

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

DAIRY AUSTRALIA'S EXISTING AND PLANNED PROJECTS AND INVESTMENTS

DAIRY AUSTRALIA'S CLIMATE COMMITMENT ADAPT. PRESERVE. EMBED. INVEST.

Dairy Australia has released its Climate Change Strategy 2020–25. So what is in it for you?

Dairy farmers are at the front-line of dealing with the impact of climate change. Dairy Australia modelling indicates there has been a loss of dairy farm business productivity in the order of 0.6–0.9 per cent per year since 2000 as a direct result of climate change.

Impacts are being felt through changing pasture growth patterns, reduced rainfall, heat impacts on milk production and an increase in extreme events like fire, flood and drought. Many are adapting their farm system to continue to thrive.

Dairy Australia's role is critical for supporting the dairy industry to respond to the challenges and opportunities of climate change – both now and into the future.

The purpose of the Dairy Australia climate change strategy is to enable a climate committed Australian dairy industry with dairy farms that are sustainable, productive and resilient through cost effective and achievable actions.

The Climate Change Strategy articulates our climate commitment and formulates our investment intent and priorities across research, development and extension.

Ultimately, this strategy will enable dairy farmers to be in a better position to avoid a range of costs that they may not have been able to without the adaptation and Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction knowledge generated from this work.

How is Dairy Australia spending my levy on climate change?

Dairy Australia will deliver projects, in partnership with other research providers, financial institutions and the wider supply chain, to deliver tangible outcomes for levy payers. This is not reinventing the wheel, but rather draws on a large body of existing investment and research by Dairy Australia and external parties like the CSIRO.

Current and future projects	Research, Development or Extension	 ADAPT Australian dairy farming systems to thrive in a warmer and more unpredictable climate <i>Dairy businesses successfully adapting to (and continually evolving to meet) future climate challenges</i>
1. Adapt.		
DairyFeedbase – Future Forage Value Index Project	R	●
DairyFeedbase – Feeding Cool Cows Project	R	●
DairyBio – Forage improvement Project	R	●
Cool Cows – extension activities	E	●
Murray Dairy – Future Forages project	RDE	●
Heat alert service – summer season 2020-21	DE	●
Forewarned is Forearmed – extreme events preparedness	R	●
Learning and development program and extension modules for farmers	DE	●
Quantifying the cost of adaptation for the Australian dairy industry	R	●
Dairy Businesses for Future Climate – Coastal NSW case study and regional adaptation pathway	RDE	●
WestVic – Regional adaptation pathway	DE	●
2. Preserve.		
Energy efficiency – extension workshops	E	
Dairy Sustainability Framework target tracking	D	●
Available emissions reduction options – extension modules	E	●
Reducing the carbon footprint of the Tasmanian dairy industry	DE	
Accelerating the availability and feasibility of methane reduction technologies	R	
Optimising nitrogen recovery project	R	
DairyBase Carbon Calculator relaunch	DE	
Quantifying emissions from energy efficiency measures on-farm	RD	
3. Embed.		
Development of resources linking climate action and environmental practice in dairy	DE	●
Supporting Manufacturing Sustainability	R	
Western Dairy – Review of the voluntary Code of Practice for Dairy Shed Effluent	DE	
Subtropical Dairy – Resilient Farms project	RDE	
More Nitrogen for Profit – Updated extension modules	E	●
Soil health and climate – New extension modules	E	●
4. Invest.		
Co-design of policies and programs to remove barriers to sustainable on-farm solutions to environmental stewardship and climate risk	R	
Dairy Matters Environmental Consumer campaign	D	
Cross-sector agriculture climate initiative	RD	
Quantifying the feasibility and cost of net zero targets for dairy	R	
Sustainability audit of Dairy Australia's facilities and roadmap for reducing our footprint	n/a	
Dairy Australia's internal decision making to consider climate climate and risk	n/a	

Existing – ongoing contracted commitment

New – to start FY21

Scoping – project idea stage

Some of our new projects and how you can get involved

A number of key immediate investments have already been endorsed under the strategy and we are seeking farmer involvement, including:



New climate change learning and development package

There is currently no comprehensive package of information available to dairy farmers for working through climate change across their business. Using in-house expertise, a learning package will be made available to dairy farmers to consider their options related to adapting to current climate change, reducing GHG emissions, and managing the risks associated with future climate projections.

DURATION: 12 months, development and extension



Investigations into feasible methane reduction technologies available for dairy

Producing milk generates GHG emissions. The Australian dairy industry accounts for 10 per cent of agricultural GHG, or about 2 per cent of total national emissions. For dairy, 57 per cent of on-farm emissions come from methane. This project seeks to accelerate the availability of methane reducing practices and technologies for dairy farmers in Australia, leveraging on work already done here and overseas.

DURATION: 3-5 year collaborative research program



Quantification of the cost of adaptation for the dairy sector

There is a need to identify and assess the cost effectiveness of adaptation options that will minimise climate change risks for dairy businesses, and the industry as a whole. Expert modelling will be undertaken in this project to quantify the cost of adaptation for the Australian dairy sector. This will be used to inform industry, Governments and the financial sector of the threats, opportunities and real-cost of this problem for dairy farmers.

DURATION: 6 months, modelling and analysis

We want to hear from you.

We know farmers are already experiencing the impacts and increasing market pressure to address climate change. We also know that many farmers are already adapting the way they farm to be able to continue to thrive.

We want to hear your experiences and share them with other farmers. If you have a story worth telling, please reach out to your regional team.

You will be hearing more from us and how we are supporting you with climate action on your farm.

Go to dairyaustralia.com.au/climate to learn more about the Climate Change strategy and hear from other farmers and their experiences.