

Raising the Roof 2024

Event program

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Welcome

Welcome to the Raising the Roof 2024 event developed by Dairy Australia, Agriculture Victoria, and the Regional Development Programs.

This unique event designed specifically to support and share world best practices in dairy feeding and housing infrastructure and management practices has assembled industry leaders and a range of global experts in an interactive forum to guide complex decisions for farmers modernising their farm systems.

Aligned seamlessly with the third edition National Guidelines for Dairy Feedpads and Contained Housing, as well as the Farm System Evaluator digital tool launched in 2023, our program establishes a robust technical foundation for the Australian dairy industry. These initiatives empower exploration and implementation of farm system changes in response to the ever-evolving challenges posed by a changing climate.

Over the next three days, this intensive farm system event provides a unique opportunity to glean insights directly from progressive thinkers, technical specialists, and successful farm operators. Virtual and in-person farm visits will allow you to hear firsthand from farming families, offering a wealth of knowledge as they share their transformative journeys and lessons learned.

Our thoughtfully curated program caters to all stages of the journey toward modernised feeding and housing system changes. Whether you are in the early stages, exploring options and planning, or more advanced in your developments there is something for everyone in the three-day program. Topics awaiting your exploration include intensive farm system economics, emissions reduction, automatic milking systems, animal-centred environments, and transitioning and operating intensive systems.

Many businesses and people have contributed significant financial support and effort to deliver this extensive program, willingly sharing their expertise, knowledge, and services.

Special thanks to the Eagle Direct team as the diamond sponsor with a sound reputation in farm development and the platinum sponsors of Daviesway-DASCO, GEA and Rural Bank, businesses well known in the dairy industry. Take the opportunity to catch up and network with all the sponsors who offer a range of services and better understand how they can support your farming business and the decisions you need to consider.

As you engage with this event, we hope it instils confidence in exploring options and implementing changes tailored to your specific circumstances. Beyond Raising the Roof 2024, Dairy Australia and Regional Development Programs will sustain the momentum with a series of regional Farm System Evaluator workshops throughout 2024. These two-day workshops will provide strategic direction to further guide and support proposed farm developments.

We eagerly anticipate meeting you at Raising the Roof 2024 and embarking on this journey of shared knowledge and growth together. We look forward to supporting you beyond this conference to continue to grow our incredible Australian dairy industry.



Karen Romano
Dairy Australia
National Feeding and Farm System Lead



Scott McDonald
Agriculture Victoria
Program Manager and Dairy Development Specialist
Dairy Services



Event program

This program can also be found on the Whova app with speaker biographies, abstracts and papers.

The information in this printed program is accurate as of the time of printing. However, please be aware that program details are subject to change. Check for updates or last-minute modifications before via the Whova App to ensure you have the latest information.

Day 1 | Tuesday 27 February | Rydges Resort, Hunter Valley

Time	Detail	Speaker
7:45am	Registration If you need assistance during the event, locate one of the Raising the Roof team members.	
8:30am	Opening session Official welcome to Raising the Roof 2024	MC Karen Romano , National Feeding and Farm System Lead, Dairy Australia
	Industry address: Looking to the future: the dairy industry beyond 2030, what will the operating environment look like?	Quentin Moxey , Managing Director, Director of Operations, Australian Fresh Milk Holdings-Moxey Farms, Gooloogong, NSW
9:00am	Session 1: Understanding the economics of Intensive Farm Systems and the Risks Sponsored by Rural Bank	
	Rural Bank sponsor address	Tony Anderson , Regional Manager Agribusiness – Southern Victoria and Tasmania, Rural Bank
9:05am	Economics of TMR farm systems – where are the risks?	Claire Waterman , Program Manager, Farm Business Economists, Agriculture Victoria Sheena Carter , Development Officer, NSW DPI
9:20am	Successful Transition to TMR: What do I need to know about business performance for a successful TMR transition?	Brian Crockart , Agribusiness Solutions
9:45am	Farmer Case Study – Improving efficiencies through continual monitoring	Karen Litchfield , Kariana Pastoral, Deniliquin, NSW
10:00am	Financing large dairy infrastructure	Greg Kuchel , Regional Manager of Agribusiness, Rural Bank
10:15am	Panel discussion	Moderator: Tony Anderson , Regional Manager – Southern Victoria and Tasmania, Rural Bank Panellists: Greg Kuchel, Claire Waterman, Sheena Carter, Brian Crockart and Karen Litchfield
10:45am	Lely tea break	



