

Murray Dairy Extension Services



DELIVERING
for **DAIRY**

Our services

Murray Dairy partners with dairy farmers, education and training providers, local organisations, industry groups, research and development corporations and government to deliver a breadth of information and engagement services to the dairy industry.

Murray Dairy provides information and resources to support dairy farm businesses and industry in the areas of Animal Health and Welfare, Feedbase Management, Animal Nutrition, Agribusiness, Natural Resource Management, career development and working with people.



Feedbase and Animal Nutrition

Feeding Pastures for Profit

The FPPF program aims to provide farmers with the skills and tools to manage pastures and achieve a profitable balance between home grown feed harvest and supplement use. Consists of two classroom days learning the key principles and five on farm days between April–November/December to identify the seasonal challenges.

Nutrition Fundamentals

Feeding dairy cows profitably is critically important to all dairy farmers to maximise production and herd health. Understanding the key principles such as protein, energy and fibre, feed budgeting and cows requirements are covered in this course over two days. First day is in the classroom and second day is out on farm. This is the pathway course for advanced nutrition.

Advanced Nutrition in Action

This is the next step on from nutrition fundamentals that is aimed improve herd nutrition practices by providing the technical knowledge, problem solving and tools to develop and implement appropriate, nutrition-related management strategies which support personal and business goals. An entry exam is required to be passed before registering for this course and there is a cost to partake in this course. There is an introduction day, followed by three two-day workshops to cover three units spaced about a month apart. Online modules are completed in own time with discussions in the classroom days around online modules and practicality applied.

Top Fodder

The Top Fodder silage program covers the science of silage making. It involves hands on inspection and assessment of silage on farms. Online pre-reading, two days classroom style plus one day on farm during silage season.

Maximising Silage Quality

We have taken the key principles out of the top fodder course and condensed them down into a three-hour on farm workshop. The course runs prior to the silage season beginning to help make the best quality silage possible.



Land, water and climate

Fertsmart

Fertsmart encompasses the dairy industry's national nutrient management guidelines, developed to improve the efficiency and profitability of fertiliser use, and to improve soil health on Australian dairy farms.

Cool Cows - Heat Stress

Strategies to reduce heat stress in Australian dairy herds including infrastructure options, feed additives, tree shelter belts and the dairy heat alert forecast.



Farm Performance

Our Farm, Our Plan

Aims to give farmers a clear vision of their long-term business and personal goals and assists with better decision making, especially the big decisions.

Focus Farms

The Focus Farms program supports a network of Australian farms, tracking real decisions on real farms under real conditions over a two-year period.

Farm Business Snapshot

An online tool that helps farmers better understand their production costs and overall profitability. Farmers can access one on one support to use the tool and analyse the report generated from the farms individual business details.

Farm Business Fundamentals

This course focuses on farm financial management providing the skills and knowledge to pull together annual farm financial numbers. It also covers getting organised, budgeting, compliance and farm financial systems.

Dairy Farm Business Analysis

This is a two-day course that assists farmers and their advisers to better understand and analyse farm business performance. It uses DairyBase and covers the importance of getting annual farm physical and financial numbers right, how to interpret farm performance and to understand cash, profit and wealth for a dairy farm business using DairyBase reports. This course is recommended for all dairy farmers and their advisers.

Governance and Investment

A two-day workshop introducing practical ways to implement effective business governance principles into your business and how to become investor ready.

Taking Steps, Stepping Back, Stepping up

A suite of workshops to assist those considering their options for a career in dairy, options for Share Farming, Leasing and Shared Equity arrangements or considering transition out of the industry.

Capable people

Young Dairy Network

Technical, practical and social events for people entering the dairy industry to learn, network and build on their skills by exchanging ideas and staying connected.

Farm Safety Starter Kit and Farm Safety Manual

Helping you to get started with farm safety and implement farm safety practices.

Employment Basics

Employments Basics is a nationally facilitated program for improving your skills and confidence as an employer. It also provides the opportunity to connect and share experiences with other dairy farmers. Delivered online for farmer convenience by our people management experts, this eight-week program covers the following areas: attraction, recruitment, onboarding, retention and payroll/legal/compliance responsibilities.

Education

Various programs to promote a career in dairy to students such as Cows Create Careers, Picasso Cows and career days.

