

# THE MILK FLOW

OCTOBER 2020

## Message from the board

The Dairy NSW Board knows that dairy farming should be less about systems, cows or environment, and more about you, our farmers! Your attitude, skills and involvement are important to us. We are your team, and our aim is to make dairy farming in NSW a truly positive, prosperous, and rewarding experience. We embrace diversity and focus on continuous improvement. We invite you to join us, become active and engaged in our community.

Refining our delivery—We know that Dairy NSW is a diverse dairying region, including distance, experience, farms, and operating systems.

Arguably, NSW has some of the best dairy farmers in the world! We know that our farmers can do anything as long as they have the tools, experience and support to do so.

In the past, we have offered a wide variety of engagement activities for farmers to choose from, but as budgets tighten, we must choose which programs and research projects to support. For this reason, we have actively sought and invited partners to join us over the past couple of years, ensuring that we jointly provide service to as many farmers as possible. This year we have supported a joint funding application to enhance farmer capability, support farm business skills and develop specific farm business planning.

2020 has tested the best of us! Many of us have had to review our strategy and plans many times to

address business risks. The speed at which we have had to change has been exhausting for many. Yet this may become part of the new norm and we have noticed farmers adapting to change quickly.

Covid-19 has proved that we can and will adapt to change quickly, with online becoming an important way to do business and stay connected. Imagine if we all embraced change, adapted quicker and strived for better—how quickly we could respond to opportunities, improve and change for better. In the future, if we procrastinate we may just be left behind, so it is important that we all recognise the strengths of our farms and systems and be proactive to ensure that we are positioned to be more than sustainable, so 'don't wait for the cows to come home, go get them!'.

Our Focus Farm family, The Walsh's, were able to make proactive decisions, while remaining profitable in a very difficult year. Planning and strong data supported discussions with skilled advisors. It is important that we all take time to understand our businesses and evaluate what we may need to change and improve. This year we have also successfully piloted Our Farm Our Plan (OFOP) helping farmers to make empowered and informed decisions to create plans specifically tailored to our farms.

If you need help to get started, Our Farm Our Plan is the perfect opportunity, reach out to us!

Jane Sherborne, **Chair Dairy NSW**



### Staff Profile

**Carly Potts**  
Regional Extension Officer, DairyNSW

**Carly Potts** has joined us as a Regional Extension Officer for the Mid North Coast region. Already I am enjoying the welcoming and inclusive culture of the dairy industry. I have been working through individual introductions to farmers on the Mid North Coast so that I can understand your business needs and challenges. I hope to be able to provide strong support and solutions with my experience in regional activation programs and policies. Thank you for the warm welcome. I look forward to working with you. Get in touch with Carly.

E carly.potts@dairynsw.com.au M 0455 227 707



### Staff Profile

**Elise Jeffcott**  
Communications and Administration Coordinator, DairyNSW

**Elise Jeffcott** has joined us as Communications and Administration Coordinator. I am looking forward to providing exciting and engaging updates, news and information to our NSW Dairy farming community. I have already begun working with the Dairy NSW Regional Manager and Board of Directors to progress our Dairy projects through the governance channels and I have enjoyed the welcoming friendly faces. I am looking forward to working with you all. Get in touch with Elise.

E elise.jeffcott@dairynsw.com.au M 0418 991 589



### Director Profile

**Anthony (Tony) Burnett**  
Director, DairyNSW

Elected to the Dairy NSW Board in 2018 in an Industry Skills based position. I sit as an independent non-farmer director along with Delia Dray. Having grown up in the industry my passion for dairy was developed at an early age on our family farm in South East Qld. After tertiary studies and five years as a field officer with ACF our young family moved to the Hunter Valley to manage a dairy for Butch and Robyne Smith. It's one thing learning at Uni and doing research and extension in theory but putting it into practice on a daily basis on farm is where the real industry progress is made, Butch always reminded me of this! The constant trade-off between the absolute best practice implementation and what you can actually afford is something that all farms struggle with and it's something that I keep at the front of my mind as a Director. I believe that most farms are always striving to do things better, improve their cashflow and ultimately their net worth but it comes back to making timely strategic decisions. One of our roles at DNSW is to support our levy payers with the best practice advice of the day and this is where we see the initial cultivation of our industry prosperity.



