

JOURNAL

The official publication of the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association Inc.

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From the President

Robert Brokenshire

What a fantastic month it has been for South Australian dairy. More than 200 members of our dairy community gathered at Morphettville Racecourse to celebrate the **90th Anniversary of SADA** — a milestone recognising nine decades of advocacy, resilience and leadership for our industry.

It was wonderful to see farmers, processors, service providers, politicians and supporters come together to reflect on the proud history of South Australian dairy while looking confidently toward the future.

We were honoured to welcome Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Frances Adamson, and Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Clare Scriven. We also recognised a number of former SADA officers - Ivan Elliot OBE, Col. Alexander Nelson, Jock Gormlie, Norman Green OAM, David Higbed, Ken Lyons and David Basham for their longstanding contribution to the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association. Sincere thanks to our sponsors, supporters and Mandy Pacitti for helping make the celebration such a memorable occasion.

As we celebrate the past, we must also continue focusing on the future challenges and opportunities facing dairy farmers. This month's Federal Budget delivered a mixed outcome for agriculture and dairy.

While there were welcome measures around fuel and fertiliser security, regional infrastructure, energy relief and the continuation of the instant asset write-off, many farmers were hoping for stronger direct support to help offset rising input, energy and labour costs. I don't believe there is enough understanding of how important incentives are for small businesses, particularly when it comes to the new regulations surrounding Capital Gains Tax (CGT), and the impact these changes may have on investment confidence and succession planning in family farming businesses.

SADA will continue advocating strongly on behalf of members to ensure the government understands the importance of practical policies that support confidence, investment, succession planning and the long-term sustainability of family dairy farms. We also continue our work alongside the National Farmers' Federation on improving awareness and protections around the Personal Property Securities Act (PPSA), an increasingly important issue following recent processor instability across parts of Australia.

As always, thank you to all our members for your continued support of SADA and the broader dairy industry. Reaching 90 years is a significant achievement, and it gives us confidence that, together, we can continue building a strong and sustainable future for South Australian dairy.

OPENING MILK PRICE

For many dairy farmers the opening milk price will play a critical role in business planning and confidence for the 2026–27 season.

SADA is here to assist farmers with any contract questions or concerns and will be actively monitoring and recording all opening milk price announcements on Monday to ensure members remain informed of the latest developments across processors.

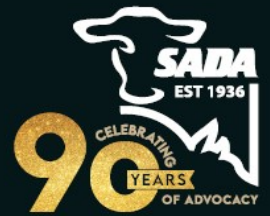
Check out the [Milk Price Transparency Tool](#) on our website - This tool is designed to enhance market transparency by analysing milk price data from processors across Australia. By entering your milk supply curve and selecting your region, you can compare indicative milk prices offered by processors operating in your area.

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Celebrating
90 YEARS
OF SADA

FRIDAY MAY 15
CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS



What a night for a century in the making!



More than 200 members of the South Australian dairy community came together at Morphettville Racecourse to celebrate an incredible milestone — 90 years of the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association.

It was a night filled with pride, history, laughter and reflection as farmers, processors, industry partners,

politicians and supporters gathered to honour nine decades of advocacy, resilience and leadership for South Australian dairy.

A special thank you also to Narelle Zanker, who absolutely aced her first MC role. Narelle helped the evening run seamlessly and professionally, and her passion for the dairy industry shone throughout the night.

We were privileged to welcome Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Frances Adamson, and Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Clare Scriven, who both joined us in recognising the contribution dairy farmers make to regional communities and the broader South Australian economy.



A standout moment of the evening was the outstanding presentation by John Elferink, whose journey through 90 years of South Australian dairying captured the determination, innovation and

community spirit that has shaped our industry across generations.



The evening also provided an opportunity to acknowledge former SADA President David Basham for his longstanding contribution and dedication to the dairy industry.

From the historical displays and memorabilia through to the stories shared across the room, the night was a powerful reminder that while the industry has evolved enormously over the decades, the heart of South Australian dairy remains the same — hardworking people, strong communities and a shared passion for producing world-class dairy products.

Thank you to everyone who attended, supported and helped make the evening such a memorable celebration. A special thank you also to our sponsors, the Southern Fleurieu Historical Society and Mandy Pacitti for helping bring the history of South Australian dairy to life.



Ninety years is a remarkable achievement — and after a night like Friday night, the future of South Australian dairy looks just as strong as its proud past.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

Premium Sponsor

PIRSA — proudly backing SA dairy for 90 years, and leading the way into the future.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

Beverage Sponsor

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

Gold Sponsor

Thank you to DIAA for their generous support and for organising the premium products we'll all enjoy on the night.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

Silver Sponsor

A big thank you to Dairy Australia, whose ongoing support reflects the strength of collaboration and the enduring partnerships that underpin our dairy industry.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF SADA

Thank you
for your continued support
and for helping make
this event possible.

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NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

2026 SA DAIRY AWARDS

SADA is proud to continue as Premier Partner of the South Australian Dairy Awards in 2026.

This prestigious event shines a spotlight on the outstanding contributions of South Australia's dairy farmers and processors – the passionate people behind the high-quality products found in our supermarket delis, cafés, restaurants, and homes. For 20 years, the Dairy Awards have been a key date on the industry calendar, honouring excellence in every facet of dairy production. The 2026 program will continue to showcase our three signature awards. We are also thrilled to again partner with Foodland to present the **Dairy Sustainability Award**, recognising leaders who are delivering nutritious food for a healthier world, in line with the Australian Dairy Sustainability Framework.



