

Dairy Australia appoints new CEO



Dairy Australia has announced the appointment of Dr Matthew Shaffer as its new Chief Executive Officer, marking a significant leadership transition for the organisation.

Following an extensive recruitment process led by the Dairy Australia Board, Matt was selected for his compelling vision for the organisation and focus on what drives value for farmers, his deep knowledge and passion for the dairy industry, and his strong commercial experience in agriculture.

Matt most recently served as CEO of DataGene; an industry-owned organisation focused on driving genetic gain and herd improvement in the Australian dairy industry. Prior to that, Matt was CEO of Holstein Australia and started his career in the finance industry for the US based Hancock Agriculture Investment Group where he played a critical international operations role.

Dairy Australia Chair, Paul Roderick, said: "Matt brings a wealth of experience and a proven ability to deliver meaningful change. His leadership at DataGene, along with his deep engagement across global networks, government, and the dairy industry, positions him well to lead Dairy Australia into a new era."

"After consulting farmers around Dairy Australia's strategic direction, we are preparing to launch a new five-year strategy. Matt will contribute to shaping our future direction and play a critical role in implementing a strategy that supports farmers to unlock the potential of their farm business, innovate for future success, while ensuring a sustainable dairy industry."

Matt will succeed current Managing Director, Dr David Nation, who announced in late 2024 his decision to step down by June 2025, after seven years in the role.

Paul acknowledged David's significant contributions: "David has challenged the status quo and championed initiatives that have had a lasting impact on the dairy industry. His leadership in research and innovation



Photo courtesy of farmonline.com.au

through partnerships with DairyBio and DairyFeedbase has been exceptional."

"He also played a key role in enhancing Dairy Australia's support for the industry's sustainability agenda, building community trust, and strengthening regional connections with farmers. Under his guidance, Dairy Australia has become a more people-focused organisation with a clear commitment to delivering value for the industry."

Dairy Australia thanks David Nation for his dedicated service and welcomes Matt Shaffer as the organisation embarks on its next chapter. Matt is due to take the helm from 16 July 2025. ■ ■

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