Australian dairy industry’s response to COVID-19

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What did we do?

- Implemented the dairy industry’s Rapid Response Plan
- Determined key members of the Rapid Response Team and mode of operating
- Provided ongoing Industry Briefs and extended our Key Contacts list
- Determined priority actions/areas of focus/information needed
  - Dairy – an essential service/product
  - Safety of milk and dairy products
  - Essential services list for whole dairy supply chain – essential worker Certificate
  - On farm – safe operations
  - Milk collection – safety of people
  - Monitoring border restrictions and implications for dairy
  - Contingency plans for farm if sole operator
- Developed a home (webpage https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/c19) for all material – one source – but referenced other websites wherever possible to keep material current

This directory was last updated 24 August 2020.

As the circumstances around COVID-19 continue to change, the dairy industry remains vigilant to protect our people and products.

We are responding to national and state-based regulations to ensure that dairy farm businesses and the broader supply chain continue to operate effectively through this period.

Updates on the latest restrictions and border closures in each jurisdiction can be found in [here](https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/c19) (last updated 24 August 2020).

ADF, ADPF and Dairy Australia have also created a Certification Template for people providing essential services (last updated 3 August 2020).

For information on the use of face masks on farm, visit our webpage: [Use of face masks on farm](https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/c19) (last updated 31 July 2020).

Victorian businesses under Stage 4 restrictions are required to have a COVIDSafe Plan in place from 11.59pm Friday 7 August 2020. The Victorian Government recently amended its advice so that it is no longer mandatory for businesses under Stage 3 restrictions (regional Victoria) to have a COVIDSafe plan in place (except if they are deemed high risk). Whilst not mandatory, a COVIDSafe Plan is still recommended to help protect your farm business and staff.

Developed key partnerships/connections

- Dairy – here for you campaign
- Webinars to support SME dairy processors
- Linked in with other national and state government groups connecting with agribusiness across Australia
- Developed key groups to provide input to the RRT
  - Farmers
  - Processors
  - State Food Authorities
  - Regional dairy groups
  - National and State Dairy Farmer Organisations eg NFF, UDV/VFF

- Monitoring of trade issues
  - Worked with DAWE Export Division
  - Worked with abattoirs to ensure cull cows and calves were not at risk
  - Used our trade contacts for updates
  - Linked in with dairy companies and sales data to monitor impacts

Consumers appreciation of role of farmers and provision of fresh dairy products
Support and materials provided/lessons learnt

- Ongoing information on border restrictions
- Brought key dairy issues to the attention of the relevant group(s) to address
- Linked in with overseas dairy groups to learn from their experiences and materials
- Recognised the need to continually review and revise the material prepared – as the circumstances, restrictions and opportunities all change very quickly

Just when we thought we could focus on recovery, Victoria had a second wave – creating more issues intra and inter state:

The challenges haven’t ended – but still looking for the opportunities

Our Sustainability Framework is still robust and important for the future prosperity of the Australian dairy industry  www.sustainabledairyoz.com.au

Online MSP Meeting  14-18 September 2020
Thank you