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## What's On

### October

- 5-6 Top Fodder, Mid North Coast
- 15 Our Farm Our Plan, Far South Coast
- 15 Young Dairy Network Mental Health
- 19-20 Pastures for Profit, Comboyne
- 20 ANIA, NSW wide
- 22 Farm Safety, NSW wide
- 28 RHC, Hunter

### November

- 3 HOT, Wagga
- 5 Farm Safety, NSW wide
- 10-11 ANIA, NSW wide
- 12-13 Farm Business Fundamentals, Mid North Coast
- 16-20 Cups on Cups Off, Central West
- 19 Farm Safety, NSW wide
- 19 Young Dairy Network Mental Health
- 25 RHC, Mid North Coast
- 25 HOT, Hunter

### December

- 3 Farm Safety, NSW wide Top Fodder, South Coast
- 9 Top Fodder, South Coast
- 15-16 ANIA, NSW wide
- 17 Farm Safety, NSW wide
- 17 Young Dairy Network Mental Health

## A new pathway for People in Dairy

As part of our commitment to attracting, developing and retaining a strong capable workforce, Dairy Australia is working with industry to create a clear pathway that helps strengthen connections between dairy farm employers, new entrants and job-seekers.

This pathway is an enhancement of the well-known People in Dairy resource, with new tools to swiftly upskill new workers, support the induction of new employees and make training more accessible.

Dairy farm employers can access customisable farm policies and procedures, training materials and coaching guidance to support new staff over their first 90 days on farm. These can all be found on Dairy Passport, an online resource hub and record-keeping platform that farmers can use to track the completion of on-farm activities and ongoing development of their staff.

Find out more about the resources available to you and your staff, visit [thepeopleindairy.org.au](http://thepeopleindairy.org.au)

## RAMHP's tips on having a conversation around mental health

The Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) is managed by the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health (CRRMH) in partnership with each of the rural NSW Local Health Districts.

RAMHP has 20 Coordinators based across regional, rural and remote NSW who inform, educate and connect individuals, communities and workplaces with appropriate services and programs. RAMHP has been operating since 2007, providing a consistent and trusted service for rural and remote communities.

Now, more than ever, our rural communities need to check in with each other and stay connected. If someone says they're not okay, it's also important to know what to say and how to start a conversation.

Adverse events such as drought, floods, bushfires and now a global pandemic have taken a toll on many people, financially, physically and mentally.

These stressful events can cause feelings of worry and unease especially when there are high levels of uncertainty involved.

Communities need to look out for each. If you see someone you know who is showing signs of a mental health problem, it is important to talk to them and take action.

To provide some guidance around this, RAMHP has developed a new Guide—Having a Conversation which includes tips on how to start a conversation.

- 1 **Pick a time and a place**—Pick a good time and find the right place to have the conversation
- 2 **Be specific**—Tell the person what you have noticed
- 3 **Ask questions**—Ask open-ended questions
- 4 **Really listen**—Listen without judgement, don't interrupt and acknowledge their feelings.
- 5 **Let them now it's okay**—Reassure them it's okay to feel the way they do, and that help is available
- 6 **Support and encourage**—Support them in taking positive steps to improve their mental health
- 7 **Follow-up**—Stay in touch and check in again soon
- 8 **Look after yourself**—Make sure you're going okay and ask for support if you need it

Download a copy of the Guide to Having a Conversation [crrmh.com.au/content/uploads/RAMHP-Conversation-Guide-ONLINE.pdf](http://crrmh.com.au/content/uploads/RAMHP-Conversation-Guide-ONLINE.pdf)

### Other RAMHP resources:

Head to the RAMHP website for information and helpful resources at [ramhp.com.au/downloadable-resources/](http://ramhp.com.au/downloadable-resources/)



### Where to get help

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department. If you're concerned about your own or someone else's mental health, call the **NSW Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511** for advice or **Lifeline on 13 11 14**.

**Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP)**  
Find your local RAMHP Coordinator at [ramhp.com.au](http://ramhp.com.au)  
Please note, they are not clinicians but can help link you to the most appropriate services in your area.

### Rural Financial Counselling Service phone 1800 686 175

The RFCS is available for farmers, fishing enterprises, forest growers and harvesters, and related small business owners who are experiencing financial hardship. It is a free and confidential service that provides individualised support, and also guidance with decision making.

