

Members Newsletter

September 2025

Vol 67 #3



www.sada.asn.au



From the President

Robert Brokenshire

While the recent rain has been a welcome relief, we know this is only the beginning of managing what has been the most severe statewide drought in 100 years.

During this time, South Australian dairy farmers have been able to access fodder freight subsidies through the State Government, PIRSA and SADA. All eligible Round One applications have now been assessed, with final payments due this week. Round Two reporting and acquittals are almost

complete, and payments are expected to follow within the next fortnight.

This will mark the final subsidy for dairy farmers, as funding has now been fully allocated. The additional \$1 million announced last week will be directed to other regions still experiencing ongoing drought conditions. On behalf of SADA, I thank the State Government, PIRSA and Minister Clare Scriven for their support and recognition of the complex challenges facing our industry.

Looking ahead, the SADA team has been preparing a comprehensive survey to inform our Election Ask. I encourage all members to take five minutes to complete it—your input is critical in helping us build a strong, collaborative paper that represents the voice of dairy in South Australia.

In the background, John has been working through some complex matters with the EPA. This is detailed and important work, and I thank you for your patience as we continue to progress this partnership.

Here's hoping for a good spring ahead for us all.

SADA 2025 Members Survey

It is a privilege to serve as SADA President. With a strong board and staff, we remain focused on supporting farmers, strengthening farm gate profits and securing the future of our processors and industry. Opportunities are ahead, but so too are challenges such as milk supply, flood recovery, input costs, truth in labelling and protecting the right to farm.

Please take a few minutes to [complete our survey](#).

Your feedback will shape SADA's policy and election priorities as we approach 100 years of farmer advocacy in South Australia.



Effluent Management Plans Update

Recently, several dairy farmers have received correspondence from the EPA regarding their effluent management systems. While the circumstances differ from farm to farm, a number of common themes have emerged that are worth noting.

In several cases, systems that were originally approved by the EPA are now being revisited, with new requirements being imposed. This includes calls for six months' storage capacity or system rebuilds that go far beyond what was initially approved.

Some key issues raised include:

- Systems approved by the EPA at the time are now being deemed undersized or inadequate.
- Design features have been incorrectly interpreted as faults, such as subsidence where no structural issue exists.
- Spreading of effluent during the storage period has been flagged as a concern, despite being permissible under the right weather conditions and supported by the effluent design Toolkit.
- Systems designed for year-round application, including during winter, are being challenged despite their suitability for such use.

Overall, the central issue appears to be that the concept of a "storage period" is being treated as absolute, rather than as a flexible guideline intended to ensure responsible effluent management. This approach does not align with the intent of the Toolkit on which these requirements are based.

SADA continues to monitor these developments closely and will advocate on behalf of members to ensure practical, fair, and consistent regulation.

EPA Take a Short Survey
30-Year Strategy
2025 — 2055



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



Animal Welfare Act Update

In 2022, the State Government committed to reviewing the [Animal Welfare Act 1985](#) to ensure the laws governing animal treatment reflect community expectations. Earlier this year, the *Animal Welfare Bill 2025* passed through Parliament and is now the [Animal Welfare Act 2025](#). While the Act has been passed, it has **not yet come into force**—the *Animal Welfare Act 1985* remains the legislation currently applied in day-to-day matters. The new Act requires a fresh set of regulations to support it. Work is well underway on developing these draft regulations. Once they are ready, the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) will run a consultation process to seek industry and community feedback.



National Drought Forum convenes in SA to put policy under scrutiny.

Farming groups want a total review of Australia's drought policies to ensure help is getting to where it is needed and quickly. Government and industry groups will discuss drought policy and supports at the National Drought Forum. Farmers are hoping for a total review of how drought support is being rolled out across the nation, as the country's agricultural leaders gather for a major drought forum. [Full Story](#)



Feral Rabbit Control

Wild rabbits graze on vegetation, crops, and pastures. As part of the State Government's Drought Support Package, Primary Producers across the Hills and Fleurieu may be eligible for targeted rabbit control efforts. PIRSA is leading this project in partnership with regional landscape boards, the National Rabbit Coordinator, and Rabbit Free Australia. [Find out more here](#)



Weather it Together

is a movement by farmers, for farmers. It's a call to action: to stay connected, let go of what we can't control, get active, and, if necessary, seek professional mental

health support. It's about farmers supporting farmers through tough seasons. It's a rallying cry to look after ourselves and each other—because sticking together and talking things through really does lighten the load.

Whatever it is, we'll *weather it together*.

Q fever warning ahead of spring spike.



