



# dairynews

ISSUE 18, SPRING 2011

## GET CONNECTED

**Kerry Kempton**

Techinal Specialist Dairy



### What is Dairy Connect?

Dairy Connect is a web based "dairy diary" which lists and promotes upcoming events such as conferences, short courses, discussion groups, field days and farm walks, relevant to the NSW dairy industry.

Dairy Connect provides all the details about these events and the service provider organising the event, via direct web link or phone number where interested farmers can then register for the event.

Dairy Connect NSW is a new joint initiative between Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the NSW dairy industry organisations, to develop and promote positive, active partnerships and networks.

The site provides a one-stop-shop for dairy events to ensure farmers and industry people always know what is on so they don't miss out, and to better plan events and avoid clashes.

Users can view feedback from other farmers about events of interest, and add their own comments, generating on-line discussion with other dairy farmers and providers.

### Register for Dairy Connect

To register your interest in becoming involved in the Dairy Connect network, just go to

[www.dairyconnect.com.au](http://www.dairyconnect.com.au) and click on Register Now to get started. You can then receive a newsletters by email or fax every fortnight, with upcoming events listed. You can set your preferences so you receive just the right amount of information about what interests you.



**To add an event on Dairy Connect, you just contact the coordinator, Gaylene Marquet, who is based at**

Tocal. So please forward the relevant information to Gaylene by: email [dairy.connect@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dairy.connect@industry.nsw.gov.au) or Fax to 02 49398950, Ph 02 49398992, Or post to Tocal Agricultural Centre, Paterson. 2421

***So what are you waiting for? Sign up now and tell all your family and friends!***

We would welcome broad participation from the dairy industry and those organisations and private companies that service the farm sector. The more people that join up and use the service, the better it will work.



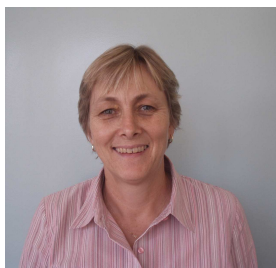
**Primary  
Industries**



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## EDITORIAL



**Kerry Kempton**

Technical Specialist Dairy

The focus of this edition of Dairy News is on effective communication, with some new ideas on how to develop better contact and understanding both as an industry and on farms.

Dairy Connect is an exciting step forward for the industry, talked about as a good idea for a number of years, and now actually brought to fruition by your NSW DPI team. It will provide the platform to keep in touch with what's happening, and for organisers to better plan activities to meet needs, and to hear back on the usefulness or otherwise of the activity.

However, this opportunity to connect our industry like never before depends on strong support of all involved in the NSW dairy industry.

Good communication on a busy dairy farm is vital, and is well demonstrated by the Bake family from Crossmaglen. Read about how they make sure that everyone on the farm knows what's required of them and where they fit in the farm business.

Research shows that people working on a farm need to feel included and to be part of a team. "Not being in on things" is often cited as a main reason for employee dissatisfaction with their job.

Taking on workers from overseas is becoming more common on our dairy farms. Employing someone whose first language is not English takes the importance of good communication to a whole new level!

Our DPI extension team have been working hard on developing new ways of communicating with people, in a time of great pressure on staff and resources. There are now many different ways to access information from the NSW DPI website.

There are still plenty of Prime facts and booklets that you can read on paper, but there are now a range of Podcasts and Videos as well. Podcasts are short audio files that you can listen to on your computer, or save by downloading onto an MP3 player or mobile phone for later.

There are now 26 podcasts on the Dairy section of the website, covering a range of topics related to dairy farming. The speakers are a mixture of our dairy extension staff, and other experts in their field, for example: Steve Little on feeding, John Penry on mastitis, Karl Burgi on lameness and Bill Fulkerson on pastures.

So if you haven't got time to read, try downloading a file and listen to it on your iPod or phone as you are doing something else.