Time	Detail	Speaker
11:15am	Session 2: Grazing animal production - Virtual farm tours and presentations showcasing infrastructure to support grazing	
	Session introduction	Moderator: Dr Steve Little , Capacity Ag Consulting
11:20am	A pasture management tool and low-stress way of intensifying	Simon Rea , Glenwood, Panmure, Victoria
11:40am	Adapting to the inadequacies of our climate	Stuart Crosthwaite , Hermitage Dairy, Kergunyah South, Victoria
12:00pm	Flexibility is king!	Colin and Jodie Hay , Haybrook Farm, Wee Wee Rup, Victoria
12:20pm	Panel discussion	Moderator: Dr Steve Little , Capacity Ag Consulting Panellists: Simon Rea, Stuart Crosthwaite, Colin and Jodie Hay
12:50pm	Lunch	
1:50pm	Session 3: Reducing emissions, biogas and manure management and renewable energy solutions	
	Session introduction	Moderator: Scott Birchall , AgSystems Design
1:55pm	GHG emissions in the dairy industry today - knowing your number, emission reduction measures and protecting your business	Richard Eckard , Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, The University of Melbourne
2:15pm	Potential for biogas technology in intensive dairy systems and manure management - global insights	Alain Houle , Wastewater Management System Consultant, Valmetal Group, United States
	Sponsored by Valmetal and Eagle Direct	 
2:45pm	Selection of energy efficient equipment	Dr Mike Wolf , Consulting Veterinarian, VES-Artex, United States
	Sponsored by VES-Artex and Eagle Direct	 
3:00pm	Considering a renewable energy system and storage technology	Peter Mulcahy , Inionba Pastoral, Kyvalley, Victoria
3:15pm	Panel discussion	Moderator: Scott Birchall , AgSystems Design Panellists: Richard Eckard, Alain Houle, Dr Mike Wolf and Peter Mulcahy
3:45pm	Entegra Signature Structures tea break	



Time	Detail	Speaker
4:15pm	Session 4: Considering farm system and infrastructure selection and navigating planning pathways	
	Session introduction	Moderator: Alicia Richters , Extension Advisor and Farm Engagement Lead, Dairy NSW
4:20pm	Tools to support farm system and infrastructure selection	Karen Romano , National Feeding and Farm Systems Lead, Dairy Australia
4:35pm	Value proposition of preliminary desktop environmental planning	Clare Fitzpatrick , Progressive Rural Solutions
4:55pm	Learnings from our recent transition to a contained housing facility	Nathan Shannon , Shannon Pastoral Company, Katunga, Victoria
5:15pm	Panel discussion	Moderator: Alicia Richters , Extension Advisor and Farm Engagement Lead, Dairy NSW Panellists: Karen Romano, Clare Fitzpatrick, Nathan Shannon and Nico Polato , Dairy Development Specialist, Daviesway-DASCO
Free time		
6:15pm	Pre-dinner networking function	
7:00pm	Eagle Direct Welcome BBQ	
	Eagle Direct Diamond Sponsor Address	Mike Ryan , Managing Director, Eagle Direct
10:30pm	Evening close	

Day 2 | Wednesday 28 February | Rydges Resort, Hunter Valley

Time	Detail	Speaker
8:30am	Welcome back to day 2	MC Karen Romano , National Feeding and Farm System Lead, Dairy Australia
8:35am	Session 5: Conventional and automatic milking systems in contained housing developments - design and keys to successful operation.	
	Sponsored by GEA	
	Session introduction	Karen Romano , National Feeding and Farm System Lead, Dairy Australia
8:40am	GEA sponsor address	Jürgen Steen , Automated Milking Systems Sales Manager, GEA, Australia
8:45am	Unveiling the future of dairy production: Exploring the cutting-edge trends in milking rotaries	Michael Heinrich , Senior Manager for Large and Special Projects, GEA, Germany
9:15am	Pioneering the dairy farm of tomorrow: Navigating the landscape of advanced milking systems in intensive contained systems	Jürgen Steen , Automated Milking Systems Sales Manager, GEA, Australia



