

Your Levy at Work

MEDIA RELEASE

PROGRAM TO DEVELOP NEW DAIRY LEADERS

Future leaders from the dairy industry will get a helping hand in a new program offered by WestVic Dairy.

The free LeadIn program starts at Allansford on April 26 and is open to both dairy farmers and service providers.

LeadIn has been developed by the National Centre for Dairy Education Australia in association with WestVic Dairy.

LeadIn trainer with the NCDEA, Rebecca Huth, said leadership roles in the community could be challenging and people would benefit from gaining new skills.

The focus of LeadIn is on introductory leadership skills and covers topics such as developing effective teams, developing good working relationships, organising agendas and meetings, making presentations, managing conflict, and effective communication skills.

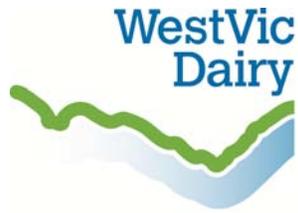
Ms Huth said participants did not necessarily have to aspire to leadership roles in dairy groups. "We aim to support people who are connected to the dairy industry but it is suitable for anyone looking to become involved in the community or to take on leadership roles," she said.

"That could mean a role in a dairy organisation or it could be your local kindergarten. People often take on leadership roles without experience. This program will give them the skills they need for a positive start."

Eleven people took part in a successful pilot program last year.

"The participants found it beneficial not only in learning leadership skills but in networking," Ms Huth said. "It is very interactive and hands-on."

Project manager with WestVic Dairy, Liza Fahey, said participants in the pilot had gone on to Dairy Australia's Developing Dairy Leaders program and the Great South Coast leadership program.



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“This program is the first stage in becoming a good leader at a local and regional level,” Ms Fahey said.

“The Australian dairy industry currently faces many challenges and the future poses complex issues such as climate change. The dairy industry must garner strong leadership to deal with these,” she said.

“The Great South Coast region of Victoria has one of the largest dairy sectors in Australia and therefore it is appropriate that the region fosters the development of the Australian dairy industry’s leaders.”

Participants will be sponsored by Dairy Australia and WestVic Dairy and will not have to pay.

The three-day program starts on April 26 at the Allansford Hotel and continues for the next two Fridays.

People of all ages can apply.

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