

# AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

## 2016 SUPPORT SERVICES IN VICTORIA

*A guide for individuals, farm families & businesses impacted by the recent dairy industry announcements.*

Farmers support		
Initiative/ Service	Description	More information
<b>Tactics for Tight Times</b>	<p>Delivers programs &amp; information for dairy farmers &amp; service providers with clear messages, information, tools &amp; resources to support key decision making on-farm. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking Stock</li> <li>• Seasonal Update Information Sessions</li> <li>• Feed Budgeting &amp; Purchasing Risk Management</li> <li>• DairyBase</li> <li>• Dairy Discussion Groups</li> </ul>	<p>Dairy Australia: 03 9694 3777            West VicDairy: 03 5557 1000            Murray Dairy: 03 5833 5312            GippsDairy: 03 5624 3900</p> <p><a href="http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au">www.dairyaustralia.com.au</a></p>
<b>Rural Financial Counselling</b>	Free & independent financial information, options, decision support & referral services.	<p>Call 1800 686 175 (toll free) or call:            Western RFCS: 1300 735 578            Eastern RFCS: 5662 2566            North East RFCS: 1300 834 775            North West RFCS: 1300 769 489</p> <p><a href="http://www.rfcs.gov.au">www.rfcs.gov.au</a></p>
<b>Farming &amp; drought information</b>	Information to assist farmers with a broad range of agricultural issues, including animal health and welfare information.	Call 136 186 or visit: <a href="http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought">www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought</a>
<b>Farm Household Allowance</b>	Income support payment, available to eligible farmers & their families experiencing financial hardship.	Call 13 23 16 or visit: <a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au">www.humanservices.gov.au</a>
<b>Farm Debt Mediation</b>	Compulsory Scheme for banks & other creditors to offer mediation to farmers before commencing debt recovery proceedings on farm mortgages.	<p>Call 136 186            Email: <a href="mailto:farm.debt@ecodev.vic.gov.au">farm.debt@ecodev.vic.gov.au</a>            Visit: <a href="http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought">www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought</a></p>
<b>Australian Government Farmer Assistance hotline</b>	Information on the Australian Government's support services available to farmers and rural communities (e.g. Farm Household Allowance).	Farmer Assistance Hotline: 132 316
<b>Farm Management Deposits</b>	Assists primary producers to deal more effectively with fluctuations in cash flows.	<a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.au">www.agriculture.gov.au</a>

## Farmers support

Initiative/ Service	Description	More information
<b>Look over the farm gate</b>	Community events & activities that bring people together.	<a href="http://www.lookoverthefarmgate.com.au">www.lookoverthefarmgate.com.au</a>
<b>National Centre for Farmer Health</b>	Workshops to improve the health, safety & well-being of farm men & women, farm workers, their families & communities across Australia.	For further information, call (03) 5551 8533 or visit <a href="http://www.farmerhealth.org.au">www.farmerhealth.org.au</a>

## Emotional and Health support

<b>Lifeline</b>	24/7 telephone counselling – Connect with someone who cares.	Call 13 11 14 or visit <a href="http://www.lifeline.org.au">www.lifeline.org.au</a>
<b>Beyondblue</b>	Information about issues associated with depression & anxiety.	Call 1300 224 636 or visit <a href="http://www.beyondblue.org.au">www.beyondblue.org.au</a>
<b>NURSE-ON-CALL</b>	24/7 phone service that provides immediate, expert health advice from a registered nurse.	Call on 1300 60 60 24
<b>Mensline Australia</b>	24/7 service for men with relationship & family concerns.	Call 1300 78 99 78
<b>Kids Help Line</b>	24/7 telephone & online counselling service for young people.	Call 1800 55 1800 or visit <a href="http://www.kidshelp.com.au">www.kidshelp.com.au</a>
<b>Family Relationship Service</b>	Providing families with access to information about family relationship issues.	Call 1800 050 321 or visit <a href="http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au">www.familyrelationships.gov.au</a>
<b>Victorian Better Health Channel</b>	Health & medical information that is quality assured, reliable, up to date, easy to understand, regularly reviewed & locally relevant.	<a href="http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au">www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Find a mental health service</b>	Mental health consultations.	Contact your local GP for a referral Visit: <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au">www.health.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Maternal &amp; Child Health Line</b>	24/7 state-wide telephone service, which works alongside the Maternal & Child Health Service & is staffed by qualified maternal & child health nurses.	Families can call 13 22 29 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
<b>Parentline</b>	Confidential, anonymous & free telephone counselling, information & referral service for parents.	Families can call 13 22 89 (8 am to midnight, 7 days a week)
<b>Building Emotional Resilience fact sheet</b>	Practical ways to help build mental & emotional resilience & signposting to further resources.	Dairy Australia fact sheet is available at: <a href="http://www.thepeopleindairy.org.au">www.thepeopleindairy.org.au</a>

## Personal Assistance

<b>Victorian State Concessions</b>	A number of concessions designed to assist & improve the affordability of essential services for low-income Victorian households.	<a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/concessions">www.dhs.vic.gov.au/concessions</a>
<b>Foodbank Victoria</b>	Foodbank distributes meals to individuals & families across regional, rural & metro areas of Victoria, helping to feed over 100,000 Victorians each month.	Foodbank <a href="http://www.foodbankvictoria.org.au">www.foodbankvictoria.org.au</a> Phone: 9362 8300
<b>Back to School</b>	Children from disadvantaged families attending Victorian Government Schools are provided with uniforms, shoes & other essential items.	Contact your School Principal, Assistant Principal or Welfare Coordinator
<b>Kindergarten Concessions</b>	Kindergarten fee subsidy to enable eligible children to attend a funded kindergarten program in the year before school free of charge or at minimal cost.	Contact your local kindergarten or call: 1800 809 834
<b>Camps, Sports &amp; Excursions Fund (CSEF)</b>	To eligible students in specified areas that are currently enrolled in government & non-government schools.	Contact your child's school in the first instance. Visit: <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef">www.education.vic.gov.au/csef</a> . Or phone the CSEF Helpdesk: 1800 060 970