



Media Release

Friday 3rd April 2009

Dairy Australia tours the Region

This week Murray Dairy coordinated a Regional Tour for Dairy Australia (DA) to meet directly with farmers to discuss the milk price decrease and understand the severity of continued drought conditions.

Dairy Australia Directors Peter Nankervis and Geoff Akers as well as DA Research and Development Manager, Steve Coats met with groups of dairy farmers on farms at Rochester, Kerang, Oxley, Tocumwal and Katamatite.

Additional meetings were also held with the United Dairy Farmers of Victoria, milk companies and Murray Dairy's Industry Steering Group.

Natalie Akers, Murray Dairy CEO said "the tour was a good opportunity for Dairy Australia to hear directly how farmers are faring in light of an extremely difficult operating environment".

"For every farm we visited another 10-15 farmers were also present which provided us with a good cross section of farmers to discuss issues with".

"Dairy Australia and Murray Dairy have prepared a number of reports on the impacts of the price drop, but hearing real life stories face-to-face have further reinforced our findings on the severity of the situation farmers are facing".

"A strong autumn break and solid opening milk price will be critical to dairy farmers as they make plans for the coming season"

The meetings also provided an opportunity for Dairy Australia to discuss the release of the March Situation and Outlook, which for the first time makes projections regarding milk price.

"Dairy Australia has projected a possible average milk price range of \$4.00 and \$4.60 per kg of milk solids".

Full copies of the Situation and Outlook are available on the Murray Dairy website www.murraydairy.com.au;

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- **ATTACHMENTS:** Situation and Outlook, photos from farm five visits