

Meeting of dairy minds

THE dairy industry is abuzz with anticipation for the 2023 Dairy Research Foundation (DRF) Symposium.

This year's event, on November 7 and 8 at the University of Sydney's Camden campus and Corstorphine Dairy, promises to be an enthralling gathering of the sharpest industry minds.

With its theme, "A lot more than just CARBON", the symposium will delve into pressing issues surrounding cows, adaptation, risks, business, opportunities, and new research. But what makes the symposium significant and how does it play a role in shaping the dairy industry's future?

Shaping the Future: Beyond CARBON

The chosen theme, "A lot more than just CARBON" is emblematic of the symposium's forward-thinking approach. It acknowledges that the dairy industry's future is multifaceted, extending beyond carbon emissions alone. The symposium aims to address a broad spectrum of challenges and opportunities that are shaping the dairy sector's trajectory.

Leading the Conversation

The 2023 DRF Symposium boasts an impressive line-up of national and international speakers who are poised to share their invaluable insights and expertise:

Tim Mackle, the former CEO of DairyNZ, brings a compelling narrative to the symposium. He aspires to convey the story of dairy, not merely as an industry but as a vital source of nutrition and a livelihood for farming families in Australia and New Zealand. Dr Mackle's presentation will address the myriad of challenges that have reshaped the dairy



The 2023 DRF Symposium is more than just a gathering of experts; it's an inclusive event that invites all stakeholders within the dairy community to partake in the dialogue about the industry's future. Picture supplied



Scan the QR code for a chance to win one of two tickets to the DRF Dairy Symposium on November 7 and 8 at Camden, NSW, valued \$590 each (total value of \$1180).

industry in NZ. His insights include shifting customer expectations, water quality challenges, global climate discussions, and the looming threat of synthetic and plant-based dairy substitutes will serve as a rallying cry for farmers to remain steadfast amid the increasing scrutiny from political and environmental quarters.

Aaron Simmons, a senior research scientist with the NSW Department of Primary Industries, is at the forefront

of assessing climate change mitigation strategies in agricultural systems. He is spearheading a program aimed at guiding NSW DPI agricultural research stations, including the Tocal dairy, towards carbon neutrality by 2030. Dr Simmons is also working on global guidelines to assess emissions reductions in dairy systems. His presentation at the symposium will delve into critical topics such as policy changes, evolving dairy industry dynamics,

emissions requirements for dairy farmers, and the data necessary for estimating GHG emissions intensity. Dr Simmons will also explore the suitability of various emissions reduction strategies, taking into account factors like cost, time commitment, and accessibility.

Richard Eckard, director of Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre at the University of Melbourne, is a distinguished keynote speaker at the symposium. With a primary focus on carbon, he aims to demystify the complexities surrounding carbon emissions in the dairy industry. Professor Eckard's presentation will provide dairy farmers with valuable insights on planning for the future, with an emphasis on saving time and money. He will advocate for a holistic approach that considers not only carbon targets but biodiversity preservation. Prof Eckard's extensive experience as a

speaker at agricultural events across the globe equips him to prepare farmers for the evolving landscape of farming practices, particularly in Australia, NZ, Ireland, and the Netherlands.

Ad van Velde, from the Netherlands, is president of Global Dairy Farmers and brings a wealth of experience spanning decades in the dairy industry. His innovative approach to dairy farming, characterised by the use of milking robots and a commitment to antibiotic-free and climate-neutral dairy production, offers fresh perspectives. Mr van Velde's dairy farm, which breeds its own cattle and collaborates closely with local crop farmers, embodies sustainable agricultural practices. His collaboration with Wageningen University and ownership of the business development consultancy, DairyNext, underscore his dedication to propelling the dairy industry forward.

His passionate advocacy for dairy, coupled with his deep insights into the challenges faced in the interconnected global dairy landscape, positions him as a pivotal figure at the symposium.

The future of dairy

The 2023 DRF Symposium is more than just a gathering of experts; it's an inclusive event that invites all stakeholders within the dairy community to partake in the dialogue about the industry's future. It offers a platform for learning, collaboration, and the co-creation of a sustainable and prosperous dairy sector.

Early bird tickets are available online. Visit www.drfsymposium.com.au/tickets for further details.

Reader giveaway

The DRF Symposium is giving away two all-inclusive tickets valued \$590 each (total value of \$1180). The tickets grant access to both days of the symposium, including the conference day on Tuesday, November 7, followed by the DRF dinner, as well as the field day on Wednesday, November 8, featuring the trademark Emerging Scientists competition. Simply scan the QR code to enter.

The University of Sydney's Dairy Research Foundation

The University of Sydney's Dairy Research Foundation plays a pivotal role in organising the symposium. Beyond this annual event, the foundation is a beacon of knowledge, informing the dairy community about the university's ongoing research endeavors. The symposium, held in various NSW locations, brings together professionals, researchers, and farmers to share insights and chart the future of dairy.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

DRF 2023 SYMPOSIUM

A lot more than just 'Carbon'

CAMDEN, NSW

Tuesday 7 November
Wednesday 8 November

PURCHASE YOUR
TICKETS HERE
drfsymposium.com.au

