

# DAIRYNEWS

WestVic Dairy Newsletter

June 2015

## Welcome to our very first in-house newsletter!

WestVic Dairy News lift-out has been a long-standing publication produced through Warrnambool Standard's 'On the Land'. With the restructure at The Standard, the lift-out in its former layout is no longer available.

As a result we will be moving to a new version of DairyNews delivered directly to you via milk processors or via email. If you would like to receive DairyNews direct to your inbox see details on page 8.

This newsletter is about you, and celebrating the industry in the western Victoria. Similarly, this will continue to provide you with up-to-date course information, workshop dates, latest news and opportunities available within the region.

In this edition we celebrate the Great South West Dairy Award winners, recap on Maths & Science @ Work and TAP's science excursion, offer an opportunity to register for Dairy Australia's new online App DairyBase and look at What's on for the month of June.

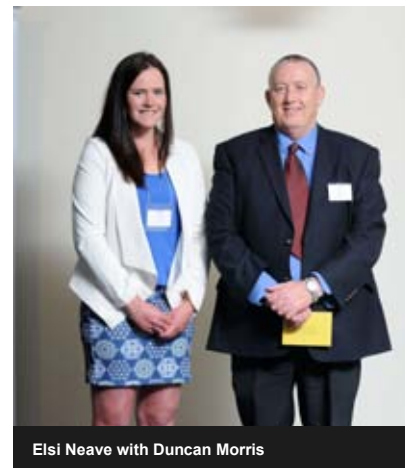


'The StickyBeaks' by Terry Kavenagh - Winner of the Dairy Farm Photo Award

## "In this issue"

- Great South West Dairy Award winners
- Profit Prophet
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- Maths & Science @ Work
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- DairySa Innovation day

## Dairy Awards



## Larpen Farmers crowned 'Farmer of the Year'

Mark and Sam Billings were named the Legendairy Farmers of the year at the Great South West Dairy Awards.

The Larpen farmers were chosen from the winners in each section as the outstanding achievers amongst their peers, in what proved a tough competition for the dairy industry's vital western district.

The announcement was made at a gala celebration in Colac on Friday 29 May, where judges said the quality of this year's nominees and finalists was outstanding. WestVic Dairy Executive Officer Paula Doran congratulated all winners of the Awards and commended their dedication to the industry.

"The quality of this year's entries was not only exceptionally high, but a true reflection of the dedication and passion of the entire western Victorian region. What an incredible group of leaders we had on stage!"

Ms Doran said that the calibre of entrants was so high that it made it very difficult for the judges.

"All the judges commented on how close the applicants were and how hard it was to pick a winner! Their jobs would have been incredibly difficult this year."

"I think this shows how committed local dairy farmers are to improving the dairy industry."

"It makes you very proud to be a part of an industry that exudes such passion, depth of skill, and commitment. Being able to share in a night that celebrates the industry and those who work within it to make it as successful as it is, is just an honour," Ms Doran said.



## Dairy Award Winners

A huge congratulations to all of the 2015 Great South West Dairy Award winners and runners up.

- **Legendairy Farmers of the year** won by Mark and Sam Billing
- **Dairy Australia Farm Business Managers**, won by Mark and Sam Billing
- **Gardiner Foundation Employers of the Year**, won by Mark and Sam Billing.
- **Employee of the Year** sponsored by Devondale Murray Goulburn, won by Elsi Neave.
- **Glenelg Hopkins and Corangamite Catchment Management Authorities' Natural Resource and Sustainability Manager Award**, won by Daniel Croft.
- **Young Farm Leader** sponsored by Moyne Shire, won by Michael Hawker.
- **Dairy Farm Photo**, won by Terry Kavenagh with his photo titled 'The StickyBeaks'.



Finalists: Simon Scott, Linda Knight with Dairy Australia's Managing Director Ian Halliday



Simon Scott, John Kane and Mike Waite



Councillor Frank Buchanan, Jeff Lawes, Alice Knight and Brett Ryan



Cath Jenkins with Bruce and Andrea Vallance

## Sponsors Thank you

A very big thank you to the following sponsors, who supported the 2015 Awards.