To access the podcasts, follow this link:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/dairy-cattle> and then click on "Dairy Podcasts"

The rain through winter, whilst bringing major floods with awful damage in some regions, has certainly set up many of our dairy regions for a bumper spring. Spring time brings a burst of energy as the days get longer pasture growth speeds up, cows are calving, and milk is flowing. It is certainly a really busy time though, and it can be hard to keep up with all the jobs that need doing.

So in closing, while you are enjoying all the wonders that spring brings it is important to remember to pace yourself and not overdo it. Fatigue is the farmer's enemy, it leads to irritability, poor decision making and worst of all, accidents.

## The Bake family- people friendly farming.

### Julie Dart

Livestock Officer – Dairy Coffs Harbour

The Bake family have been farming at Crossmaglen (near Coffs Harbour) for many years. They inspire me because they aren't just good farmers, they also find time for their family, community and industry organisations. I often wonder where they get the time and energy to fit it all in!

Jason Bake and his wife Michele run "Bangalara Dairies" in partnership with Jason's parents, Ernie and Pauline. Three of Jason's four siblings are also involved in the family business, and they have several employees as well. Managing relationships between staff and within the family is critical to the business.

Jason has achievements outside farming, and he recently completed a trip on the Kokoda Track to raise funds for Guide Dogs NSW. (See the webpage [www.blindcourage.net](http://www.blindcourage.net))

So what are the key things that make this family business work so well?

### Clear Expectations:

Everyone involved in the farm has a specific job to do, and once they have been trained in their role they are left to get on with it. Jason explained that if workers are given good, detailed instructions in the first instance, they mostly get on and do it well without needing constant supervision.

It is important to spend time with new people to make sure they know how and what they need to do. Investing time in new team members pays off in the long run. All workers in the business also have clear job descriptions and well defined duties. These were developed using the templates on The People in Dairy website: [www.thepeopleindairy.org.au](http://www.thepeopleindairy.org.au)

### Good Communication and empathy:

Giving clear and detailed instructions is very important. "When things don't go to plan, ask yourself first whether it was the person who was the problem, or whether it was the instructions they were given. Nine times out of ten it will be poor instructions".

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***"If a staff member has had something go wrong, generally they'll feel pretty bad about it anyway. It is more productive to ask them how they think they can fix it and work together on the solution."***

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Formal meetings are also important in keeping everyone on track.

### Good relationships:

On the Bake farm, both family and employees are treated as one. Long term employees are now friends and the team work well together. A key to this is that people are truly valued and appreciated for what they do in the business. A bit of a pat on the back costs nothing, but is worth a lot.

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***"We're not a perfect family by any means, we have problems like anyone else, but we just sort it out and get on with it"***

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The Bakes have established good relationships with their eighteen non-farming neighbours, who appreciate the rural view and accept that dairy farms can be noisy and smelly at times.

### Getting the right fit with the person and the job

The Bake family have a good stable team of people working on the farm, but their approach to recruitment is a bit different. Most of the employees on farm have come from other trades, including a diesel mechanic, boilermaker, cabinetmaker and teacher. Jason looks for people who have shown a real pride

and passion in their previous work, and tries to fit a job to them that is a bit different and a bit of a challenge. "Usually their ability and passion flows across to the new tasks".

People will often drop in a resume in case any vacancies arise. The family rarely need to advertise or use employment agencies.

## Getting the work & family balance right

Work/Life balance is especially important to Michele, who is from a non-farming background. Having the split calving is important because it allows for some quieter times during the year to enable the family to get away from the farm. It is important for Jason and Michele to be able to attend the four children's activities. Having competent and reliable staff allows the family to go away and leave the farm in good hands.



(L to R) Pauline, Carleen and Jason Bake.

## Analysing business performance:

As the Bakes look to the future they have recognised that business analysis is vital to grow sustainably. They entered the Red Sky dairy business of the year competition, to benchmark and compare their business to others. "Going through the process was really useful in showing us what we were doing well and what we can improve. I would encourage other farmers to get on board," said Jason.

## Holstein breeding values released

The latest Australian Breeding Values (ABVs) for Holstein dairy cattle have been by the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme (ADHIS).