SCAN HERE

Let's come together to celebrate the people who make SA dairy great



CLICK HERE TO PLACE YOUR NOMINATION

- Young Farmer of the Year*
- Best Relationship with a Processor*
- Innovative Farmer of the Year*
- Foodland Dairy Sustainability Award*

Save the Date

FRIDAY, 7 AUGUST 2026



From the SADA Desk: What you need to know These are things that have come to our attention over the past month which might be of interest to you. If there is anything that you think we have missed or you would like to see in the newsletter, please email: sada@sada.asn.au



Biosecurity Act 2025

New biosecurity insights for SA

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views on biosecurity through the statewide survey. Your feedback provided valuable insights into awareness, attitudes, and behaviours across South Australia, helping to better understand how biosecurity is seen and practised across industry and the community. [Here is the summary of the results.](#) These findings play an important role in shaping how to prepare for and implement the new *Biosecurity Act 2025*, and in strengthening biosecurity outcomes for our state.



The South Australian Dairyfarmers Association recently appeared before the Federal Joint Standing Committee on Migration to highlight the ongoing workforce challenges facing the **dairy industry** and the importance of **skilled migration** to regional South Australia.

During the hearing, SADA Chief

Executive Officer Andrew Curtis and Executive Officer Alison Amber spoke about the evolution of the dairy industry over the **past 90 years**, noting that while farm numbers have reduced, milk production and the technical demands of modern dairying have significantly increased.

SADA highlighted that today's dairy workforce requires far more than traditional **"farm worker" skills**, with modern dairy operations relying on advanced animal husbandry, technology, robotics, data systems and skilled herd management. The association stressed that **current migration occupation lists** do not accurately reflect the level of skill required in modern dairy farming.

The committee also heard about major **workforce pressures** in regional areas, particularly in the South East, where access to housing is becoming a key barrier to attracting and retaining workers. SADA noted that many employers now need to secure accommodation before they can recruit staff.

SADA reinforced that dairy farming is a **year-round industry** requiring stable, long-term employees rather than short-term seasonal labour. While backpackers can help fill gaps, the industry is increasingly seeking **permanent skilled workers** from countries with strong livestock and animal husbandry backgrounds, including the Philippines and parts of South America and Europe. The hearing also highlighted the importance of dairy to **South Australia's food security**, export markets and regional economies, with SADA calling for migration settings that better support the ongoing growth and sustainability of the industry.



Wednesday, 13 May 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

Canberra cuts curb
Australia's ag policy
capability



Wednesday, 20 May 2026

Australian dairy finds
firmer footing, but
rising input costs and
geopolitical uncertainty
risk momentum



Coles and Brownes pay infringement notice
penalties for alleged Dairy Code breaches



Farmers left
'dumbfounded'
at decision to
overturn South East
fracking ban



The official
voice
of the
Australian
dairy
farmer
FREE to
all dairy
farmers



Rabobank program
helps farmer upskill
for confident
farm decision-making

Business Management Programs
Practical and strategic education for leaders in agriculture



Are you helping to address climate
change in South Australia?

SA Climate Leaders | 2026
AWARDS
An initiative of the Premier's Climate Change Council



Growing Australia:

National Farmers' Federation's
2026-27 Pre-Budget Submission

National
Farmers
Federation

Leading
Australian
Agriculture



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



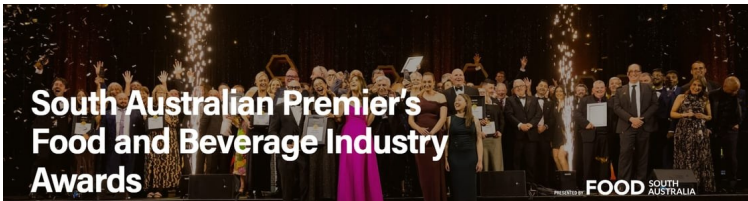
 Dairy Innovation
DairySA Day 2026

The Barn, Mount Gambier

Wednesday 10 June 2026

- Breakfast: 7am - 8:00am
- Conference 8:30am - 4:45pm
- Networking 4:45pm
- Dinner: 6:00pm

Smart Dairy - Leading the way



The South Australian Premier's Food and Beverage Industry Awards are back for 2026 — shining a spotlight on the people, products and businesses driving our state's largest manufacturing industry forward. For over 25 years, the awards have recognised excellence across the entire food value chain evolving to reflect the priorities, progress and future direction of this dynamic industry. Presented by [Food South Australia](#), the state's peak body for the food and beverage industry, the program honours both established food and beverage businesses and emerging brands, showcasing the incredible diversity and quality of what we produce right here in South Australia. Whether you're in the industry, a local food lover, or simply proud of our state's success — this is your chance to discover, support and celebrate the best of SA's food and beverage sector. [Entries are now open.](#) Close Monday 3 July.



Develop a practical farm emissions plan

Westpac funded workshop,
delivered by Dairy Australia

WORKSHOP DETAILS
10am-2pm
Wed 3 June
Mount
Compass
Football
Club

Every farm is different, and so are the opportunities. In this workshop, Dairy Australia will give you the tools to understand your own emissions results and the confidence to take action that supports both productivity and profitability.



SADA Fresh

NOW AVAILABLE AT
FOODLAND
Great Food Lives Here

FROM LOCAL FARMS to you

100% FRESH MILK | LOCAL FARMS YOU CAN TRUST | GOODNESS IN EVERY SIP

EVERY SALE SUPPORTS SA DAIRY FARMERS

Stay Informed. Stay Connected. Become a Valued SADA Member

We've had a few new Members recently, If you've considered becoming a valued member of your industry body, now's the time!

You're not only supporting a strong, united voice for South Australian dairy — you're also gaining access to the most up-to-date and relevant information affecting your business. [JOIN NOW](#)