Dairy Australia;  
Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation;  
Murray Goulburn Co-operative Ltd;  
Greencon Australia Pty Ltd; Moyne Shire; Glenelg Hopkins and Corangamite CMAs; Warrnambool Cheese and Butter; Coffey Hunt; ANZ; Rural Consulting Group; CBA and Otway Estate.

# PROFIT PROPHET

## Tips from Profit Prophet for June

It is important to make sure that the cows aren't over-grazing. There needs to be two inches of leaf residual when they come out. This will enable the plant to re-grow quickly. At this time of year the residual is more important than the height at grazing. To achieve this you may need to feed an extra kg or two of hay, silage or grain, or move the cows out of the paddock earlier in the afternoon to prevent over-grazing. If you consider the leaf appearance rate at the moment, you would need a pasture rotation of 35-45 days to have three leaves available.

You should be considering a fertiliser blend (particularly if you haven't applied one yet) soon to carry the pastures through the depths of winter when it is too wet to get spreaders onto paddocks. This year it is possibly even more important to maximise winter growth to ensure good cover coming into spring. This way if the rain finishes early (similar to last year) you still have feed available to graze and cut. Remember that aerial fertiliser applications through the winter can still be cost effective and definitely can be the best longer-term option (as opposed to not putting anything out). Get your advisor to help with calculating return on investment if you need to.

Now is a great time to off-load passenger cows whilst chopper prices are good. These could be lower producing and/or empty cows that are eating purchased feed but not contributing their share to the milk vat. You could then use the money either to buy in fresh cows or heifers (coming into spring), or to pay for fertiliser or additional hay or grain to get through the winter. Most herds could drop out 10 percent of the cows and the vat wouldn't drop. If this is the case and you can reduce the purchased feed cost per day, it is a sound economic decision.

If you haven't already spoken to your accountant it might be a good idea now before the end of the financial year. If the business has made a profit and you have some available cash at the moment, you could consider pre-purchasing items that are required in the first half of the next financial year. These might include grain, hay, fertiliser and semen.

*An initiative of the Profitable Feeding Systems project through WestVicDairy and funded by the DairyAustralia farmer levy.*



Testing soil



Learning about artificial insemination



Students making ice cream

## Maths & Science @ Work

Dairy careers involving practical uses for maths and science were showcased at WestVic Dairy's 'Maths & Science @ Work' expo, held at Camperdown College last month. This was the final year of the project funded by Schools Connect.

The interactive expo was centred on showcasing over 20 occupations that have a basis of maths and science within the dairy industry.

Approximately 150 students took part from Camperdown College, Timboon P-12 School and Colac Secondary College. The Expo had 28 presenters over 26 different sites, ranging from primary producers, service providers (including agronomy, environmental management, soil science, electrical, spray and fencing contractors, nutritionist, vet, research scientist, dairy construction, dairy technology and finance) and processors (plant hygiene procedures, logistics, cheese grading and ice-cream making).

Practical experiences will be taken back to the classroom to demonstrate the value of studying maths and science that can be applied to a range of careers in the dairy industry and beyond.



## DairyBase launched

Dairy farmers will be able to measure business performance and make anonymous comparisons with other farm businesses, following the launch of an online app called DairyBase.

The online app, which was launched in May, will allow farmers to learn new insights en route to making their farm more profitable.

Dairy Australia will hold a series of webinars aimed at educating potential users on the best ways to use the application – and those interested are encouraged to

visit <http://www.dairybase.com.au> to look for future webinar dates.

## Choose Your Index, Use Your Index, June 25, 2015

Making the best breeding decisions for your herd has the potential to substantially lift on-farm profitability. In this webinar ADHIS Extension and Education manager Michelle Axford will outline what the new indices are, what they mean for breeding cows in Australia, and how you can choose, then use, the index best suited to your herd.

To register visit:

<http://www2.redbackconferencing.com.au/ADHIS-Dairy-Australia-25th-June>

## Ballarat discussion group meet with NSW touring dairy farmers

A group of 30 dairy farmers from the mid NSW coast recently toured south west Victoria and visited farms in the Colac, Warrnambool, Terang and Ballarat regions.

