



Media Release

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A new look at managing risk in the Dairy Industry

Dairy Food Safety Victoria (DFSV), with the support of the Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation, is currently running a Risk Analysis Training Program that provides a new way of thinking about and managing dairy food safety.

The Risk Analysis Training is being conducted by Dr Charlie Yoe, Ph.D., a professor of Economics at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland USA and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences at the University of Maryland.

Dr Yoe has undertaken the provision of Risk Analysis, Assessment and Management training for the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition for the last 11 years and has developed and taught courses for several agencies of the U.S. federal government, private industry and academia.

DFSV Chief Executive Officer Dr Anne Astin said the initiative provides an opportunity to strengthen the future of the Australian dairy industry through participation in an international training program run by a world expert on risk assessment.

“The Dairy Industry Risk Analysis Training has not been offered at this level before and will provide the Victorian dairy industry with access to material that is only available at a significantly higher cost, and only from the USA,” Dr Astin said.

The basic Risk Analysis Training forms part of a broader program being developed by the University of Maryland which aims to deliver food defence knowledge and skills relating to the identification, assessment and management of intentional contamination. The idea is to incorporate food safety and food defence to give overall food protection.

The University of Maryland, with input from DFSV, is currently reviewing the worth of a number of programs for potential inclusion in food defence curriculum and assessments will be done on the Australian and US Dairy Industries to fine tune the program.

“A focus on food defence is relatively new to the food industry but there has been strong industry participation and the program will assist Victorian dairy businesses to better understand and prepare for managing dairy-based threats,” said Dr Astin.

“The initiative also complements the DFSV *Learning Networks* program where industry are seeing benefits in coming together and discussing real issues associated with hazards, risks and dairy food safety,” said Dr Astin.

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