Daniel Abernethy, ADHIS general manager said this is the second ABV release which incorporates data for bulls which have been genomically tested, with their breeding values identified as ABV(g)s.

One of the big benefits of using genomic data is improved reliability, especially for young bulls with no or few daughters. For most traits, the reliability of an ABV(g) is about double that of a breeding value based on pedigree information alone.

The news is even better for fertility: the reliability of a fertility ABV(g) is about 30%, compared with 10% for a breeding value based on just pedigree information.

"This means dairy farmers using progeny test bulls can have more confidence in the genetic potential of their PT team," said Mr Abernethy.

Furthermore for a number of young proven bulls who previously had fertility ABVs with low reliability now have their fertility ABVs published in the Good Bulls Guide and other lists.

In the September release, 54 of the top 100 bulls in the Australian Proven Profit list of the Good Bulls Guide have genomics included in their ABVs.

"By choosing bulls from the Good Bulls Guide (including genomically-tested bulls), dairy farmers can build the genetic merit of their herds, faster and with more confidence," Mr Abernethy said.

ADHIS is an initiative of Australian Dairy Farmers', and is partially funded by dairy farmer levies via Dairy Australia. For more information contact Michelle Axford at ADHIS P:(03) 8621-4240 or e: maxford@adhis.com.au.



## NEW CHECK-TESTING OPTION FOR BJD

Jim Kerr

District Veterinarian Midcoast LHPA

A new alternative test for Bovine Johne's Disease has recently been approved for check-testing of dairy herds. The new test is called the Herd Environmental Culture (HEC) test, and is a manure slurry test, rather than a blood test. It involves sampling slurry from the herd, rather than collecting faeces from individual animals. The sample is collected from the dairy yard after milking, following a particular sampling pattern. The slurry must be collected by a veterinarian approved under the Cattle MAP or an inspector.

### When can it be used?

- As a check test to maintain a MAP status
- As a check test to maintain a Dairy Assurance Score (DAS) of 7
- As a check test for Non-Assessed dairy herds to progress to DAS of 7

### But ...

The HEC check test cannot be used by infected or suspect herds to improve their status.

How long does it take to get the results?

Minimum: 10-12 weeks  
Maximum: 22-24 weeks (where a suspicious bug has grown and needs to be properly identified. Mycobacteria grow slowly in culture).

What happens to my DAS while I'm waiting for my final test result?

Your DAS remains unchanged while you are waiting for your check test results, regardless of whether you use the new HEC test or the existing blood (ELISA) test.

How much does it cost through the DPI lab?

Minimum: \$157.85 (negative result) Maximum: \$283.70 (positive result).

As a comparison, the cost of the ELISA check test (i.e. blood-testing 50 cows with the ELISA test) is \$337.50 (\$6.75 lab charge x 50) + vet fees. There will also be the cost of your labour.

Advantages of the HEC:

- Considerably cheaper than the blood test.
- Sampling for the HEC test takes 10 minutes.
- No need for cows to be held and put back through bails/yards for blood collection.
- The HEC test is slightly more sensitive than the ELISA check test, meaning that it is more likely to detect BJD in the herd if it is present.

Australian studies have shown that 40 to 50% of infected herds will be identified by a single HEC. Both tests become more sensitive as the prevalence of BJD increases. The sensitivity of the HEC is limited because few cows in a herd may be shedding bacilli and there will be a high dilution factor, many of the Johne's bacilli are killed by the disinfection process and possible freeze/thaw prior to culture. Other bugs will often cause overgrowth problems during culture.



LEFT: Kempsey District Veterinarian Ian Poe collecting a manure sample for HEC check-testing.

