your eyes peeled to find out more about Andrew, Jaime and Tim! But for now...



## Most Innovative Farmer – Jamie Nietschke

Jamie's farm in the Barossa Valley is continuing to grow, with innovative practices being implemented on the farm increasing confidence to expand the dairy operation. From cow collars that monitor activity levels and rumination to heat monitoring systems for early heat detection in the herd, there are numerous examples of how innovative practices on the farm are helping Jamie's business.



## Best Relationship with a Processor –

### Andrew Cavill

Andrew has spent most of his life in the dairy industry. He has developed an appreciation of the relationship between farmers and the processors and has made a point of understanding the processor side of the business. When asked by SADA about the needs of communication between farmers and processors he simply said: *"By the time that you're reaching for your contract, it's already too late."*



## Best Young Farmer – Timothy Wright

Tim manages the day-to-day operations of Majesta and Greendale, a 1440ha dairy operation with 350 milking cows, 300 replacements and 25 bulls. The management of the dairy, overseeing and the rostering four fellow workers, milking, feeding, maintenance of farm infrastructure and breeding have all become Tim's tasks over the last few years. He has handled all these new responsibilities with maturity and skill. On top of his regular duties, Tim is always keen to participate in discussion groups and learning opportunities before applying farm management philosophies and technical abilities to continue to build and develop. He is always preparing for a future in dairy farming which is sustainable and acceptable to the consumer.

Did you miss any of our updates? [Register Here](#)

# Call for ADIC Steering Committee Nominations

The Australian Dairy Industry Council (ADIC) represents and advocates on behalf of the whole of the dairy industry. The ADIC Board comprises directors from both Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) and Australian Dairy Products Federation (ADPF) and is ultimately responsible for the Australian Dairy Industry Sustainability Framework. ADIC has delegated the ongoing development and implementation to a Steering Committee that reports to the ADIC.

The ADF is currently seeking expressions of interest (EOI's) from farmers who are passionate about providing strategic input into the ongoing development and implementation of the Dairy In-

dustry Sustainability Framework as ADF members of the Sustainability Steering Committee. Mr Daryl Hoey has recently been appointed Chair of the Steering Committee following the retirement of the inaugural Chair, Chris Griffin.

EOI's close 5pm Monday 27 September.

For more information, contact Helen Dornom, secretariat of the ADIC Sustainability Framework Steering Committee, by calling 0419 395 374 or email [Helen.Dornom@dairyaustralia.com.au](mailto:Helen.Dornom@dairyaustralia.com.au) or Daryl Hoey, current Chair of the Sustainability Steering Committee ([dmlhoey@bigpond.com](mailto:dmlhoey@bigpond.com)) or mobile: 0407 582 982.

## Ag Visa a win for local industry

After five years of lobbying, the Federal Government has delivered on the National Farmers' Federation long called-for agriculture-specific Visa (Ag Visa).

The Ag Visa will provide real long-term workforce relief to Australia farmers and widen the recruitment opportunities for an uncapped number of low-to-highly skilled workers from ASEAN countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines,

Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Ag Visa will be operational from 30 September, 2021.

National Farmers' Federation Ag Visa Media Release

<https://nff.org.au/media-release/government-makes-nffs-coveted-ag-visa-a-reality-provides-hope-for-this-years-harvest/>

## 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](mailto:sada@sada.asn.au). Successful candidates will be announced at SADA annual general meeting on 17 November 2021.

## Early trial results smelling rosy

On-farm dung beetle nurseries have been established on 30 sites in the Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula regions as part of the SADA Dung Beetle Project.

Early reports have found dung beetles offer a number of important benefits on farms, including:

- Disposing of dung in the fields quickly and effectively, which reduces pasture fouling;
- They mix clays with sand by mixing sub-surface soils with surface soils, improving the soil quality;
- Soil quality is also improved with water infiltration being

improved;

- Reduction on breeding grounds for flies and other pests;
- They return carbon to the soil to a surprising depth - up to 50 cm;

There are many species of dung beetle. The final objective of dung beetle research in Australia will be to have identified enough species to have all year-round beetle activity. While this report does not achieve that goal, it is an important step in that direction.

[View the Dung Beetle Project Overview Report](#)

## COVID-19 UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 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.



1300 934 934

Good people to know.

