

# Dairy Grains Mentoring Project

## Knowledge sharing between two industries



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment



Subtropical Dairy has begun working with 15 dairy farmers from the northern Australian dairy industry who are keen to improve their cropping production skills and soil health.

Dairy farmers will participate in an innovative project, funded through the Federal Government's Future Drought Fund, which is looking to establish a Community of Practice between dairy farmers and grain farmers with the aim of sharing knowledge between the two industries regarding agronomic practices and soil health.

Due to the ongoing issues around COVID-19, the project will look to link dairy farmers with agronomic consultants working in the grains industry through a series of four online sessions facilitated by Barb Bishop.

Participating dairy farmers will work with agronomic consultants over the next nine months to share learnings from the grains industry. A number of relevant benchmarks specific to the summer and winter cropping seasons will be set for each dairy farm business, and agronomists will assist farmers in building their own on-farm action plans to address potential improvements in cropping production and soil health.

There will be opportunities throughout the project for dairy farmers to engage with grains farmers through face-to-face activities including a tour to a number of Darling Downs grains farms in early 2022.

**For more information on this project or how to be involved, please contact Jo Srhoj 0458 065 695 or Belinda Haddow 0423 003 638.**



Paul Roderick, Director, Dairy Australia and SEQ dairy farmer said:

***"The Dairy Grains Mentoring Project is a great example of farmers helping farmers and industries sharing knowledge and expertise."***

Mr Roderick said the Dairy Grains Mentoring Project would provide an important conduit for knowledge sharing between the two industries.

"With increasing variability in seasonal conditions, farmers have an increased reliance on conserved feed and are growing more crops. I've been able to develop my skills in the dairying side of our business but feel I still have more room for improvement in my knowledge and skills around growing crops and feed for the cows," he said.

"The feedbase is the largest cost on a lot of dairy farms and I see this as the next opportunity to increase farm productivity and decrease costs." ■ ■ ■