## Disadvantages of the HEC:

- Time taken to get results: For those desiring a quick result from the BJD check test, the HEC may not be suitable as it will take a minimum of 10 weeks to provide a result. However, a false-positive ELISA blood test will take even longer to resolve, and will occur around once in every 200 disease-free cows tested.
- Doesn't identify infected individuals: A positive HEC test does not identify the individual cow (or cows) that contributed the contaminated slurry, whereas a positive ELISA test and subsequent faecal or tissue culture test does identify individuals. However, a positive result to either check test would result in 'Infected' or 'Suspect' status for the herd (DAS of 1), after which a first step towards disease eradication could be a whole herd blood test to establish the herd prevalence and identify reactors. Consequently, a positive result to either check test leaves the herd in a similar position.

### In summary:

For the local area, where BJD is a common infection, this HEC is slightly more likely to identify infected herds than blood testing 50 cows. However, if you are in the MAP or are otherwise confident that you have no infection in your herd, this option will be a cheaper and more convenient alternative. For those of you who are uncertain of your herd's status or under no compulsion to test, probably best to avoid testing for Johne's at all in the current regulatory environment.

***For more information on Bovine Johne's Disease testing, or how to work out the Dairy Assurance Score for your herd, contact your local MAP-accredited veterinarian or District Veterinarian through the Livestock Health and Pest Authority.***

## New Prime fact on DPI website



FACTSHEET

### Bovine anaemia caused by *Theileria orientalis* group

Graham Bailey, Cattle Health Coordinator, Orange Agricultural Institute

#### Introduction

*Theileria* are protozoan parasites carried by ticks. When ticks carrying *Theileria* feed on cattle, the parasite gets into their bloodstream and enters red blood cells. In some animals, sufficient red blood cells are destroyed to cause anaemia - a reduction in the red blood cell numbers. This reduces the ability of blood to carry oxygen and makes the animal ill.

A protozoan referred to as *Theileria buffeli* has been present in Australia for around 100 years. It has been seen occasionally in blood smears of cattle from "risky" country, but seldom caused any illness. It was considered a benign infection.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of animals with disease caused by *Theileria*. Most of these animals have the *lakeda* variant of *Theileria*. Work is underway to better understand why there has been an increase in the disease and to develop improved treatment and prevention strategies.

Even though more cases of disease have been seen in NSW, it is important to distinguish this disease from the far more serious disease caused by other species of *Theileria* not present in Australia, such as east coast fever (caused by *Theileria parva*) that occurs in Africa, and Tropical Theileriosis (caused by *T. annulata*).

The disease occurring in Australia is referred to as Bovine Anaemia caused by *Theileria orientalis* group.

#### Cause

Disease is caused by protozoan parasites from the *Theileria buffeli/orientalis* group. The grouping of 3 species is used because at this stage it is not clear how the protozoa from the

group interact with the various ticks that carry them and their animal hosts. The *lakeda* variant seen in a number of countries for simplicity is referred to as *T. orientalis*.

#### Method of Infection

Generally ticks are the carriers (vectors) responsible for spread of *Theileria* throughout the world. In NSW, the bush tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) is suspected to be responsible though other ticks could be involved. Small numbers (<10 ticks) are able to spread the infection. Many farmers on affected properties have not observed ticks on affected cattle. Experimentally lice and mouch flies have also been shown to transmit infection. Work is underway to better understand the means of spread in NSW.

#### Susceptible animals

Disease is seen in calves born in coastal districts and in the eastern foothills of the Great Dividing Range. Disease is generally seen when calves are 8-12 weeks old. By about 6 months of age, immunity develops and it is rare to see disease in calves older than 6 months and adults who have been resident in these districts.

In adults, disease is seen if:

- Cattle are moved from a district where the parasite is not present to districts where *Theileria* is common (typically interstate or inland cattle moved to coastal districts). Disease can be seen in the introduced cattle as soon as 2 weeks though generally 5-6 weeks after introduction.