People who work with or near livestock are being warned of the dangers of Q fever ahead of the spring and summer peak. Q fever is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Coxiella burnetii* and is transmitted to humans from indirect or direct contact with animals, predominantly in regional areas.

There have been 18 cases of Q fever reported to SA Health this year to date. There were 23 cases reported in 2024, and



21 cases in 2023.

Farmers to get \$10,000 'electronic nose' to preg-test cows in 10 sec.

The Agscent invention uses nano-sensor technology to detect pregnancy and diseases in cattle and can be used as a farm management tool to improve the health of animals by preg-testing in a less invasive way.

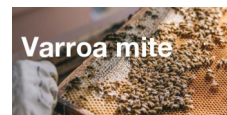


Intermediate Remediation of the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Area

(LMRIA) Levees

In this issue - Intermediate remediation works update. - Register for the next levee stakeholder workshop.

- \$73 million to support drought-affected farmers.
- River to Recovery: stopping flow of post-flood pests
- Government levees temporarily closed to public.



Notice to the Pollination

Industry

South Australia saw its first confirmed detection of Varroa mite in a hive at Pooginook in the Riverland region. The affected hive is part of a consignment of hives brought into the state from Queensland to support the critical almond pollination season.

PIRSA will be providing free support services, including access to Varroa Development Officers, education and training sessions, and practical tools such as acaricides and sticky mats.



A Big Thank You to Our Partners

Every year, we're proud to provide a BBQ for the Junior Handlers at the Show. This wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our fantastic partners:

Foodland

for the meat and fresh salads

Fleurieu Milk Company

for the much-loved choccy milk

Golden North

for the iconic ice creams

La Casa

for the Mozzarella Cheese Sticks.

Moo Premium Foods

for the yummy Yoghurt.

CMI Toyota

for the BBQ trailer.

Your contributions make the day special for our young dairy champions.

Thank you for helping us celebrate the next generation of the dairy industry!



A big thank you to everyone who supported Do Dairy at this year's Royal Adelaide Show!

Our collaboration with the Show Society on the Cheese Bag Stand in the Dairy Food Hall was a real success, with strong engagement from the public and fantastic visibility for our campaign and our industry.



Pestivirus Workshop Join leading veterinary experts [Prof Michael McGowan](#) and [Dr Enoch Bergman](#) for a rare deep dive into pestivirus - one of Australia's most widespread and costly cattle diseases. Learn practical strategies to reduce the risk of costly infections and prevent reproductive losses.

22 October 2025 | 9.30am -3.30pm
Springton Hall, 20-26 Miller St, Springton SA
FREE with lunch provided.



National Agritourism Forum – Adelaide Hills, 14 October 2025

Designed for farmers already engaged in agritourism or those looking to diversify into tourism, this conference will provide practical strategies and industry insights to help you grow and succeed in this evolving sector.



Applications open for the 2026

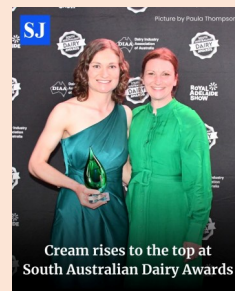
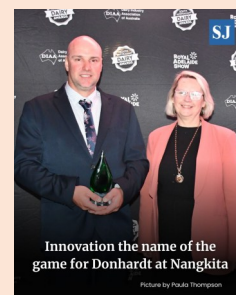
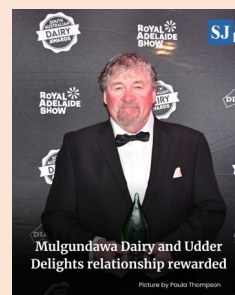
AgriFutures Rural Women's Award

Women with bold ideas and a drive to create positive change in rural and regional Australia are invited to apply for the 2026 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award. Applications close on Friday, 7 November 2025, and Friday. Now in its 25th year, the Award is Australia's leading platform for recognising and supporting the leadership of women across rural, regional and remote businesses, industries and communities. It champions those who are already making an impact and supports them to take their vision even further.

Celebrating SA Dairy Excellence

The South Australian Dairy Awards once again highlighted the strength, innovation and dedication within our industry. From sustainability to innovation, business leadership and high-quality milk production, this year's winners showcase the very best of SA dairy.

It's fantastic to see our farmers, processors and service providers recognised for their hard work and commitment. Congratulations to all the award recipients – your achievements make our industry stronger and inspires us all.



Dairy Adventures Mannum

- Are beyond excited to share some BIG news... Dairy Adventures has officially been named a Finalist in the 2025 South Australian Tourism Awards!

