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Dairy Masterclass takes careers to next level

The next generation of Australian dairy farm managers will be able to take their careers to the next level with the Masterclass in Dairy Farm Management.

Developed in partnership between University of Tasmania and Dairy Australia, the Masterclass aims to boost the capability of Australia's dairy sector and address a current national shortage of professional training pathways for dairy farm managers.

In its second year, the Masterclass will provide practical management skills that participants can apply to their businesses from day one, including financial management, leadership and human resources, business development and farm systems.

The course is delivered online with face-to-face learning and networking opportunities available also. For those participants who are already working in the dairy industry, it offers flexible pathways of study to fit studies around their current roles.

Tasmanian dairy farmer Cheryl McCartie said she has seen farm size and structure change significantly since her family moved to Tasmania and sees opportunities to better manage both farms and people through the Dairy Masterclass.

Cheryl said the Masterclass fills the gap farmers have been asking for regarding education and training and qualifications.

"The fact that it is a collaboration between Dairy Australia, the University's Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and other farmers, we are all on the same page, and we are seeing the need nationally. It is pleasing to see a qualification like this has come about and I'm excited that the University of Tasmania is offering it.

"People can acquire certificates and diplomas, but this is the next level and represents the high level of capability needed to run a dairy farm business. It presents an opportunity for farming businesses to offer quality training at management level."

Understanding the broader context around global reach and systems are key components of the Dairy Masterclass along with developing best-practice management skills and understanding people, culture, and workplace.

Dairy Australia Learning & Development Partners Lead, April Browne, said there are currently limited pathways for farmers to develop the required capabilities for management roles.

"The Masterclass in Dairy Farm Management is an exciting development for the industry and will ensure current and future dairy managers around the country have the knowledge and skills to maximise farm performance and lead successful teams.

Attracting people to the industry and building skills are key commitments of the recently launched Australian Dairy Plan and we're pleased this initiative will help to deliver on these priorities," April said.

The Masterclass in Dairy Farm Management is open to people working in the dairy industry - and those looking to enter it at a management level - across Australia, and applications are now open.

Information sessions will be held for people looking to participate in the course and employers on October 26.

To register and for more information visit: <https://www.utas.edu.au/tia/study/masterclass-in-dairy-business>

TIA is a joint venture of the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government.

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