

Letters

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Unity will make dairy plan stronger

THE Australian Dairy Plan gives a clear pathway to which, I believe, we can build a profitable and sustainable dairy industry. The commitments to attract and support people and investment, marketing and promotion, building trust and the value of dairy, the focus on farm business skills and restoring trust and transparency between farmers and processors can seem daunting.

The opportunity dairy farmers now have is to build the structure that allows us to execute these commitments, to bring our great industry together to be one voice for all dairy farmers. We need to position our industry to stand firm to any head wind that comes our way. Be in no doubt that not all will be completely happy with the finished product but it is important that through the next consultation period all those involved put aside personal differences, act with restraint and respect, to form the consensus that all of industry can be proud of.

Dairy farming has sustained four generations of my family and the fifth, in my mind, have charged us all to ensure they have the chance to participate in this great industry with a sense of pride when they tell their mates, I'm a dairy farmer.

Mark Billing,
Colac dairy farmer

POLL RESULTS

FAST FOOD LABELS

Should country-of-origin labels be compulsory on fast food?

57 votes to noon yesterday

Yes **95%**

No **5%**

THIS WEEK

Will \$6000 entice workers to farms?

theweeklytimes.com.au

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



It's all about the chemistry

CONGRATULATIONS on reporting the talk by Doug Edmeades "Trend on 'false' soils", TWT Oct 7).

Those of us with an ag science degree who advise on soil fertility joke that the fastest way to go broke on a farm is to go organic. Pseudoscience is popular these days, but there is little discussed of soil chemistry, which can send the sceptics broke. As you improve soil fertility to grow more pasture or crop, you also increase the soil organic matter.

That may sound like a good thing, but it lowers the soil pH and releases toxic aluminium, which suppresses plant growth.

Ian Aberdeen,
Kilmore

CFA volunteers in the firing line

AS campaigners for better fire management, your 'Fire Storm'

article is not surprising to us ("Staffing ignites debate", TWT Oct 7). CFA volunteers know their territory. Most of them are experienced local people who understand fire risk, local geography and most importantly, have a passion to get the job done and get home safely. Coming from the community, they treat every fire as if it were on their own property.

Indeed, if a bad fire is threatening your property, they are the people you want in an emergency.

With the COVID-19 hotel quarantine fiasco showing how government mismanagement plays out, we believe the same dynamic is happening with fire mismanagement.

Whether it's the inappropriate use of UFA firefighters or private security, government mismanagement can cost literally hundreds of lives.

Are the CFA volunteers getting treated badly?

You bet they are.

Tim Malseed,
Firestick Estate Inc. president

Science 'tests' accepted truths'

THEWEEKLYTIMES.COM.AU WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14 2020

response to "Regenerative agriculture is Pseudoscience" theweeklytimes.com.au Oct many of our ASP Certified™ growers have not used synthetic fertilisers for over 10 years and are maintaining and surpassing conventional production.

Our certified growers have been producing grains under standard for the past five years. They have been doing so creating conditions prime for thriving soil microbiology, still monitoring plants nutritional needs and applying responding foliar nutrient applications. The standard also requires the key principles of keeping the soil covered, minimising soil disturbance, increasing diversity, and cover

uses based, science comes focused or sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

Dr Edmeades is most likely

not alone with the "pseudoscience opinion" in the scientific world, however we feel that working with the scientific community to prove results is a more effective way to communicate the benefits of regenerative and sustainable agriculture.

The great strength of scientific endeavour is the constant effort to test accepted truth. As knowledge advances and innovation is tested improvements to the 'conventional' methodologies are identified. The ASP Certified™ system continues to accept the minimal use of synthetic inputs where there is an agronomic need and we do not take an organic fundamentalist approach. We work with and support natural systems, we don't try to beat them into submission with the negative environmental and commercial results often experienced from a dependence on synthetic inputs.

Miriam Neilson,
Southern Cross
Agricultural Exports P/L
executive officer

PIECE OF MIND

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WELL, if you've been around all those years, why is the industry in the state it's in ('Bashing dairy processors is baseless', theweeklytimes.com.au Oct 9). Let the farmers be in control of our own industry, time for new ideas, not just "because you've been there since the '80s".

Chris

SUPPLIERS know that processors don't contribute to the success of the dairy sector — only the success of their own salary.

Peter

THIS is something Victorian Farmers Federation grains has been working on for 18 months or more now ('Telehandler licensing overkill' Oct 7). There was a workable solution in sight until COVID stopped everything in its tracks.

Ryan

NEED a license for a loader? Australia is out of control.

Allan

LITERALLY what reason is there for their products to be anything less than 100 per cent Aussie produce? ('Which fast food outlets use country-of-origin labelling?' Oct 7)

Victoria

I AGREE with him ('Immigration minister speaks out against amnesty', Oct 7). With so many Australians currently seeking work, why reward illegal immigrants just to fill labour vacancies? The Federal Government should instead be offering generous tax incentives and allow travel costs as a full tax deduction to citizens on welfare, many through no fault of their own, instead.

Glenda



TO NOMINATE SOMEONE
visit shineawards.com.au

Nominated: CWA East Gippsland past president Joanne Alderman is a nominee in the Shine Awards. Joanne spearheaded a CWA clothing drive to help support communities that were devastated by this year's bushfires.



Regional communities are centres of entrepreneurial endeavour and innovation, with women contributing half of the total production of rural communities.

Progressive organisations like the Country Women's Association of Victoria have an established understanding of their community. The CWA of Victoria is the largest women's member association in Victoria, representing more than 5500 women, and it's this informed networking, advocacy and reach that enables them to effect change where it will have the greatest impact - including financial literacy programs, and addressing issues of social isolation and the specific needs of women in rural Australia.

It's the passion, dedication and courage of such women that we're looking to celebrate - sharing their stories to inspire others to get involved and make a difference in their communities.

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