



Victorian Farmers Federation

United Dairyfarmers of Victoria

District Council 2 and 3 Regional Update



United Dairyfarmers of Victoria District Council 2 and 3 Regional Update:

Over the past two weeks, your dairy and water leaders from DC 2 and 3 have been involved in the following activities.

DC 3 Website - www.udvnorth.org.au:

DC 3 launched its own website last week, Allan Burgess, President of Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) launched the site. The launch took place at Covers Restaurant at GO TAFE in Shepparton where dairy farmers, dairy company staff and other industry stakeholders were given a run through the website.

The site covers a number of regional issues, ranging from drought, water issues, dairy research and development programs, and upcoming and past events. The site is full of information relevant to dairy farmers needs with many direct links to other websites for more details. We hope all dairy farmers find it a useful tool and encourage everyone to check the site out.

Carryover:

The VFF and Water Services Committees are in favour of continuing with carryover, but a revised model. The amended model would see farmers being able to carryover low reliability water first. The VFF and DC 3 have suggested that farmers be able to carryover up to 50% low reliability water rather than 30% as proposed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Climate Change in the Murray Dairy Region:

A number of DC 2 and 3 representatives attended Murray Dairy's Climate Change workshop where Kevin Hennessy from CSIRO presented to the group. Discussion focused on the latest science regarding climate change and how farmers are currently changing their farming systems in response to increased temperature and rainfall variability.

Focus Groups for DAFF funding:

A number of DC representatives were involved in meetings at Katunga, Rochester, Cohuna and Lockington to discuss how \$1.1 million of DAFF funding for on-farm dairy activities could be best applied. Discussion focused on the development of a computer based nutrition calculator, increased one-to-one advice and planning.

Foodbowl Steering Committee Meeting:

Geoff Akers and Max Ferhing attended the final Steering Committee meeting last week. The final report was finalized and is now with the Water Minister, Tim Holding. The final report and the submissions made to the committee are now available online at www.ourwater.vic.gov.au.

Sustainable Farm Families:

A number of Sustainable Farm Family programs will begin shortly, the program provides a health check as well as information ranging from farm safety to reading food labels accurately. The first program will begin in Nathalia on 6-7th December, farmers interested should contact the Nathalia Hospital on 58 669 444.