Time	Detail	Speaker
9:35am	Starting up new AMS installations: - managing the data to improve decision making	Peter Best , Innovative Farm Services
9:50am	Robotics and our shift to a better work/life balance	Mark and Mandy Dee , Clydevale Holsteins, Marcoma North, Victoria
10:05am	Panel discussion	Moderator: Karen Romano , National Feeding and Farm System Lead, Dairy Australia Panellists: Michael Heinrich, Jürgen Steen, Peter Best, and Mark and Mandy Dee
10:30am	DeLaval tea break	

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Time	Detail	Speaker
11:00am	Session 6: Intensive Animal Production - Virtual farm tours and presentations showcasing contained housing systems	
	Session introduction	Moderator: Brian Crockart , Agribusiness Solutions
11:05am	The importance of professionally designed effluent plans for intensive dairy systems	Scott McDonald , Program Manager and Dairy Development Specialist Agriculture Victoria
11:15am	From 10 cows to 700 cows within six years	Reagan and Sherrie Hamilton , Tickawarra Farm, Wakool, NSW
11:35am	Maximising cow comfort and productivity	Victoria Mulcahy , Inionba Pastoral, Kyvalley, Victoria
11:55am	Consistent day-to-day management	Mark and Kate Walpole , Yielima, Victoria
12:15pm	Understanding the cost/benefit of investing in feeding/housing infrastructure, heat abatement strategies and environmental enrichment infrastructure	Dr Steve Little , Capacity Ag Consulting
12:30pm	Panel discussion	Moderator: Brian Crockart , Agribusiness Solutions Panellists: Scott McDonald, Reagan and Sherrie Hamilton, Victoria Mulcahy, Mark and Kate Walpole and Dr Steve Little
1:00pm	Lunch	
2:00pm	Session 7: Cow Comfort - making housing system an animal-centred environment	
	Session introduction	Moderator: Mike Ryan , Managing Director, Eagle Direct
2:05pm	Comfortable cows produce more milk... it is as simple as that	Dr Mike Wolf , Consulting Veterinarian, VES-Artex, United States
	Sponsored by VES-Artex and Eagle Direct	 
2:25pm	Three keys to exceptional hoof health	Karl Burgi , SaveCows, United States
	Sponsored by Comfort Hoof Care and Eagle Direct	 
2:45pm	Unlocking the potential of cows	Professor Ian Lean , Managing Director, Scibus
		
3:05pm	Panel discussion	Moderator: Mike Ryan , Managing Director, Eagle Direct Panellists: Dr Mike Wolf, Karl Burgi, Professor Ian Lean and Dr Steve Little



Time	Detail	Speaker
3:30pm	Pioneer Seeds tea break	
4:00pm	Session 8: Enhancing the operation and management of intensive farm systems	
	Session introduction	Moderator: Bernie Baxter , Large Supplier Engagement Lead, Dairy Australia
4:05pm	What it takes to manage large-scale dairy and heifer operations in Wisconsin, US	Scott Blevins , Wiese Brothers Dairy, Greenleaf, WI, United States
4:35pm	A focus on selection, growing and storing of forages to support intensive farm systems – the keys to success	Jason Scott , Territory Sales Manager, Pioneer Seeds
4:50pm	Feeding cows for efficiency – keys to achieving high intake on total mixed rations	Dr David Barber , DairyNEXT
5:05pm	Panel discussion	Moderator: Bernie Baxter , Large Supplier Engagement Lead, Dairy Australia Panellists: Scott Blevins, Jason Scott and Dr David Barber
5:35pm	Day three briefing	Karen Romano , National Feeding and Farm Systems Lead, Dairy Australia
Free time		
6:30pm	Gala Dinner	
	Gala Dinner welcome	Dr David Nation , Managing Director, Dairy Australia
10:30pm	Evening close	

Day 3 | Thursday 29 February | Nundah Pastoral, Redgrove Family, Scotts Flat, NSW