- Cattle carrying *Theileria* (having red blood cells infected with the parasite) are moved to a property that was previously uninfected. Transmission to home-bred cattle may occur with disease 2-6 months later in home-bred cattle. Typically this has involved movement of coastal cattle to

August 2011. [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/publications](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/publications) for updates  
Primefact 1110 first edition

Animal Biosecurity

### Bovine anaemia caused by *Theileria orientalis* group

Graham Bailey, Cattle Health Coordinator,

Link to Primefact:

[http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/404679/Bovine-anaemia-caused-by-Theileria-orientalis-group.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/404679/Bovine-anaemia-caused-by-Theileria-orientalis-group.pdf)

### Do it Right leaflet

In the envelope with your Dairy News this month is a leaflet reminding you about the serious issue of avoiding chemical residues in cattle or milk leaving your farm.

This continues to be a problem, and is a big threat to both domestic and export markets. Take a moment to review your management and record keeping and do it right.

## BRASSICAS VERY SENSITIVE TO WET WEATHER

**Neil Griffiths**

District Agronomist, Tocal, Paterson

**Peter Beale**

District Agronomist, Taree

Forage brassicas are becoming popular for late summer/early autumn sowing. With low seed cost, rapid growth and very high feed quality, they are an attractive alternative to oats as an early autumn feed option.

However, trials at Tocal and Taree in 2011 have highlighted how sensitive brassicas can be to waterlogging.



*Oat and brassica trial at Tocal showing effects of waterlogging*

The Tocal trial sown in March became waterlogged in late April, virtually killing off the brassicas. While the oats were affected they were not as bad as the brassicas.

A better drained area above the trial was sown to a mix of oats and brassica providing an interesting comparison of feed quality. Both were approximately 40cm high when sampled.

Table 1: Feed quality at first grazing

	ME (MJ/kg DM)	NDF%	Crude Protein %
Oats	11.4	51	28.3
Brassica	12.4	24	29.9

At Taree two trials compared the potential for early feed from two brassicas, ryegrass and oats. They were established by broad casting in the first week of March, both sites were slow to establish, missing the early rain and germinating on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, reaching the first harvest in May.

One site at Craig Emmerton's, Croki, experienced severe waterlogging throughout April with 94 mm in March and 177 in April. The other site at Wherrol Flat was well drained, had less rain, and only minor waterlogging. This provided a good comparison of the effects of wet conditions.

At the Wherrol flat site establishment of oats and brassica's were patchy so results were taken using quadrates in the better established areas. The site showed that leafy turnips mixed with ryegrass provided an



added insurance against poor establishment. The results showed that in well drained conditions the leafy turnips produced more dry matter than ryegrass and were a useful contribution to ryegrass mixtures.

However in wet conditions at Croki the brassica's produced marginally less growth than ryegrass in the first harvest and then all but failed by the second harvest. The trial was sown on an area of high ground, the remainder of the paddock sown to leafy turnips was a complete failure due to water logging. Thus ryegrass was the most reliable species for wet conditions. For details on dry matter yields from the trials, contact Peter Beale on 0427007468.



*Croki First Harvest leafy turnips mixed with ryegrass – failed brassicas in background*



*Failed brassica by second harvest at Croki*

## HAY & SILAGE AWARDS WINNERS

**Neil Griffiths**

District Agronomist, Tocal, Paterson

***The 2011 NSW Hay and Silage Feed Quality Awards were presented at the recent Grassland Society annual conference held in Bathurst.***

In what has proved to be a difficult year for fodder conservation, three very high quality awards were presented out of a possible seven. Unfortunately we did not receive high quality entries in the other categories possibly due to seasonal conditions.

**The awards presented were:**

Ian and Maria Simpson from Denman received the Pioneer Hi-bred Award for highest testing maize silage. They made silage from a crop of 32P55 which was chopped and inoculated by a contractor and stored in an above ground stack. Ian said the dairy herd performed well on the silage throughout winter which should be no surprise with a feed quality of 10.7ME (metabolisable energy) and 8.1%CP (crude protein).

Wyvem Park Dairy also from Denman took out the New Holland Winter Pasture section of the awards for the McDarmont family.

Ryegrass silage dominated the section with only 0.1 MJME separating the top three entries and several others also testing over 11 ME.

