

on the farm

February – March 2020

beef | cropping | dairy | sheep

Don't miss
the Sungold
Field Days



Hay
donations
called for



Dairy
scholarships
awarded



WD NEWS
PUBLICATIONS

Don't miss the Field Days



WITH an animal farm, vintage tractors, music and over 200 exhibitors, the 2020 Sungold Field Days looks set to attract visitors of all ages.

Once again the event is expected to draw thousands of visitors to Allansford next week – with the 39th annual event to be staged this Wednesday to Friday (February 12, 13 and 14)

Victoria's premier agricultural event, the field days will showcase a vast range of agricultural machinery and the latest in dairy innovations.

Importantly, the event provides an opportunity for dairy industry suppliers to speak directly with local farmers.

Now in its 39th year, the event is spread over almost eight hectares and continues to be the only dairy focused field days in the region.

Like previous years there will be an abundance of new technology released at the Field Days which will be of great benefit to farmers and of interest to everyone.

This year's event will have an exciting program, complementing the range of exhibits on show.

With wood chopping, live music, excellent food and cooking demonstrations there is plenty to keep the whole family entertained for hours.

The music stage will feature several local and highly talented musicians at various times over the three days.

Vintage vehicle enthusiasts will delight in a range of agricultural tractors, Little Grey Fergies and others as they make their way in procession through the grounds each day.

The Western Victorian Axemen's Association – the oldest in Victoria – will demonstrate the underhand and standing block wood chopping events, as well as a range of other competitions.

And when it's time for a break, make sure you head to the food court where you'll be sure to find something to tempt your tastebuds.

The cooking stage will be a busy area over the three days, with plenty of demonstrations planned for the three days.

Visitors will this year have the chance to win a trip for two to Tasmania.

Simply fill in your details on the back of your Sungold Field Days entrance ticket to be in the draw to win this exciting trip.

The prize includes return fares on board the Spirit of Tasmania (twin share inside cabin with standard car space), five nights' accommodation and a \$50 fuel voucher.

Simply place your tickets in the entry barrel near the main entrance.

Parking at the field days is free, with gates open from 7.30am.

Sungold Field Days 2020 Site Map



Check for pink-eye

SOUTH west cattle producers are reminded to regularly check their cattle for pink-eye outbreaks during the hotter months.

According to Agriculture Victoria the hot conditions bring a higher risk of the disease.

The summer season brings increased sunlight and dust, which can make the eye more vulnerable to the disease.

Symptoms of pink-eye can include clear and watery tears leaking from the eye, an aversion to sunlight and reddening and swelling of the eyelids.

Pink-eye usually occurs in young cattle in their first summer.

After this initial infection, cattle can develop immunity to the disease but may remain carriers of the bacteria, moraxella bovis, which can potentially lead to future outbreaks in following years.

A number of preventative measures and treatments are available for the disease.

Pink-eye can be treated with sprays, ointments, injections and patches or a combination of these treatments.

Extra care should be taken when mustering cattle for the purposes of treatment for pink-eye, as factors such as dust and flies may enhance the spread of the disease.

An outbreak of pink-eye can be prevented through vaccination three to six weeks before the onset of the pink-eye season.

Other control measures include controlling fly numbers to limit the spread of bacteria from animal to animal, prompt segregation and treatment of pink-eye in affected stock and avoiding unnecessary yarding of cattle during periods where the risk of outbreak is higher.

For further advice, contact a local veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria on 136 186.



SEE US AT THE SUNGOLD FIELD DAYS FEB 12, 13, 14 OUR SITE: W7

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Latrobe St, Ballarat
Phone: (03) 5332 0177

3 LOCATIONS SERVICING THE DISTRICT

A glimpse into the future of genetics



WORLD-LEADING genetics experts will outline what the future is likely to hold for the industry at a major Victorian conference in March.

Genetics Australia will host the three-day conference on March 18-20 to examine future directions in genetics with a horizon of 2030.

The GA 2020 Conference will start with a one-day forum at Tabcorp Park in Melton on March 18 followed by farm tours in South and West Gippsland over the next two days to showcase progressive breeding programs.

The event has attracted leading international and Australian speakers, including Select Sires International

Development Vice-President, Joel Mergler, Sexing Technologies CEO Juan Moreno, Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University Dr Ky Pohler, Dairy Australia Senior Industry Analyst John Droppert and Agriculture Victoria principal research scientist (genomic and cellular sciences), Professor Jennie Pryce.

