



TASMANIAN FARMERS & GRAZIERS ASSOCIATION

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

26<sup>th</sup> October 2009

### **Tasmanian Dairy Assistance Package Open for business**

Tasmanian dairy farmers can now start applying for support from the Tasmanian Government's Dairy Assistance Package, recently announced by the State Government.

While the package is being coordinated by the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, there are a number of agencies responsible for administering various elements of the package.

"We are providing a central co-ordinating role for the dairy assistance package," said TFGA CEO Chris Oldfield. "We have had experience of this through the drought, and many of the elements of this dairy package mirror similar ones provided to drought affected areas in recent times."

"The Dairy Assistance Package is available to all dairy farmers who meet the criteria and the TFGA is pleased to be able to support the implementation of this package."

Information about the dairy package, together with application forms where applicable, will be available from the TFGA website ([www.tfga.com.au](http://www.tfga.com.au)) and from the State Government's Farmpoint website ([www.farmpoint.tas.gov.au](http://www.farmpoint.tas.gov.au)).

Rural Support Network Co-ordinator at TFGA, Nick Flittner, is encouraging dairy farmers to seek information about the support package and submit applications. "We have a dedicated staff member on board to handle enquiries and help applicants with the processes of applying for the support available. Many elements of the package will only be available for a short time, so farmers should apply as soon as possible."

The main parts of the package are:

All information and documents available from Farmpoint ([www.farmpoint.tas.gov.au](http://www.farmpoint.tas.gov.au)) or TFGA ([www.tfga.com.au](http://www.tfga.com.au)) or call TFGA on 6332 1820 (dairy direct) or 1800 154 111 (TFGA general number)

#### **Farming Family Relief Program**

Grants of up to \$2000 per dairy farm family to assist with household bills and other family household expenses

Administered by CWA – application forms available

Telephone - 6231 3706

### **Social and Community Events grants**

Grants of up to \$3000 available to community groups to support social and community events in dairy areas

Administered by TFGA – application forms available

Telephone - 6332 1820 or 1800 154 111

### **Dairy Support Grants**

Grants of up to \$5000 per dairy business to assist with the costs of pasture improvement or access to fodder, agistment or transport of fodder/livestock.

Administered by TFGA – application forms available

Telephone - 6332 1820 or 1800 154 111

### **Taking Stock Program**

Additional places available for dairy farmers to undertake the Taking Stock program.

Administered by Dairy Tas – application forms available

Telephone - 03 6432 2233

### **Expansion of dairy extension services**

Additional extension services including discussion groups and field days delivered by Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research Dairy Centre.

Administered by TIAR Dairy Centre

Telephone - 6430 4901

### **Animal Welfare Helpline – 6421 7601**

Support and advice by the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research

Administered by TIAR Dairy Centre

Animal Welfare Helpline - 6421 7601

### **Professional veterinary advice subsidy**

50% subsidy on eligible veterinary expenses

Administered by DPIPW – application forms available

Telephone - Chief Veterinary Officer 1300 368 550

Any enquires should be made to TFGA on 6332 1820 or 1800 154 111.

### **Contacts**

TFGA: Nick Flittner- 0400 852 485