The NSW farmers spent a day in the Ballarat district and visited Lynette and Lance Greenwood's property at Learmonth to discuss pasture/lucerne management, the use of rubberised matting in the milking yard and to view milking in the 44 head rotary dairy.

The NSW farmers also visited the Wrightson Seeds Ballarat Research Farm to view latest trials and research.

Ballarat Discussion Group, the NSW farmers and Wrightson Seeds staff also met for dinner where there was extensive discussion about the similarities and differences in operating dairy businesses in the Ballarat and mid NSW coast regions.



Discussion group in the dairy

**DAIRY INSPIRE**

**BE CHALLENGED, LEARN, ENJOY:**  
Thought provoking industry leaders at Dairy Inspire  
Expert feed updates at The Profitable Feed Expo  
Workshops for young people to make them grow at Milk-it-for-More  
Dairy's big day out – chockfull of inspiration, ideas, expertise and drive!  
CAMPERDOWN, 2 SEPTEMBER 2015.

GARDINER FOUNDATION  
WestVic Dairy  
Dairy Australia

## DairySA Innovation Day 2015

“Powering Up Your Herd”, Dairy SA’s annual Innovation Day was held at the Barn Palais, Mount Gambier on 20 May, 2015. Conference delegates were treated to an expose of new technology and research around genomics, herd testing, on-farm innovation, herd management, dairy careers and a family farm perspective direct from the USA, delivered by a line-up of internationally renowned speakers and dairy industry leaders.

Six Young Dairy Development Program (YDDP) members from the south west attended the event that brought together international and Australia’s foremost dairy industry experts, thinkers and innovators, to encourage farmers to think outside the square.

Guest speaker Brian Houin from Homestead Dairy in Indiana, USA spoke of the development of his family’s commercial dairy and the expansion to 3800 Holsteins currently milked on three sites. He described incorporating management and technologies to improve overall efficiencies and advancement of the dairy’s success.

Dr Richard Rawnsley from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture took participants on a journey into the possible, the practical and the potential for dairy farming in Australia in the next ten to twenty years.

Dairy Australia’s Dr Matthew Shaffer discussed commercial applications and the role of the national herd improvement taskforce. He outlined the benefits, access and on-farm usage of the national database as well as industry herd improvement strategies and the forecast for genomics.

The DairySA Innovation Day finished on a high note with guest speaker Jed Boshier and an excellent dinner. Eighty farmers and service providers enjoyed Jed’s stories around his work with the Chinese dairy industry and insights into this dairy sector. The YDDP representatives were grateful to both the Young Dairy Network Australia (YDNA) and WestVic Dairy for their support to attend the conference and the opportunities to further both their personal development and add value to their farm businesses.

## Year 3/4 TAP into farm science

A group of grade three and four students visited Le-nehana’s dairy farm and the Martin’s beef farm on June 4 as part of the Timboon Agriculture Project’s “TAP into Farm Science” unit.

The students worked with the farmers and with service providers from Camperdown Compost, Warrnambool Vet Group and Daviesway Dairy Equipment to gain a greater insight into the skills required and practical application of science on operating farms.

Topics covered dairy equipment, water recycling, animal health, effluent recycling, soil health, cow feed and farm layout. A huge thank you to the farmers and service providers for facilitating the excursion. The practical experiences of the day



Dr Jennie Pryce, and Brian Houin, discuss his homestead Dairy in Indiana USA.



Students investigating hay and grain



## YDDP to YDNA transition

The WestVic Dairy Board has supported the move to join the national young farmer network – the Young Dairy Network Australia (YDNA).

The agenda item was taken to the May Board meeting following ongoing discussions with members and stakeholders.

The Board moved that as of June 30 when the current YDDP funding ends, the YDNA structure will be adopted.

This marks an exciting new chapter for our young farmers and for WestVic Dairy.

Part of the new structure will include the formation of a network steering group similar to those already operating in other networks around the country. We will be calling on the chairs of our current Local Area Committees to be part of this steering committee. It will also include senior members of the WestVic Dairy team and Board so that we can work together more closely into the future.