Genetics Australia CEO Anthony Shelly said the conference would be a great opportunity to hear from some of the best geneticists and genetic professionals in the world. "The conference will give dairy farmers and industry professionals a glimpse into what the future is likely to hold," Mr Shelly said. "It is rare to have such an outstanding group of local and international speakers all in one place."

The conference will look at genetic developments in the global space and determine how these developments will impact the Australian breeding industry and the broader Dairy Industry. "Over the past few years the progression of genetics in the dairy industry and more broadly in agriculture has been phenomenal, and with the volume of research and development happening, that will expand even further the next decade," Mr Shelly said.

"This conference will pull together all relevant information and help any interested farmer or industry member to understand how we can adapt to these new technologies to make sure we're ahead of the game and achieving the best

possible and most profitable outcomes."

Day one of the conference will conclude with a dinner with Sexing Technologies CEO, Juan Moreno speaking on his ST journey.

Participants can choose to attend the day one conference, the day one conference and dinner or all three days of the event. The farm tours on day two and three will showcase the daughters and family members from Australia's best bull team and from Genetics Australia's international portfolio.

People wanting to attend the conference can register via the Genetics Australia website: genaust.com.au

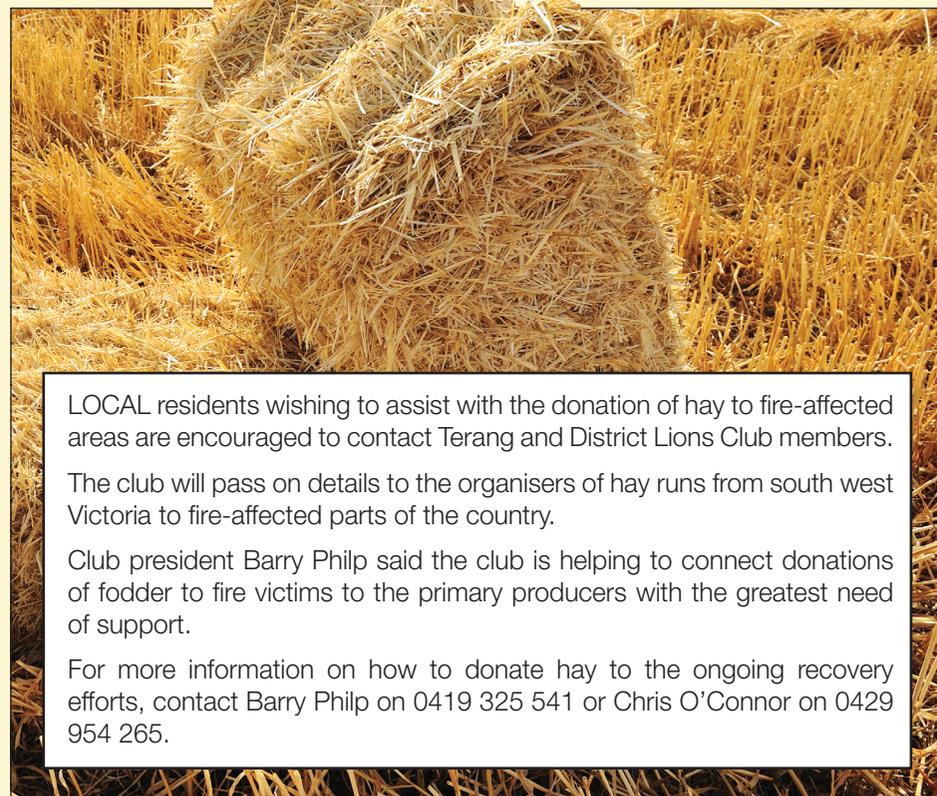
Spotted!



Seeking higher ground? These two appeared to have branched out from their herd and headed to the nearest mound of dirt, seemingly oblivious to water in

a nearby dam and shelter from the sun in plantations nearby. They were spotted by a passing motorist as he headed towards Colac from Camperdown.

Hay donations called for



LOCAL residents wishing to assist with the donation of hay to fire-affected areas are encouraged to contact Terang and District Lions Club members.

The club will pass on details to the organisers of hay runs from south west Victoria to fire-affected parts of the country.

Club president Barry Philp said the club is helping to connect donations of fodder to fire victims to the primary producers with the greatest need of support.

For more information on how to donate hay to the ongoing recovery efforts, contact Barry Philp on 0419 325 541 or Chris O'Connor on 0429 954 265.

Urgent agistment needed

MEMBER for Western Victoria Beverley McArthur has called for the provision of urgent assistance for fire-affected farmers.

She said there was an urgent need to relocate cattle to unaffected properties with fenced land and a drinkable and ready water supply.