**Beyond Blue** Support for Aussie Farmers and Rural Communities Forum [bb.org.au/drought-support-forum](http://bb.org.au/drought-support-forum)

Beyond Blue has created this forum to provide farmers and rural individuals a safe place to speak with others going through similar situations. Beyond Blue also offers 24/7 counselling and support services, with an additional web chat service available 3pm-12am, 7 days a week. The website provides information on depression, anxiety, and more, as well as options for treatment, recovery, and staying well.

### CRANApus Bush Support Services phone 1800 805 391

The CRANApus Bush Support Service is a free and confidential telephone counselling service with qualified psychologists for rural and remote area health professionals and their families. They also provide a range of services and resources including Natural Disaster Management Guides.

### Head to Health [headtohealth.gov.au](http://headtohealth.gov.au)

This website is a directory for mental health services and resources. It also provides information on mental health, mental illness and supporting others.

## Making the Most from Nitrogen Webinar Series

Hunter Local Land Services' Making the Most from Nitrogen (N) Project brings latest research on N loss and interacting cofactors for consideration when striving to optimise efficient use of N on kikuyu/annual ryegrass farming systems of the NSW coast.

### Why is it worthwhile knowing more?

- ✓ N is a key production and profit driver for milk/meat production from grazing pastures and forage cereals on the NSW coast.
- ✓ Decisions on N are pivotal as they have a dependency on other farm management practices, so a focus on N also provides focus upon climate risk and production related issue
- ✓ The climate of the NSW coast kikuyu/annual ryegrass system presents a significantly different risk profile in using N than southern Australia, where most research is undertaken.
- ✓ The project's focus is upon recommendations to manage the climate variability, weather extremes and complexities of the NSW coastal grazing system.

### Speakers

**Prof. Richard Eckard**, The University of Melbourne

**Assoc. Prof. David Rowlings**, Queensland University of Technology

### Webinar sessions

- Sep 23** Denitrification losses  
What are the seasonal and timing response options before and after an east coast low?
- Oct 26** Seasonal nitrogen demand  
What are the triggers for changing rate and timing of N applications?
- Nov 23** Nitrogen budgeting and rye-kikuyu carry-over  
Why does kikuyu rely upon N applied to ryegrass? Are enhanced efficiency fertilisers worth the additional cost?
- Dec 14** Optimising irrigation-nitrogen interaction  
What is the relationship between optimal soil moisture and N?

Register here [trybooking.com/book/event?eid=659155&](https://trybooking.com/book/event?eid=659155&)

## NSW DPI e-newsletter

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has established a **COVID-19 Primary Industries Liaison Team** to help primary producers navigate the challenges and impacts of COVID-19 on their business and industry. It is vital that individuals and communities remain vigilant and continue to follow health and safety guidelines and maintain physical distancing. For more information and to receive updates emailed to you please visit the website at [dpi.nsw.gov.au/home/covid-19](http://dpi.nsw.gov.au/home/covid-19) or email [covidinfo@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:covidinfo@dpi.nsw.gov.au)



### We're for farmers

Dairy farmers are unfairly impacted by competition failures in their supply chain. This starts at the supermarket checkout with irrationally low retail prices, then continues at the farmgate where farmers can be given a raw deal for their product. NSW Farmers has been tirelessly advocating for improved supply chain conditions for dairy farmers.

#### Retail prices

NSW Farmers continues to urge the retailers to lift their pricing on popular dairy items. We have conducted media campaigns and have implored politicians to pressure the retailers. If the supermarkets don't step up, we will continue to explore other options until farmers see a fair price for their product.

#### Mandatory Dairy Code of Conduct

NSW Farmers played an instrumental role in the final design of the code, and in the code becoming mandated. With the code being put to test for the first time during the 2020/2021 supply period, we will stay abreast of any issues that arise and ensure our members are properly represented.

#### Helping our members in disaster recovery

NSW Farmers facilitated the distribution of major donations to our dairy members through our bushfire relief fund, and successfully advocated for meaningful bushfire recovery packages from the NSW Government.

Join NSW Farmers today at [nswfarmers.org.au](http://nswfarmers.org.au) or call 1300 794 000

# Smarter Irrigation for Profit improving irrigation efficiency at Tocal and Bega

Marguerite White, Dairy Optimisations Sites Coordinator

New South Wales dairy irrigators are continuously seeking to improve the efficiency of their systems by better managing expensive water and energy inputs, as well as labour, and optimising production under irrigation. The Smarter Irrigation for Profit Phase 2 (SIP2) What's My Yield Gap? Maximising Water Productivity, is providing an opportunity for local dairy irrigators to closely monitor the impact of optimising irrigation strategies, and take-up opportunities to increase their knowledge on the practical tools and support available to help in irrigation decisions.