Through the review process, there has been collective agreement that there is significant benefit that comes with becoming part of the national network, including less restrictions through sponsorship and greater opportunities to capitalise on the connection to all the other YDNA's in the country.

If you would like anymore information please contact Paula Doran, Executive Officer, WestVic Dairy on (03)55571000

# Turmeric and Yogurt Roasted Chicken, Cauliflower and Eggplant

Serves 4 Serves



## Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon whole cumin seeds
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 2 teaspoons turmeric
- 1/2 cup natural yogurt
- 4 x 150g chicken breast fillets
- chilli flakes, optional
- 1/2 cauliflower, cut into small florets
- 1 medium eggplant, cut into small cubes
- 1/2 red onion, cut into thin wedges
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 cup natural yogurt, extra
- 1/4 cup pistachio nuts, toasted
- 2 teaspoons sesame seeds, toasted
- fresh coriander, to serve

## Method

1. Combine spices and divide mix in half. Combine half of the mix with yogurt and use to coat chicken breasts. Place chicken in a single layer on a large lined baking tray.
2. Combine the cauliflower, eggplant and onion in a bowl with oil, salt and remaining spices until well coated. Arrange on the baking tray around the chicken.
3. Bake at 200C for 20-25 minutes or until chicken is cooked through and vegetables are browned and tender. Transfer to a serving plate and serve drizzled with extra yogurt, pistachio nuts, sesame seeds and fresh coriander.



Timboon Agriculture Project's "TAP into Farm Science" excursion



## Contact Us

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Or - email

media@westvicdairy.com.au to be added to the list.

## What's on June 2015

### June 15, 22

**EVENT:** Rear Newborn & Young Livestock (Certificate III in Agriculture (Dairy Production))  
**TIME:** 9am – 3pm  
**WHERE:** Terang  
**CONTACT:** Michelle Easterbrook, (03) 5592 2437 or 0407 552 011

### June 16

**EVENT:** Cows Create Careers presentation and awards ceremony students and teachers of schools involved  
**TIME:** 10.30am – 1:30pm  
**WHERE:** Cobden Golf Course, Cobden  
**CONTACT:** Deanne Kennedy, Jaydee Events, (03) 5659 4219

### June 17

**EVENT:** Dairy Futures CRC farmer tour  
**TIME:** Day event bus departs 6:30am Warrnambool, 7:10am Terang, 7:30am Camperdown, 8:10am Colac  
**WHERE:** Dairy Futures CRC Melbourne  
**CONTACT:** Amanda Heard (03) 5557 1000

### June 24, 25, July 22 and 23

**EVENT:** Four day dairy cow nutrition course for service providers  
**TIME:** 8:45am to 4:30pm  
**WHERE:** DemoDairy, 7161 Princes Highway, Terang  
**CONTACT:** Dr Maria Rose at the DEDTJR on 03 5147 0843 or 0438 282 205 or email Maria at [maria.rose@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:maria.rose@ecodev.vic.gov.au)

### June 25

**EVENT:** ADHIS farmer webinar: Choose Your Index, Use Your Index  
**TIME:** 12pm - 1pm  
**WHERE:** Online webinar  
**To register:** <http://www2.redbackconferencin.g.com.au/ADHIS-Dairy-Australia-25th-June>

### June 30

**EVENT:** Feeding Pastures for Profit Feeding Innovation Dinner. Guest speakers: Noel Cogan and Kevin Smith (Dairy CRC Futures)  
**TIME:** 7.30pm  
**WHERE:** City Bowls Club, Warrnambool  
**CONTACT:** Pat Bloye Dairy Extension Officer, DEDJTR (03) 5561 9911 or 0437 761 256  
[patrick.bloye@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:patrick.bloye@ecodev.vic.gov.au)



Australia's dairy farming communities are proud, resilient and innovative. In short, they're LEGENDAIRY.

That's why western Victoria has received numerous nominations calling for their towns to be crowned as the LEGENDAIRY capital!

WestVic Dairy would like to wish the following towns good luck: Timboon, Cororooke, Peterborough, Panmure, Kirkstall, Allansford, Kolora, Simpson, Dunnstown, Heywood, Cobden, Port Fairy and Corunnun.