You can help by voting in the People's Choice Award Every vote counts, and they'd love your support!

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

[registration form](#)

WORKFORCE / EMPLOYMENT / CAREERS UPDATE



Rabobank Spring Up- date

Through August, dairy commodity prices mostly drifted lower, according to

USDA price data. The velocity in milk supply growth across most of the key dairy export regions has shifted and outperformed RaboResearch's previous expectations. The Oceania spring flush is fast approaching. October will be the peak volume month for both countries. Australia's 2024/25 milk production reached 8.315bn litres. Looking forward, the global dairy market looks set to be adequately supplied. [Read more here](#)

Positive Outcome on DILA Re-structure Issue

Home Affairs has confirmed a flexible approach to Dairy Industry Labour Agreement (DILA) cases where businesses restructure and change ABN. Employers must re-nominate staff, but existing visa holders will not need new visas, and permanent residency eligibility will not be reset if employees remain in the same role. This decision provides much-needed clarity for dairy businesses.

[\[Read more here\]](#)

Pacific Engagement visa

Have you considered employing a Pacific Engagement Visa (PEV) applicant to fill vacancies in your workplace?

The PEV allows citizens of Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste to live and work in Australia permanently. Applicants successful in a PEV ballot in the Pacific Engagement stream can apply for one of the 3,000 visa places available annually (these places include primary visa holders and eligible family members). [\[Read more here\]](#)

Federal Court Rules Against Coles and Woolworths on Underpayments

The Federal Court has ruled that Coles and Woolworths systematically underpaid staff by relying on "set-off" clauses in salary contracts. The decision confirms award entitlements must be met in every pay period, not averaged over time — with implications for all employers using annualised salary arrangements. [\[Read more here\]](#)

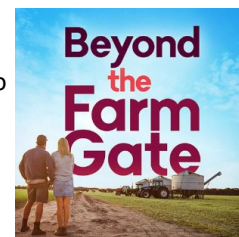
Career Pathways for Agricultural Trades

A draft job classification model has been developed from consultation and research. It aims to provide industry with a tool to promote careers by aligning existing frameworks around transparent criteria, primarily the [Australian Qualifications Framework \(AQF\)](#) and [Occupation Standard Classification for Australia \(OSCA\)](#) descriptors. Feedback on the model proposed [here via](#) the embedded feedback form which is quick and easy to complete

Bendigo Bank Agribusiness

The value of Australian agricultural exports surged \$5 billion (+7 per cent) to \$77.2 billion in 2024/25, the second highest export year on record as livestock sector exports lifted to all-time highs. While cattle industry exports grew significantly, South Australia recorded the largest decline of all states with a \$982.4 million (-11.4 per cent) fall in agricultural export value to \$7.6 billion as drought took its toll on production.

[Read More Here](#)



Join our educational webinar
Am I eligible for a RIC loan?

Understand eligibility criteria before applying and what you need to know before you submit an application for a RIC low-interest loan.

Wednesday 29 October 2025
12 noon AEDT

ric.gov.au/events



RIC loans available to help improve cash flow in tough financial times

RIC (Regional Investment Corporation) is the Australian Government farm business lender providing low-interest loans to farmers in South Australia and nationally.

RIC loans are for good farmers in tough financial times due to circumstances outside their control to prepare for, manage through and recover from drought or other events. The loans can be used to restructure existing debt to reduce loan repayments and improve cash flow to get back on their feet, or new debt for capital expenditure. Loans are available for up to \$2 million with the first five

years interest only, followed by principal and interest repayments for the remainder of the 10-year loan term.

At least 50 per cent of a farmer's total debt must stay with their commercial lender.

In the seven years since RIC began, loans valued at over \$208 million have been settled for dairy farmers nationally, as at 31 August 2025.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about RIC loans, we are hosting a free online webinar on Wednesday 29 October at 12pm (AEDT).

[Visit the website to register.](#)

SNAPSHOTS in DAIRY



Tuesday, 9 September 2025

MEDIA RELEASE

Dairy says it's time
to act at Drought Forum

10 Sept: Victoria should take a leaf out of SA's
drought response book | by Andrew Miller FARMONLINE



Air Fried Mozzarella Sticks

These air fried mozzarella sticks deliver big on golden crunch and cheesy stretch! Crispy on the outside, deliciously stretchy and gooey on the inside...

News Bites

Agricultural
Biotechnology
Council of
Australia



DOWNLOAD
THE APP AND GET

**CASH
BACK**

**GREAT
REWARDS**
by **FOODLAND**



Virtual fencing
regulations in
South Australia



[WATCH the webinar here](#)



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.