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TACTICS FOR TIGHT TIMES TO HELP WESTERN VICTORIAN DAIRY FARMERS

Western Victorian dairy farmers battling lower milk prices and higher input costs will be given a helping hand at a series of workshops early next month.

WestVic Dairy will host the Tactics for Tight Times workshops in Colac, Timboon, Macarthur and Warrnambool on October 3 and 4.

Dairy Australia has developed the Tactics for Tight Times campaign as a levy-funded initiative to support dairy farmers through the milk price downturn.

The workshops will be at Colac Bowls Club in Gravesend Street 11am-2pm on Wednesday October 3, Timboon Football Clubrooms 7.30-10pm on October 3, Macarthur Elderly Citizens Clubrooms 11am-2pm on October 4 and Warrnambool City Memorial Bowls Club from 7.30-10pm on October 4.

WestVic Dairy Acting Executive Officer Jocelyn Bevin said the workshops would help farmers to better understand their current business position and cash flow options, and to develop management plans for reduced income and increased costs.

“It will help them to make the best decisions around input use and maximising home-grown feed opportunities; and to find out about the support that is available,” Ms Bevin said.

Tasmanian farm consultant Basil Doonan will be keynote speaker. Mr Doonan has had nearly 20 years of experience in farm business management, training, consultancy and specialises in pasture based grazing systems and its management. He has also developed successful business strategies to suit individual farm requirements.

The workshops will also be supported by local farm consultants, rural financial counsellors and financial advisors.

Ms Bevin said the workshops would provide dairy farmers an opportunity to discuss their management tactics with fellow farmers and prompt a sense of confidence and control in a difficult operating environment.

“We are seeing dairy farmers under pressure with cash flow and profitability so this campaign will focus on financial management and on-farm management decisions to get them through the tough times,” she said.

“Farmers need to explore external help to find out what the current environment means for their business and where they can make changes and cut costs to have the best impact.”

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The workshops are the first stage of an ongoing campaign across Western Victoria to assist local farmers. Future events will include on-farm workshops highlighting profitable feeding drivers, feedbase strategies and decision making, and sessions to help farmers develop plans.

Dairy Australia's Tactics for Tight Times is being co-ordinated by its Regional Development Programs, including WestVic Dairy, and developed in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries.

To register or for more information please contact WestVic Dairy (03) 55922477 or email info@westvicdairy.com.au.