SIP2 is a project responding to a national, multi-sector call for more information on efficiency improvements that can be implemented, without costly capital expenditure, whilst also exploring the possibilities of new innovations and technologies that may deliver step-change efficiencies for Australian agriculture.

Dairy Australia's What's My Yield Gap? Maximising Water Productivity has established ten Dairy Optimisation Sites, across the seven mainland dairy regions, to explore ways to maximise irrigation efficiencies and increase yield potential. Two sites were established in the Dairy NSW region in November 2019, to reflect the different farming systems of the Mid-North/ Lower Hunter and the South-east coast. The Mid-North/lower Hunter site is located at Tocal Dairy and run in partnership with farm manager, Matt Brett and NSW DPI. The Bega site is run by Will Russel at Jelgowry, in partnership with the Far South Dairy Development Group.

Measurement of energy, water and production metrics is being undertaken by the farmers and Site Coordinators, Peter Smith (Tocal) and Kym Revington (Bega), with assistance from local LLS and commercial partners. Year one (2019-20) baselines have been determined, guiding irrigation strategies for the next two seasons. The outcomes of these strategies will be evaluated against the baseline data.



Source: Bega Dairy Optimisation Site Coordinator, Kym Revington, is working closely with local dairy farmer, Will Russel, to monitor the data generated on site to better inform irrigation decisions, and evaluate the water productivity outcomes.

Irrigation technologies have been implemented on both sites of the region. Soil moisture monitors have been installed and a weather-based water balance App, IrriPasture has been adopted, both working collectively to better inform when to irrigate and the effectiveness of irrigation and rainfall events.

Tocal Dairy installed three new pivots in January 2019. Since then farm manager, Matt Brett, has been seeking to optimise his yield and profit through more precise, data-driven decisions in relation to water, energy and nitrogen use.

'This season, we will commence the measurement period earlier, in September, and we hope to assess the outcomes of using irrigation more strategically.'

**'The main emphasis for Tocal Dairy is to investigate improved irrigation strategies to narrow the yield gap at the end of spring heading into early summer,' says Matt Brett.**

The trigger to irrigate will be according to the soil moisture, and we will aim to extend our Italian rye into late spring and also measure if there is any impact upon the performance of kikuyu over summer.'



Source: Tocal Dairy Farm Manager, Matt Brett, believes the benefit of being involved in SIP2 for the NSW DPI farm will be in using irrigation more strategically in spring and into early summer to drive the Italian Rye for longer and determine if there are DM impacts upon the following shortened kikuyu period.

Will Russel, who has recently taken on management of the family property, is already being challenged by what he has learnt to adapt the scheduling and rate of irrigation traditionally used under the pivot.

'By using the soil moisture monitors under the pivot, I am really starting to get a sense of the different soil moisture conditions that exist across the soil types and how to best manage these to maximise pasture productions.'

'Up until now, one of our biggest irrigation challenges has been getting the timing of start-up right, but with the soil moisture data, this has become a lot easier.'

Soil moisture data, as well as water use (irrigation+rainfall) is logged and transmitted using onsite telemetry units to the Wildeye® online platform, accessible from the farmers smartphones. IrriPasture predicts next irrigation timing and rate based upon the automated weather data and irrigation information manually inputted.

**'I'm finding a good correlation between the two tools. If farmers are not able to access soil moisture monitors, accessing the free IrriPasture is a good option,' said Will.**

Ongoing input into the investigation of locally relevant questions and trialling of strategies is provided by a farmer and service provider Reference Groups that meets regularly to analyse the latest figures and evaluate impact on improved water productivity. This is determined by comparing energy and water use efficiency by tonne of dry matter produced (tDM/ha) and DM growth rates (tDM/ha/day), as well as the associated input cost economics

SIP2 for dairy is building on key findings from SIP1 including work undertaken in this region at Tamworth and the Upper Hunter from 2016-2018. It found that productivity and profitability could be substantially improved by getting scheduling right, particularly start-up at the beginning of the season and after rainfall, and by better maintaining the irrigation system to tighten water and energy usage, particularly by improving pump efficiency and ensuring systems are optimised to operate when needed.