Time	Detail	Speaker
6:45am	Board buses at Rydges Reception and travel to the farm All delegates are required to travel in buses to the farm. On arrival at the farm all visitors must use footbaths. Please wear protective footwear appropriate for a farm visit. To ensure you gain the best experience during the farm visit, please follow all biosecurity measures and instructions from event coordinators (they will be wearing navy Raising the Roof 2024 shirts). All delegates are also required to travel back to Rydges on buses.	
8:30am	Opening session	
	Welcome to Nundah Pastoral, the on-farm component of Raising the Roof 2024	MC Karen Romano , National Feeding and Farm System Lead, Dairy Australia
8:35am	Nundah Pastoral – the value of long-term planning for the business	John, Allison, Daniel and Sarah Redgrove , Nundah Pastoral, Scotts Flat, NSW
9:00am	Panel discussion	Moderator: Karen Romano , National Feeding and Farm System Lead, Dairy Australia Panellists: John, Allison, Daniel and Sarah Redgrove



Time	Details	Speaker
9:30am	<p>Showcase of Dairy UP intensive farm system research</p> 	
	Session introduction	Moderator: Yani Garcia , Professor of Dairy Science Director, Dairy Research Foundation Dairy UP Program Leader, University of Sydney
9:35am	Heat stress – findings and consideration for design	Associate Professor Cameron Clark and Alice Shirley , University of Sydney
9:50am	More efficient and profitable maize silage	Yani Garcia , Professor of Dairy Science Director Dairy Research Foundation Dairy UP Program Leader, University of Sydney
10:05am	Managing and improving loose housing facilities with a compost bedded pack	Andrew Lean , Charles Sturt University
10:20am	Survival and performance of housed dairy animals	David Sheedy , University of Sydney and Professor Ian Lean, Scibus
10:35am	Panel discussion	<p>Moderator: Yani Garcia, Professor of Dairy Science Director, Dairy Research Foundation Dairy UP Program Leader, University of Sydney</p> <p>Panellists: Associate Professor Cameron Clark, Alice Shirley, Andrew Lean, David Sheedy and Professor Ian Lean</p>
11:00am	Tech Span tea break	 
11:30am	<p>Concurrent interactive sessions: An opportunity to ask questions and interact with the Redgrove family members and specialists on topics of interest.</p> <p>6 groups rotate around 6 stations, 15 minutes per station</p>	
	<p>Station 1 Loose housing facility #3 Design and management</p>	Daniel Redgrove and Alain Houle , Wastewater Management Systems Consultant, Valmetal Group
	<p>Station 2 Feedbase management and storage A practical discussion related to the growing forages through to effective storage with a focus of quality</p>	John Redgrove and Kyle Roper , Farmers Warehouse Agronomist
	<p>Station 3 Dairy parlour Design, implementation and management – a six-point approach</p>	Nico Polato , Dairy Development Specialist, Daviesway-DASCO
	<p>Station 4 Calf rearing facility Design and management</p>	Sarah Redgrove, Mike Ryan , Managing Director, Eagle Direct Warren Baldacchino , Farmers Warehouse
	<p>Station 5 Practical hoof health Practical, hands-on demonstration of effective hoof trimming and lameness prevention</p>	Karl Burgi , Save Cows® Network, United States Dean Fry , Eagle Direct
	Sponsored by Comfort Hoof Care and Eagle Direct	 



Time	Details	Speaker
	Station 6 Design criteria of housed facilities to maximise cow comfort Practical, hand-on demonstration	Dr Mike Wolf, Consulting Veterinarian, VES-Artex, United States and Henry Collins, VES-Artex Asia Pacific
Sponsored by VES-Artex and Eagle Direct		 
1:30pm	Lunch	

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DIRECT CONTACT
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Time	Details	Speaker
	DASCO Sponsor Address	Brendan Johnson , Manager DASCO
2:30pm	Q and A with John, Allison, Daniel and Sarah Redgrove and trusted specialists	Moderator: Karen Romano , National Feeding and Farm Systems Lead, Dairy Australia
3:00pm	Official close and farewell	MC Karen Romano , National Feeding and Farm Systems Lead, Dairy Australia
3:20pm	A chance to view the operation of Loose Housing Facility 3 and the dairy parlour	
3:45pm	Board buses and travel back to venue	
4:30pm	Arrive at Rydges Resort	



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WHOVA App instructions

We're using an online platform called Whova for our event. Once you download the Whova app you will be able to:

- View event **agenda** and plan your personal schedule.
- Access **documents** and **slides** shared by organisers or speakers.
- **Find who else is attending** this event and reach out to people ahead of time or during the event.
- Plan some social activities such as a **morning run** or **breakfast catch-ups** with your fellow attendees during the event.
- Receive updates such as **last-minute session changes** from the organisers.