"This is a crisis with the bushfires burning agricultural land and contaminating water supplies, farmers desperately require agistment and clean water for their stock," Mrs McArthur said.

"Not only have many of these farms been affected by both drought and fire, they are now facing catastrophic water shortages – this is the last straw for many in the agriculture industry."

She has written a letter to Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes, requesting she "correspond with the Minister for Roads and the Minister for Environment to do whatever is practicable in allowing roadside grazing to more easily occur in this time of crisis".

Mrs McArthur has begun to work with local councils across south west Victoria to allow relocated cattle to be housed within 'out-of-control' vegetation, as the 'long paddock' or 'bottom paddock' may be the only location left to house thousands of displaced livestock.

She said she would use all means at her disposal to help save the lives of livestock and support fire-affected farmers.

"We have quite rightly ensured all humans have fresh, uncontaminated water; we now need to make sure livestock are equally cared for," Mrs McArthur said.

"Most well managed farming operations have insurance cover with provision for agistment, transport and even feed costs.

"The need is for spare paddocks to save stock dying from thirst."

She said an immediate suspension of any relevant state and federal regulation which inhibits the accessibility of roadside grazing and droving permits was necessary.

"It's imperative that over-zealous regulations that prevent fire-affected

farmers from obtaining roadside grazing permits are suspended for at least 12 months, so that the 'long paddock' becomes the saviour of our fire-ravaged livestock," Mrs McArthur said.

"The livelihoods of hundreds of farmers are at risk due to the bureaucracy on steroids approach that prevents stock from having sufficient feed and clean water.

"If agistment cannot be found on existing farming properties, our roadsides might be the only solution."

For more information on how to provide support, contact Mrs McArthur's office on 5568 2929 or Glenthompson farmer Richard Beggs on 0429 025 056.



\$98,800
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onthe farm

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**Next
edition is
April 2020**

To book your advertising space in the next edition of On the Farm or to submit editorial content for consideration contact Jodie 5593 1888 or email onthefarm@wdnews.com.au.

WD NEWS
PUBLICATIONS

Be prepared this season

WITH the Fire Danger Period upon us, and many regions across the country experiencing extreme fire conditions, farmers across the south west district are being urged to take special care.

While fire is an all-year-round risk management activity, these warm summer months are of particular concern.

Effective preparation and response means better recovery and return to business.

Farmers should try to limit or cease farm machinery activity on severe, extreme or Code Red days.

Consider the needs of family, staff and contractors on your farm.

In terms of vehicles, equipment and hay, double check that spark arrestors on machinery are working and efficient.

Make sure chainsaws are free from faults and have water fire extinguishers or knapsack spray pumps (minimum nine litres) available that can be carried by anyone using farm equipment or machinery.

Have a safety strategy in place for storing and monitoring hay and purchase a moisture metre if possible.

Make sure hay is fully cured before baling and ensure there are no gaps between the cladding and the ground

or slab of your sheds to prevent embers getting inside.

Reduce fuel loads around any house blocks, sheds and fences and create strategic fuel breaks.

If possible, create a heavily grazed area where stock can be moved during a fire.

It is important that emergency services have direct access to your property in times of fire.

Make sure your property name or number is clearly visible so it can be quickly and easily identified on approach.

Check access tracks around your property.

Can this be improved by clearing vegetation, signposting dead ends or creating turning circles?

Ensure water supplies around your property are clearly marked for easy access.

It is also important that a routine is in place for fire risk days.

This could involve moving stock and limiting or postponing machinery use and switching off electric fences.

Make sure everyone on your farm is aware of this routine.



Send in your story - or a neighbour's



FARMERS love a good yarn.

Whether it's sharing tales of days gone by, or swapping ideas and stories about the current season, farmers of all ages love to chat about their experiences – or read about those of others.

That's where you, the reader, can play an integral part in the look, the success, and the future of your local farming supplement, "On the Farm."

While we try our best to bring you all the latest news, products and information primarily targeted at farmers and others living on the land,

we would love to hear your stories of success, endearment, achievement or otherwise.

The primary focus of On the Farm is to keep our readers up to date with all the recent products, knowledge, services and advice on hand to help promote, encourage, foster and develop farming as a sustainable and healthy living.

If you have a story to tell – or know of someone who has – and you would like to share it with others, simply phone the Camperdown office of Western District News on 5593 1888 or email features@wdnews.com.au.

We would love to hear from you.

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Spotted!

Share your photos...



FARMERS, and others living on the land across the Western District, are invited to submit photographs for publication in On the Farm's new column – 'Spotted.'

Whether it be a koala up a tree, two calves

frolicking in the paddock, a special sunset or even a five-legged lamb; we want your pictures.