## KEY MESSAGES

Two SIP2 Dairy Optimisation Sites in NSW dairy region

Optimisation site farmers are working closely with DA, local site co-ordinators, LLS and DairyNSW to increase dry matter production and improve energy and water efficiency.

Soil moisture monitors are being used to improve irrigation start-up and scheduling decisions.

Further technologies are being used to incorporate weather and soil and plant types into the decision making.

Get involved in the local SIP2 sites by contacting your local site co-ordinator.

SIP1 provided evidence that scheduling irrigation to avoid moisture deficits is one of the low cost, high impact practices more dairy irrigators could adopt. For each day that start-up is delayed after soil moisture declines below the refill point of the readily available water (RAW) zone, the impact on dry matter (DM) growth is significant, reduced by up to 105kg/ha/day according to Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture research. The use of soil moisture monitors and IrriPasture allow the farmers to closely monitor the influence of weather (rainfall and evapotranspiration (Eto)), soil and plant type on soil moisture, assisting the irrigation start-up decision which should be before levels decline below RAW.

Both the NSW dairy sites are using advanced technologies to monitor their pasture production, using satellite imagery through an online platform, Pasture.io. At the same time, ground-truthing of this new opportunity is being undertaken using pasture monitoring over the irrigation season, either by rising plate meter at Bega or an electronic C-dax meter at Tocal.

Starting the season confidently also means checking that the irrigation system is efficiently operating to maximise effectiveness and optimise energy and water inputs. All pivots across the two sites have had a system evaluation undertaken, resulting in improvement recommendations to ensure water is used effectively, not wasted, and energy use is minimised. At Tocal, there was evidence to suggest that energy costs could be reduced by nine percent if pump performance was improved to specification, while at Bega a failure in the mainline pipe was identified which was grossly effecting system pressure, reducing the amount of water that could be applied during off-peak water opportunities.

Irrigation system inefficiencies are quite common across dairy irrigation farms nationally. Ensuring systems are operating within specification can be checked initially through using the SIP2 prepared irrigation system check-list series, available from the Dairy Australia SIP2 webpage.

'Whilst there have been some simple approaches tackled so far,' said Will, 'I'm excited to know what the potential cost savings are for variable rate irrigation, and if there are savings in energy and water costs, without impact to production. Costing the pay-back period will help inform a decision on whether to replace the aging centre pivot with one that has VRI capabilities, when the time comes.'

Dairy NSW's farmers can keep abreast of the activities and data outcomes of both sites over the coming irrigation measurement season via monthly Irrigation Reports that will be distributed through Dairy Snapshot. Local farmers are invited to get involved by joining the site reference groups or attending one of the field days over the season.

**For more information or for an application form please contact:**

**Peter Smith**

Tocal Dairy Optimisation Site Coordinator  
E sapphireirrig@gmail.com M: 0455 973 780 or

**Kym Revington**

Tocal Dairy Optimisation Site Coordinator  
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*Smarter Irrigation for Profit 2: What's my yield gap? Maximising water productivity project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment as part of its Rural R&D for Profit program and Dairy Australia. It is supported in the region by Dairy NSW.*

## Who are the NSW Women In Dairy?

Meg Nicholson

The NSW Women in Dairy committee was formed in early 2020. Run by women in dairy for women in dairy. Our mission is 'Creating tomorrow's change today'.

We now support the sub-committee that plan and run the annual 'Bale Up' conference. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the annual conference has been cancelled with 2021 dates confirmed at Sails Resort, Port Macquarie 14-16 September.

To keep our women across the state connected the sub-committee are hosting a series of nine 'Long Lunches' across NSW. These lunches are providing a much welcome face to face gathering for all our ladies. With a record of 170 registrations, NSW Women in Dairy have received positive and continued support for these lunches from Rabobank, Dairy NSW, Agco, Lactalis, Achmea, Hunter Local Land Services, Norco and Allflex. Each attendee received a gift bag with local purchased goodies as well as lots of donated gifts for wellness, jewellery, merchandise from RAA and more. The Bale Up team members have put a lot of effort into these lunches and it is wonderful to see them being well supported.

The NSW committee are currently working through 2019 Bale Up issues and solutions. With 2020 issues and solutions coming in from the lunches.

We will continue to investigate and support positive solutions and outcomes for all our WID regions.