After downloading the app (from either your Apple or Google store), enter the same email address that you used when you registered for the event. Then just enter a strong password. Once you have signed up, you should be taken directly to our event!

Important

Only use one email address. It is important that all users use their own email address.

If you aren't directly added to the event and are asked for an event invitation code when accessing the event, please type in this invitation code: **RtR2024Hunter** (Please do **not** share this invitation code with people who are NOT attendees of the event).

Already used the Whova app in the past? Double-check that it is installed on your phone, and log in using your existing account email and password.

If you need more guidance on how to use Whova to attend the event, just reach out to a Raising the Roof team member and they will be happy to assist you.

Find the agenda within your Whova App:

- 1 Find the Agenda tab at the bottom of the screen. You should see a list of session for that day.
- 2 You can move through different days by selecting the date you want to view on the calendar at the top of the agenda.
- 3 Browse or search for sessions on the top bar.
- 4 Once you find the session you want to access, tap on it and see additional information such as speaker biography, presentation overviews and conference papers. All presentations will be loaded onto the session after the presentation.

Thank you to all our sponsors

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Thank you to our farm families:

Their participation and willingness to share information and operational insights is greatly appreciated.

- AFMH-Moxey Farms, Gooloogong
- Kariana Pastoral, Deniliquin
- Glenwood, Panmure
- The Hermitage Dairy, Kergunyah South
- MC & CA Hay & Son, Wee Wee Rup Inionba Pastoral, Kyvalley
- Shannon Pastoral Company, Katunga
- Clydevale Holsteins, Macorna North
- Tickawarra Farm, Wakool
- M & K Walpole Family Trust, Yielima
- Nundah Holsteins, Scotts Flat

Raising the Roof 2024 feedback

Feedback ensures we keep delivering an event that meets your requirements.

Please scan the following QR code to submit your feedback:



Farm System Evaluator workshops

Supporting infrastructure consideration for farm business

Farm businesses considering farm infrastructure investments can register their expression of interest in attending a two-day Farm System Evaluator Workshop to be delivered in your region in 2024.

Dairy Australia's Farm System Evaluator Workshop for farm businesses will help you explore the world of feeding infrastructure and contained housing facilities.

Navigating these decisions can be complex, and you may find yourself uncertain about the best path forward for your development. Our workshop provides a unique opportunity for key decision makers to leverage the groundbreaking Farm System Evaluator (FSE) online tool and other resources to support infrastructure investment decisions.

Over two days, spaced two to three weeks apart, our expert facilitators will guide you through the process, ensuring you are well prepared to embark on your farm business transformation.



In this workshop, facilitators guide key decision makers as they use the world-first Farm System Evaluator (FSE) online tool and other resources to:

- Understand and articulate their key motivators for farm system change.
- Select the most suitable infrastructure for their farm business.
- Assess their farm business's readiness to proceed with project planning and development.
- Develop a draft strategic plan and action plan for their farm business.
- Consider the steps to obtaining development approval and the professionals they will need in their project team.

Don't miss this chance to make informed decisions and propel your farm business to new heights.



If you're ready to take the next step in your farming journey, express your interest in our region/district-based workshops. Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3Oyd7rs.

For further details please contact:

Karen Romano
National Feeding and Farm Systems Lead
Karen.Romano@dairyaustralia.com.au

Disclaimer

The content of this publication is provided for general information only and has not been prepared to address your specific circumstances. We do not guarantee the completeness, accuracy or timeliness of the information.

Acknowledgement

Dairy Australia acknowledges the funding contribution of the Commonwealth Government for eligible research and development activities.

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