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



# Around the grounds

- SADA's September Board meeting was attended by all staff and board members.
- Ash presented at the National GS1 Traceability Advisory Group meeting about the SA Dairy
- [Australian Dairy Traceability Guide-lines](#) Traceability Alpha Trial. The meeting was to showcase the work that the Australian Dairy Industry is doing in the traceability space and was an opportunity for Senator Susan McDonald to officially release the
- Ash and Elf attended the offices of Entrust to inspect the completed alpha trial interface systems as well as a demonstration of functionality in the system.
- Nick, Ash, Elf and Andrew attended the launch of the SA Dairy Alpha Traceability Trial at Mt Compass on Friday. Primary Industries and Regional Development Minister David Basham officially launched the trial.
- Ash, Andrew and John met with Todd and Allys from ValAi to discuss the traceability trial and how the ValAi 'Greenhouse' Technology could integrate onto the dashboard of our technology. With a focus on sustainability, Todd and Allys will be looking at the Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework and how they could develop tracking and record systems throughout the supply chain.
- Elf attended the SA Productivity Commission's briefing on their draft report into red tape. The Commission has been tasked by the state government to recommend changes to South Australia's regulatory system to make it more business friendly and fit for purpose for growing jobs and investment, while not compromising the public interest. SADA made two submissions to the review.
- Elf attended the fifth meeting of the Dairy Code Review Reference Group (DCRRG) being run by the Commonwealth Agriculture Department. This committee is reviewing the Dairy Code. SADA has also written a comprehensive submission to the review. The thrust of the SADA submission is aimed at no substantial change.
- Nick and Andrew attended the Rural Media and Communicators SA/NT's (Not the) Royal Show breakfast, where they networked and listened to guest speaker Mick Keogh OAM, Deputy Chair and Agricultural Commissioner of the ACCC via Zoom connection. He spoke about the role of the ACCC and it's relationship with agriculture.
- Primary Producers SA is pleased to announce the selection of Dr Simon Maddocks to lead the organisation as Chair, following a meeting of the PPSA Council earlier this week. With an extensive involvement in the SA primary industries over several decades, his most recent role was President and Vice Chancellor of Charles Darwin University, a position he held from 2014 to 2020. He remains an active primary producer with a mixed farming property outside Hamley Bridge, growing cereal crops and producing prime lambs. Dr Maddocks will formally commence in the role following the PPSA Annual General Meeting to be held next month, with Dr Don Plowman continuing to oversee the transition from inaugural Executive Chairman, Hon Rob Kerin, who retired in June.
- Ash attended the 2021 Science Investigation Awards, where she was judging some year level with the PPSA Educating Kids in Agriculture Team.
- The SADA team reviewed the Annual Operating Scorecard during the weekly operational meeting and updated the information for August.
- Ash attended the NFF Workforce Committee Meeting to discuss the AG Visa to be introduced at the end of September.
- Nick organised for Ash to feature on 5MU radio rural segment to talk about the traceability trial and what it means for the customers when they buy dairy products.
- Ash presented at Urrbrae Agricultural High School with Belinda Cay from Ag Communicators about technology in Agriculture and more specifically technology in the Dairy Industry. It was great to see so much interest from the students in the dairy sector and the potential workforce opportunities that technology could provide.
- Elf and Ash presented to the SFMCA Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia branch meeting. A follow up face to face meeting has been planned.
- Andrew and Marilena met with Chas Cini to discuss Industrial Relations support for SADA members.

## Dairy markets hold up under Delta, but Chinese import demand the challenge – industry report *Originally published by Medianet.*

Farmgate milk prices remain on the “high side” across much of the world, and at near-record levels in Australia, as dairy demand proves resilient in the face of the pandemic, according to the latest Rabobank Global Dairy Quarterly report.

The report says while some regional disruptions will continue to occur as a result of COVID-19 and uncertainty remains, the potential for major global demand shocks is limited, with downside risk to the global dairy market more likely to stem from the anticipated slowdown in Chinese import demand.

With supply expected to outpace demand in China, as domestic production and inventories increase, the country's imports are expected to start to decline in the second half

of this year, the report says.

“Global markets may be able to absorb lost sales through 2021, but pressure will be felt in 2022, initially in Oceania, but eventually rippling through global dairy markets,” it says.

And with prices heavily dependent on import demand, the “near-term peak in global dairy commodity prices is likely behind us”. Meanwhile, global milk supply has been on an “extended run of interrupted growth” which is set to continue, the report says, albeit at a slower pace.

“The growth rate has been sustainable without becoming overly burdensome on markets so far, but any slowdown in global demand would quickly lead to inventory

build,” it says.

For Australian dairy farmers, farm margins are positive with “most experiencing healthy on-farm profitability”, according to Rabobank's senior dairy analyst Michael Harvey.

“Near-record milk prices, affordable purchased feed prices and supportive seasonal conditions have set many up for positive trading conditions ahead,” he says.

While the cost of fertiliser has jumped, Mr Harvey says it has only had a “slight negative hit on farmgate margins”, with the majority of Australian dairy farmers locking in near-record milk pricing for the current season.

*Read the full report [here](#)*