Dear All,
This fortnight's edition is below.

Need help in assessing your farm business options?

Taking Stock is a free 1:1 business assessment and support service using a consultant to assist in the collection and analysis of current financial and physical data with the aim of clarifying future farm business options. This is available to all levy paying farmers, regardless of who they supply. Call Murray Dairy on (03)5833 5312 or click here to find out more. This program is supported by the Australian Government and Gardiner Foundation.

Focus Farm Open Day- Whorouly

John and Elise Pethybridge, the newest Murray Dairy focus farmers, will host an open day on Wed 7 December. Join us, along with Phil Shannon from Shannon Farm Consulting to learn more about the aims of what the Pethybridge family are keen to achieve and to learn their journey so far. For more information click here.

YDN to be bowled over by Merv Hughes

Come along to unwind and finish off the year with a great social night out with other young people working in dairy, from across the entire Murray Dairy region. This night is a great opportunity to meet new people and catch up with friends before Christmas. The guest speaker for the evening will be Merv Hughes who will be sharing stories from his cricketing career. Click here for details.

Save the Date - Safety on Farm Open Day

If you would like the opportunity to learn about the latest developments in dairy farm safety, save the date for Murray Dairy's Safety on Farm Day in Tatura on Thursday 15 December. The open day will update you on what is available to make your farm safer for your family, your employees and yourself. Click here.

Do you employ staff on your dairy farm? This workshop is for you!

It doesn’t matter if you are already employing staff, looking to employ someone or expanding your business – this workshop is opportunity to learn about the latest developments in the key areas of employment and staff management to ensure your dairy farm business is compliant. Cameron Smith from Farmanco will be running these sessions for farmers in Merrigum and Gunbower. Click here for details.

Occasional Counsellor Workshops
These workshops, facilitated by a psychologist, provide participants who are not employed in a counselling role, with a kit full of tools to assist in times when they are called upon to give others emotional support.

Workshop 1: Rochester, Wednesday 7 December  
Workshop 2: Cobram, Friday 9 December

For more information click [here](http://go.pardot.com/webmail/99032/109865402/7f668548908236f0e7ed558559fd172486e0a91e55deb9ab97ac773238f602a[29/11/2016 9:33:38 AM]).

**Accelerating Change Agronomy Network**

Accelerating Change has formed an agronomy network to work more closely with agronomists and other commercial service providers to support farmers in gaining feedbase efficiencies. For the full write up of the first workshop including tips and resources click [here](http://go.pardot.com/webmail/99032/109865402/7f668548908236f0e7ed558559fd172486e0a91e55deb9ab97ac773238f602a[29/11/2016 9:33:38 AM]).

The next workshop will be held in Echuca on Friday 9 December. Workshop 2 will focus on local research to drive irrigation and feedbase efficiencies brought directly to you. Please click [here](http://go.pardot.com/webmail/99032/109865402/7f668548908236f0e7ed558559fd172486e0a91e55deb9ab97ac773238f602a[29/11/2016 9:33:38 AM]) to see the workshop flyer. To RSVP contact Amy Fay, ph: 0400 911 286 email: amyf@murraydairy.com.au

**Accelerating Change Monitoring and Measurement Update**

Monitoring and Measurement will continue on our Partner Farms in 2016-17. This season, the assessment of different forage types will continue, with sorghum being added to the mix. We will also look at the performance of lucerne at different ages. To complement ongoing monitoring of irrigation practices, we will be expanding our look at the use of different moisture monitoring technologies to assist irrigation scheduling. Click [here](http://go.pardot.com/webmail/99032/109865402/7f668548908236f0e7ed558559fd172486e0a91e55deb9ab97ac773238f602a[29/11/2016 9:33:38 AM]) for further details.

**International Dairy Week 15 –19 January 2017**

IDW is fast approaching. Murray Dairy will be delivering productivity sessions on feedbase and animal health throughout the week. Drop by our stand during the week or call Murray Dairy for more information on (03) 5833 5312.

**All Breeds Dairy Youth Camp : IDW 2017-Tatura**

This 5 day camp (3 to 7 January, 2017) aims to support young people, aged between 16 and 20, as they develop their skills, plus foster a passion for the dairy industry. Click [here](http://go.pardot.com/webmail/99032/109865402/7f668548908236f0e7ed558559fd172486e0a91e55deb9ab97ac773238f602a[29/11/2016 9:33:38 AM]) for a copy of the event flyer.