Wyvem Park farm manager, Tim Freeman, said they made baled silage from sprinter ryegrass harvested in September and cut wilted baled and wrapped in 3-6 hours. An inoculant was applied at baling. This silage tested 11.5 ME and 24% CP which is the highest recorded in the short history of the NSW Hay and Silage Feed Quality Awards.



The other award presented by New Holland was for the highest quality lucerne hay or silage which was presented to Hamish Drury, Talinga Pastoral Company from Gulgong.

Hamish produced an outstanding lucerne hay which was cut at budding growth stage (27 days growth) and baled in 4 days. Feed quality of this top lucerne hay was 10.9 ME and 25.7% CP.

There is also a link with the dairy industry here. Hamish supplies hay to dairy farms in the Hunter, Coast and Tablelands.

With three very worthy section winners the top award for the night was presented by Integrated Packaging makers of silaFARM plastic and twine.

The top award went to Hamish Drury with the judges deciding it was harder to make high quality hay than silage and Hamish's lucerne hay was by far the highest testing hay seen so far in the awards.

The NSW Hay & Silage Feed Quality Awards will be on again next year. Several groups have asked about having local activities linking with the awards to take advantage of the discounted feed analysis offered by Feed Quality Service and the organisers hope to see high quality entries in the summer pasture, winter crop and other sections in 2012.

*Ian Simpson beside his maize crop.*



## OVERSEAS LABOUR AS AN OPTION?

**Brett Davidson**

Livestock Officer Dairy - Deniliquin

Several farmers in the Riverina have started employing overseas labour to meet their farm workload, with some really successful experiences. Often workers from overseas have university qualifications, and are very enthusiastic and keen to work. Some are young people looking to gain new and additional practical experiences that can help them with their agricultural careers.

"We have been lucky enough to have had some Brazilian vet students on exchange and they have done wonders for our herd health" said Mick Glass, dairy farmer from Invergordon.

Dairy Australia's manager of The People in Dairy program, Dr Pauline Brightling, said employing people from overseas involved special considerations particularly in terms of training, cultural awareness and ensuring workers have a valid Australian visa with work rights. Some visas prevent or restrict the right of a person to work in Australia. It is the employer's responsibility to check on the validity of workers' visas. You can visit Visa Entitlement Verification Online VEVO (<http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/compliance/info-employers/evo-orgs.htm>) for a quick and easy way to check the work entitlements of overseas workers. Australian award wages hours and conditions apply.

A higher level of communication can be required: sometimes English is not English. Dr Sarah Chaplin, a researcher from Melbourne University recalls a conversation with some Danish workers:

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***"I got some really funny looks when I asked them to help me put on some new rubbers in the dairy," said Sarah. "They were very relieved to find out I meant rubber ware on the milking machines".***

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“Overseas labour has been very rewarding, meeting people from different cultures and backgrounds,” said Kristen Clark, a dairy farmer from Tocumwal.

“It has not been a cure all for our labour needs but it is a great way to get an extra pair of hands through the busy period.” Employers have made some life long friends, some have plans to visit them on their next holiday. The workers that I spoke to found it was a great way to see the countryside and meet communities and a experience the Australian culture, which certainly makes their travel more rewarding.

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***One farmer and worker have been so happy with this arrangement, they have gone through to the application for permanent residency (which has been successful) and are making long term plans.***

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Occasionally some farmers have had staff that are not suitable for the position or have found the reality of farm work does not fit the dream. But one thing that came through with everyone I talked to is that you look at the labour differently, and all have had some very rewarding experiences. Maybe it could be a fit for your business?



*Kristen Clark with Phoebe and Shaun, overseas workers from Taiwan.*

## BUSHFIRE SEASON APPROACHING



With the wet seasons we have been experiencing in much of eastern Australia over the past year, this summer could be a hazardous one for grass fires and bushfires. Now is the time to start thinking about preparing your farm to minimise the risks from fires.

