

Contact Us DAIRY COMMITTEE

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Dairy Section Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Association's Dairy Section held their AGM and Dairy Farmer Forum at the Novotel, Sydney Olympic Park on 1 and 2 June 2010. The AGM was held in conjunction with the Dairy NSW Members' Council. Over 50 farmers and stakeholders attended the conference. Delegates also had the opportunity to attend the Dairy Industry Association of Australia ('DIAA') Conference, Wine & Cheese night and Awards Dinner.

Ian Halliday, Managing Director and Helen Dornom, Manager Technical Issues of Dairy Australia addressed conference delegates. Ian Halliday spoke on the challenges facing the dairy industry; the Situation and Outlook report; the levy vote to be held in 2012; and the Productivity Commission's Review into Research and Development Corporations. Helen Dornom gave delegates an overview on how their levies are being used. This included the Grains 2 Milk program, the Cool Cows program and caring for cows. Delegates outlined that many dairy farmers are unaware of the projects Dairy Australia undertake and suggested that a more proactive position is undertaken to promote Dairy Australia projects.

Please see attached a list of the motions debated by delegates at the AGM.

FARMER FORUM

Wes Judd, President of Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) addressed the Farmer Forum on 2 June 2010. Wes gave delegates an overview of a proposed National Dairy Restructure. The proposal looks at both national and state dairy farmer advocacy and representation, with ADF providing dairy specific resources and state dairy organizations providing generic advocacy and representation. Wes outlined a funding model, which is proposed to ensure that dairy farmers are still represented by their states. Attendees at the forum moved a motion stating that: The NSW Farmers' Association Dairy Section and Australian Dairy Farmers pursue the dairy restructure.

2010/11 Dairy Committee Appointments

Please find below a list of Dairy Committee appointments.

Name	Appointment(s)
Adrian Drury	Chairman Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) NSW Farmers' Association Executive Council NSW Dairy Industry Conference
Terry Toohey	Vice-chairman Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) NSW Farmers' Association Executive Council NSW NLIS Consultative Committee NSW Dairy Industry Conference NSW Farmers' Association Cattle Committee
Paul Weir	Young Farmer Network NCDEA NSW Advisory Committee NSW Irrigators Council
Patrick Neal	NCDEA NSW Advisory Committee
Michael Perich	Dairy NSW Dairy Research Foundation
Paul Timbs	NSW Dairy Industry Conference
Ruth Kydd	NCDEA NSW Advisory Committee Murray Dairy NSW Dairy Industry Conference Industry & Investment NSW Extension Committee
Peter Middlebrook	Intensive Agriculture Consultative Committee Murray Dairy

NLIS Dairy Rebate Scheme

The NLIS Dairy Rebate Scheme was developed by the Association's Dairy Section and NSW Dairy Industry Conference to encourage NSW dairy farmers to apply NLIS approved tags and/or boluses by assisting to reduce the cost. Farmers can claim \$2.00 per tag/bolus. If you would like to claim a rebate for your NLIS tags/boluses, please contact the Association on **1300 794 000** for the application form.

Senate Inquiry into milk prices

At the request of three Tasmanian Senators, the Australian Senate Economics Reference Committee commissioned an inquiry to investigate whether market powers in Australia's dairy industry have led to low prices for dairy farmers. The Association lodged a submission into the inquiry. The inquiry report, *Milking it for all it's worth – competition and pricing in the Australian dairy industry*, was released on 13 May 2010. The Dairy Committee has some concerns with the report and will be discussing it at the next Committee meeting. The Committee welcomes any feedback from Dairy Members. For further information please visit

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/economics_ctte/dairy_industry_09/report/index.htm

Productivity Commission Review into Research & Development Corporations

In February 2010, the Productivity Commission announced a review into Research and Development Corporations, which includes Dairy Australia and Meat & Livestock Australia. The review will examine the economic and policy rationale for the Australian Government investment in rural research and development. The inquiry will also examine the interactions and potential overlaps across governments and programs to ensure Australia gets the best value for its research and development spending. The Association will be lodging a submission into the Review.

NSW Farmers' Association Young Farmer Council

The NSW Farmers' Association provides a Young Farmers' Membership – a platform for young farmer issues and networking opportunities with their peers. If you are aged between 18 and 35 years you can elect to be known as a Young Farmer. NSW Farmers' Association is currently running a promotion, where Young Farmers can join for 12 months at no cost. If you would like to join, please contact the Association on 1300 794 000 or visit www.nswfarmers.org.au.

Registration of silage trailers

The Victorian Government announced new allowances that will give dairy farmers flexibility when transporting silage. Victorian dairy producers are now

able to tow silage trailers by tractor without registration and trailers can be up to a width of three metres.

In line with changes in Victoria, the Association has met with the RTA and requested an exemption that agricultural trailers wider than 2.5 m can be laden, if travelling short distances between farm blocks. Representatives of the Dairy Committee have also raised this issue with the NSW Minister for Primary Industries. The Dairy Section will keep Members informed on the progress of this issue.

DECCW Audits of dairies

As a result from the 2009 Dairy Section AGM, representatives from the Dairy Committee representatives from Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) to discuss auditing of licensed dairies. The Committee outlined that without prior notice, the owner or appropriate staff member may not be available to guide the auditor around the facilities, compromising the audit and raising OH&S concerns. DECCW outlined the importance of unannounced audits achieving a 'snapshot' and a true representation of how the dairy operates. Before the next round of DECCW dairy audits, the Association and DECCW will send a joint letter to dairy farmers informing them of policy and procedures of compliance audits.

What's happening at a National Level Calf transport – Time Off Feed (TOF)

The Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) agreed that a science based standard for the maximum time off feed (TOF) for calves being transported be developed. In response, a Bobby Calf Standards Reference Group developed a recommendation for a maximum TOF of 30 hours. This was supported by industry, state jurisdictions and DAFF representatives. Research conducted by Dairy Australia concluded that "30 hours with good practice in other aspects of calf management and transport is defensible as an outer 'legal' limit for time off feed for bobby calves." A Regulatory Impact Analysis is now being undertaken through Animal Health Australia (AHA) with input from both Dairy Australia and ADF. Following the development, a period of public consultation will occur.

Udderly Fantastic

Udderly Fantastic is an initiative developed by ADF and provides those involved with the dairy industry a safe place to share stories, advise of upcoming events and provides a forum to discuss issues. Members can share photos, videos and create their own profile page. If you would like to join Udderly Fantastic, please visit the below webpage www.udderlyfantastic.com.au.