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**Dairy Support - Financial, health and community assistance**

**Dairy Farmer Central**

Dairy Farmer Central is a website designed to be a central source of information on programs, initiatives and events for dairy farmers and their communities. For more information click [here](http://go.pardot.com/webmail/99032/109865402/7f668548908236f0e7ed558559fd172486e0a91e55deb9ab97ac773238f602a[29/11/2016 9:33:38 AM])

**Rural Financial Counselling Service.**  
*Free, independent and confidential assistance.*

North East Victoria (Goulburn Valley Region): 1300 834 775  
North West Victoria: 1300 769 489  
Southern NSW: (02) 6452 5820

Rural Financial Counsellors can help you with:  
- Farm Household Allowance Applications  
- Dairy & Drought Concessional Loans
Dairy Development Grants
- Assessing and understanding your financial position, identify options and develop an action plan to move forward.
- To find out more visit www.rfcsvicne.org.au or call one of the above phone numbers

Farm Household Allowance.
To apply for the Farm Household Allowance contact the Rural Financial Counselling Service, numbers are listed above.
To find out how your FHA application is going call the Farmer Assistance Hotline on 132 316 (8am- 8pm).

Grants to assist on-farm improvements
The Victorian Government is seeking applications for its Dairy Development Grants program, this aims to assist dairy farm businesses to improve productivity, competitiveness and resilience to market downturns. The grant offers $5000 per dairy farm applicant to implement on-farm infrastructure improvements that assist business rebuilding, restructure and production efficiencies. Grants are open until June 30, 2017 or until the Dairy Development Grant program funds are fully allocated, whichever occurs first. Contact Rural Finance 1800 260 425 or industryprograms@ruralfinance.com.au or click here for more details.

Community Events
A number of events and opportunities are on around our region. Please refer to the Murray Dairy website and calendar for more information.

Stanhope's Legendairy status goes down on film
Dairy Australia has celebrated the 2015 LEGENDAIRY Capital, the town of Stanhope in the Murray Dairy region, with the production of a documentary showcasing the dairy farmers and regional communities who participated in the program. To view this documentary, click here.

Murray Dairy Mo-tivated in Mo-vember
Movember Foundation is all about supporting men's health, in particular by funding ground-breaking programs that reach men wherever they are. The Murray Dairy Team are keen to shine a light on the work being done and will host a barefoot lawn bowls evening on Wednesday 30 November at the Hill Top Golf & Bowls Club in Tatura. Click here for more information.

Pasture and Crop Water Requirements
Feeling a bit confused about when it's best to irrigate? To access a summary of pasture and crop water requirements for the past week and the upcoming week, subscribe to the informative Weekly Irrigation Requirements Summary. The email provides irrigation scheduling information similar to that on the inside cover of the Country News, but for more locations. Email Mr Rob O'Connor, AgVic at robert.oconnor@ecodev.vic.gov.au to subscribe or for more information.

Upcoming public holidays 2016/17
As Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year, some states have declared an additional day as a public holiday. Click here for key information regarding this, including:

- public holidays for your state,
- entitlements for working (and not working) on a public holiday,
- can you require employees to work on a public holiday?

A chance to share your insights for the future of farming
The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) is undertaking research about ‘21st Century Farmers’ in partnership with Rural Bank and Rural Finance and invite you to take part in our inaugural survey into the practices of our nation’s farm businesses. To start the survey click here or for further information please visit web page by clicking here.

The 2016 Regional Wellbeing Survey is now open

The Regional Wellbeing Survey’s mission is to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of people living in rural and regional Australia. Taking part lets you have your say on issues that affect your wellbeing and the liveability of your community. Do the survey online at www.regionalwellbeing.org.au or call 1800 981 499 if you’d like a paper survey posted to you or for help with the survey.

The Very Fast Break Newsletter

Seasonal climate and risk information for Victorian cropping regions. The newest edition now available here.

Updated Seasonal forecast, BOM

BOM is regularly updated and the newest seasonal forecasts are now available. Click here

Events, Courses and Training

Please see the Murray Dairy Events calendar for all dairy related events, training and courses happening throughout the region. Click here

With best regards from the Murray Dairy team.

Jenny Wilson
Chief Executive Officer
Murray Dairy

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