Here are three websites with loads of useful information for dairy farmers, on how to prepare for fire season, what to do in an emergency, and recovering from a fire or other natural disaster.

### **NSW Department of Primary Industries**

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/emergency/bushfire>

### **Dairy Australia**

<http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/Animal-s-feed-and-environment/Environment/Extreme-weather/Preparing-for-fire-threats.aspx>

### **Rural Fire Service**

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

## NSW FARMERS' ASSOCIATION DAIRY UPDATE

At the Dairy Section's AGM on 5th July, Adrian Drury announced that he would be resigning as chair. Adrian expressed his thanks to the Committee members that had worked with him during his 6 year term as Chair. He praised the dedication of the Committee for their work on current milk price issues, contract negotiation and collective bargaining workshops, reviewing the direction of the DPI research, development and extension, and the ADF restructure proposal. Terry Toohey (North Coast) has been elected as the new chair. Also, Ruth Kyd, Paul Weir and Robert Miller were elected for Inland, North Coast and South Coast, respectively. These members join with Peter Middlebrook (Inland), Pat Neal and Adrian Drury (Hunter), and Paul Timbs (South Coast) to form the Committee.

The Association has held 3 very successful dairy contract and negotiation seminars in Sydney, Casino and Urunga. Speakers included legal and negotiation experts to advise dairy farmers on how to approach contract negotiations. Farmers were provided with tools to support their negotiations with processors. If any farmers are interested in holding such seminars in their area, please contact Cameron Clark on 1300 794 000 or [clarkc@nswfarmers.org.au](mailto:clarkc@nswfarmers.org.au)

NSW Farmers' members who employ overseas workers seek advice from Suzanne Gillham, Immigration Liaison Officer to the National Farmers' Federation. Suzanne can provide information on Australia's immigration programs and how to use overseas workers to address labour and skill shortages. Suzanne is based at NSW Farmers' Association in Sydney and can be contacted directly on 0403 395 154 or [suzanne.gillham@immi.gov.au](mailto:suzanne.gillham@immi.gov.au)

NSW Farmers also employs staff to advise members about conservation resource management (crm) and business economics and trade (beat). For more information on their activity go to [www.nswfarmers.org.au](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au)

## Dairy NSW News

Dairy NSW is working towards the development of a new strategic plan which will take effect in July 2012, and set Dairy NSW's direction for the next five years.

In the coming months, dairy farmers in the Dairy NSW region will be invited, by their relevant Regional Dairy Group, to attend gatherings to identify the research, development and extension issues which are most important for the successful future of their farms.

The Regional Dairy Groups in the Dairy NSW region are: Far South Coast Dairy Development Group; Hunter Dairy Development Group; Inland Elite Dairy Network); Mid Coast Dairy Advancement Group and South Coast & Highlands Dairy Industry Group.

Dairy NSW encourages dairy farmers to be involved as the success of the new plan will depend on you having your say about what activities and projects you want to see happen.

Once all the information has been gathered, Dairy NSW, industry stakeholders and the consultants will draw up the 2012-2017 strategic plan, and circulate back to the groups.

Dairy NSW is one of eight Regional Development Programs (RDP) funded by Dairy Australia and the dairy service levy. Dairy NSW also secures additional funding from federal, state and other statutory bodies for specific state based projects.

***More information about regional activities can be obtained from our website [www.dairynsw.com.au](http://www.dairynsw.com.au) or by contacting Kate McGilvray from Dairy NSW on 02 6373 1435.***



For a full list of coming events across the NSW dairy industry, visit the Dairy Connect website and register to receive fortnightly updates.

Or call the Coordinator to arrange to have the coming events faxed to you.

**Gaylene Marquet** | Dairy Connect Coordinator |

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W: [www.dairyconnect.com.au](http://www.dairyconnect.com.au) | [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) |



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*Dairy News* is a newsletter for dairy farmers throughout NSW.

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[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/newsletter/dairy-news](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/newsletter/dairy-news)

ISSN 1834-948X (Print)

ISSN 1843-9498 (Online)

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