Workforce Attraction

Promotion of the dairy industry and delivery of programs, networking, and engagement between farmers, students, job seekers, and associated agencies.

ESKi training

This program was delivered face-to-face and is also delivered online. The session involves an overview of the Employment Starter Kit Initiative (ESKi) consisting of:

- Employing someone – how to attract and retain, position descriptions, advertising and employment contracts.
- Payroll – how much do I have to pay?
- Individual Flexibility Arrangement (IFA) – a way to make paying people easier.
- Termination of staff – if we have to do this, let's do it right.

Farming with My Team

Farming with My Team is designed to provide farmers with an insight into their own leadership style and build their leadership skills. Improved leadership will not only benefit the farm business but provide farmers with skills that will benefit them beyond the farm gate. Participants learnt to understand the benefits that being a good leader will have on their team and assist in addressing workforce attraction and retention challenges.

Managing People

The secret to running a successful business isn't in the equipment you use or the breed of your cows, it's primarily based on the people running your farm. If you choose to expand your farm business and employ staff, you will need to know how to manage staff to ensure workplace success. Managing People covered the essentials for supervising and guiding staff on-farm, as well as allowing time to learn from the experience of others and ask experts any questions.



Animal performance

Milking and Mastitis Management – online

The online course encompasses five modules for an effective, low-stress milking, including bringing the cows into the dairy, putting cups on, taking cups off, post-milking teat disinfection, and detection of clinical mastitis.

Milking Mastitis Management Fundamentals

Suitable for anyone who milks cows on a dairy farm. Skills covered include how and why mastitis infections occur, practical methods to detect and deal with mastitis, adapting your milking process to reduce the risk of infections and how to develop an action plan to achieve best practice in milk harvesting.

Humane Euthanasia of Livestock

Ensures the most humane treatment of your sick, injured or unsaleable cows with effective, swift and least painful methods.

InCharge Fertility

A five-day program over 12 months to assist farmers with improving the fertility of their herd, by developing an effective herd reproductive management plan including Transition Cow Management, Heifers on Target and Bull Management. As part of the course farmers will be sharing their herd recording data with the group.

Downer Cow Workshop

Covers key aspects for managing downer cows. First session (theory) in the classroom and second session (practical) on-farm.

Heifers on Target

Well grown heifers are more likely to realise their full potential for milk production and recover their rearing costs earlier. This workshop explores the fundamentals of heifer management to support future fertility, production and longevity in replacement dairy heifers.

Healthy Hooves

If you're looking to explore identifying, treating and preventing lameness in a more hands-on environment, come along to one of our Healthy Hooves farmer workshops.

Genomic Testing

Genomic testing is the process of analysing a heifer's DNA to reliably predict her future performance in the herd. Genomic testing helps farmers:

- Save money on rearing costs by not rearing heifers that are unlikely to perform
- Make more informed decisions on which heifers to sell
- Significantly fast-track genetic improvement in the herd
- Verify parentage or clarify pedigree.

Learn more starting from where you are in your genomics journey:

- Genomics at a Glance
- Genomics in Practice
- Genomics in Action.

Rearing Healthy Calves Fundamentals

This interactive two-day program gives participants knowledge and skills to rear healthy calves. Day one is an off-farm presentation of calf rearing fundamentals and day two we review management of calf rearing on farm.

Rearing Healthy Calves In Practice

This program consisting of two four-hour sessions is suitable for experienced calf rearers and graduates of the Rearing Healthy Calves Fundamentals program. Participants will complete examination of their own calf rearing operations to identify areas for improvement. At the completion of this review, you will develop a farm specific action plan to support you achieving your calf rearing goals.



More information

Murray Dairy Team

The Murray Dairy Regional Extension Team can assist you with general enquiries or specialists field information. See the link below to find the best contact to help you with your farms needs. bit.ly/MDTeam



Discussion Groups

Discussion Groups are farmer-led groups that meet regularly to share ideas and information relevant to the members and businesses involved. Discussion Group activities may include guest presentations, farm visits, group business analysis, tours and social networking. bit.ly/MDDG



Upcoming events

To view and register for any of our upcoming events, visit the Murray Dairy events calendar: bit.ly/MDEventsCalendar



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