

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

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Look over the farm gate	Community events & activities that bring people together.	www.lookoverthefarmgate.com.au
National Centre for Farmer Health	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 www.farmerhealth.org.au
Emotional and Health support		
Lifeline	24/7 telephone counselling – Connect with someone who cares.	Call 13 11 14 or visit www.lifeline.org.au
Beyondblue	Information about issues associated with depression & anxiety.	Call 1300 224 636 or visit www.beyondblue.org.au
NURSE-ON-CALL	24/7 phone service that provides immediate, expert health advice from a registered nurse.	Call on 1300 60 60 24
Mensline Australia	24/7 service for men with relationship & family concerns.	Call 1300 78 99 78
Kids Help Line	24/7 telephone & online counselling service for young people.	Call 1800 55 1800 or visit www.kidshelp.com.au
Family Relationship Service	Providing families with access to information about family relationship issues.	Call 1800 050 321 or visit www.familyrelationships.gov.au
Victorian Better Health Channel	Health & medical information that is quality assured, reliable, up to date, easy to understand, regularly reviewed & locally relevant.	www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au
Find a mental health service	Mental health consultations.	Contact your local GP for a referral Visit: www.health.vic.gov.au
Maternal & Child Health Line	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)
Parentline	Confidential, anonymous & free telephone counselling, information & referral service for parents.	Families can call 13 22 89 (8 am to midnight, 7 days a week)
Building Emotional Resilience fact sheet	Practical ways to help build mental & emotional resilience & signposting to further resources.	Dairy Australia fact sheet is available at: www.thepeopleindairy.org.au
Personal Assistance		
Victorian State Concessions	A number of concessions designed to assist & improve the affordability of essential services for low-income Victorian households.	www.dhs.vic.gov.au/concessions
Foodbank Victoria	Foodbank distributes meals to individuals & families across regional, rural & metro areas of Victoria, helping to feed over 100,000 Victorians each month.	Foodbank www.foodbankvictoria.org.au Phone: 9362 8300
Back to School	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
Kindergarten Concessions	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
Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)	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: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef . Or phone the CSEF Helpdesk: 1800 060 970