NSW WID membership forms are now available through the lunches and online. Our first edition of the '4 Quarters' newsletter will be available for members in early October. We will be promoting all things WID across the state, so if your region has something you would like to share please send into Janine Eagles [jeagles1976@gmail.com](mailto:jeagles1976@gmail.com) ready for our next newsletter.

The Bale Up NSW WID Facebook and Instagram pages have been full of fabulous women in dairy stories from across the state. If you know of anyone with a great story that can be shared please contact Rachel Nicholson [rachel.west11@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:rachel.west11@det.nsw.edu.au). I am inspired and encouraged by these stories from the next generation who are showing positive moves and success in the industry.

The last Friday of each month is the place to join our wonderful RAMHP girls for a cuppa and catch up via zoom. 'Morning Tea with Moo and You' is all things WID, fun, laughter, sharing and moving forward within ourselves and our businesses. This is giving all our ladies a chance to chat and get to know each other as well as learning tools to look after themselves. To register for these sessions, visit our social media platforms or contact **Elizabeth Warren** at [elizabeth@dairynsw.com.au](mailto:elizabeth@dairynsw.com.au)



## Farming My Team – Pilot Program, a great success!

Over the last 18 months, the Dairy NSW team have been focusing on our Dairy Industry Fund Project and the opportunities it will provide to our state's dairy farmers. The project team have been able to develop an on-farm leadership program which will help farmers become the best leaders, managers and employers they can possibly be, that this will improve staff engagement, and therefore also improve staff attraction and retention on-farm.

The development of this new program, known as 'Farming My Team', has been underway for a few months, and our recent pilot group have just completed the first program, providing some absolutely amazing feedback!

### What did they have to say?

- 'Sue really knows her subject and presents it with confidence, but makes all the group feel engaged and not afraid to ask questions or answer those she poses.'
- It has clarified the difference between leadership and management or even team leaders. It has made me more confident to take on leadership tasks/role.'
- 'I never had an understanding of what leadership was and what a good leader looks like. Being young and not having a lot of experience in leadership myself, this program has given me many tools to develop my leadership skills and hopefully become an efficient leader as well as manager.'

Dairy NSW, in conjunction with Murray Dairy, Sub Tropical Dairy and Dairy Australia, is proud to be able offer this program again to NSW dairy farmers throughout the end of 2020.

For more information, please contact:

**Emma Ludington**  
Regional Extension Officer  
[Emma@dairynsw.com.au](mailto:Emma@dairynsw.com.au)

## Essential Dairy Business Support

Dairy NSW is offering access to essential dairy support for your business! You can access a trained consultant to assist you to implement the standard chart of accounts, get your financial data into Dairy Base, or support you in creating business plans, budgets and more!

Funded by the NSW DPI Business Advisory Unit, don't miss out on this FREE opportunity! Reach out to your local Regional Extension Officer to register:

Find out more about the resources available to you and your staff, visit [thepeopleindairy.org.au](http://thepeopleindairy.org.au)

## Dairy SnapShot

Dairy NSW emails a monthly newsletter with key events, industry updates, news, programs and support relevant for you on farm.

If you don't already receive this please drop us an email to [info@dairynsw.com.au](mailto:info@dairynsw.com.au) and we will make sure we get in touch with you!

## Future Farming Put to the Test in Regional NSW

Nicholas Cheetham

Farm productivity is set to boom thanks to a NSW Government pilot program encouraging greater use of innovative smart ag technology in regional NSW.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, John Barilaro today visited Angullong Vineyard near Blayney and said the Farms of the Future program includes three different farms that will test smart ag technologies.

'Every day we are seeing more and more technology emerging in the agricultural space,' Mr Barilaro said.

'The Farms of the Future pilot program will let us test different technologies together on real farms and assess the digital connectivity needed to help our farmers use and benefit from these tools.

'The Farms of the Future program will test a range of commercially available technologies on properties in Blayney, Narromine and Coonamble to see the technology in action and explore connectivity options.'

'The NSW Government's contribution to the mobile blackspot program has already seen 126 towers installed to improve regional connectivity, including nine in the Bathurst region.'

Angullong property owner James Crossing said smart ag technologies provide an opportunity to more carefully monitor and manage resources, which is an important tool for any business owner.

To learn more about the technologies being tested as part of the Farms of the Future pilot program or to register your interest in the virtual workshops and field days, please visit [nsw.gov.au/futurefarms](http://nsw.gov.au/futurefarms).

For more information on any of the Dairy NSW programs contact your local Regional Extension Officer:

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