Our farms provide endless opportunities for casual snap shots, and it's these we would like to feature in our farm

pages. Photos can be taken on a camera or even on your mobile phone – simply download and email to onthefarm@wdnews.com.au with a short explanation as to where and when the photo was taken.

Dairy scholarships awarded



SEVEN tertiary scholarships have been awarded to students from each of the major Victorian dairy regions who are commencing their first year of tertiary study in 2020.

These students have demonstrated sound academic achievement, a commitment to further study and strong local, community involvement.

The scholarships are named in recognition of the significant contribution to the dairy industry made by Shirley Harlock, Jakob Malmo, Bill Pyle, Doug Weir and Niel Black.

The 2020 Gardiner Dairy Foundation tertiary scholars are Kaitlyn Wishart, Mead (Bill Pyle scholarship); Grace Thulborn, Warrnambool (Shirley Harlock scholarship); Emily Robins, Cohuna (Doug Weir scholarship); Olivia Henzen and Camperdown (Jakob Malmo scholarship).

There are three Niel Black scholarships, thanks to his very generous bequest to the Gardiner Dairy Foundation.

The 2020 Niel Black scholars are Chelsea Hicks, Calivil; Courtney Zuidema, Yanakie; and Max Bond, Timboon.

Each scholarship recipient will receive \$10,000 annually for up to three years to contribute towards costs associated with their studies.

“Rural students face high costs associated with living away from home to undertake higher education and training,” Gardiner Dairy Foundation chief executive Dr Clive Noble said.

“These scholarships help these students to overcome some of the barriers to obtaining a tertiary education, such as travel and accommodation.”

Tertiary scholarships are awarded to students who are undertaking studies that have the potential to benefit the Victorian dairy industry or dairy communities.

The program encourages students to return to Victoria’s dairy regions on graduating, or after gaining further work experience, to ensure a diverse range of essential skills within these regions.

“The tertiary scholarships support the development of young professionals who may not have had the opportunity to

pursue higher education and who intend to bring their skills back to a dairy region in the future,” Dr Noble said.

“They are an important investment in Gardiner Dairy Foundation’s People and Community Development portfolio.”

Applications for 2021 tertiary scholarships will open in August 2020.

For more information go to gardinerfoundation.com.au/people-community/#tert or email Richard Meredith - richard.meredith@gardinerfoundation.com.au

The 2020 recipients were as follows:

- Kaitlyn Wishart, Mead (Bill Pyle scholarship)

Kaitlyn comes from a dairy farm at Cohuna in northern Victoria and will study a Bachelor of Agribusiness at Latrobe University, Bendigo.

She plans to have a career in agribusiness, assisting and empowering agricultural businesses to become more viable and sustainable.

- Chelsea Hicks, Calivil (Niel Black scholarship)

Chelsea comes from a dairy farm at Calivil in northern Victoria.

She will undertake a Bachelor of Nursing/ Bachelor of Midwifery (double degree) at Latrobe University, Bendigo.

She plans to return to a rural area on completing her studies and to use her knowledge, skills and experience to help people in farming communities.

- Grace Thulborn, Warrnambool (Shirley Harlock scholarship)

Grace will study a Bachelor of Nursing/ Bachelor of Psychological Science (double degree) at Deakin University, Geelong.

Grace grew up on a farm at Mortlake and now lives in Warrnambool.

She plans to focus on the physical and mental health needs of people living in small dairy communities where high quality healthcare is often overlooked.

- Emily Robins, Cohuna (Doug Weir scholarship).

Emily has a passion for dairy cows and elite breeding.

She will undertake a Bachelor of Commerce/ Bachelor of Agricultural Science (double degree) at Latrobe University, Bundoora.

On completion of her studies Emily plans to work in the dairy industry as an advisor helping dairy farmers in making sustainable technical and financial decisions in a rapidly changing world.

- Olivia Henzen, Camperdown (Jakob Malmo scholarship).

Olivia comes from a dairy farm at Camperdown and will study for a Bachelor of Agriculture at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga.

She plans to work with dairy farmers as an advisor helping them to gain maximum production at minimal cost and to maintain sustainable farming systems.

- Courtney Zuidema, Yanakie (Niel Black scholarship).

Courtney comes from a dairy farm at

Yanakie and has enrolled in a Bachelor of Education (Honours) in Secondary Health and Physical Education at Monash University, Mornington Peninsula.

She plans to teach in a dairy community where she hopes to provide inspiration and motivation to young people through a creative and stimulating learning environment.

- Max Bond, Timboon (Niel Black scholarship).

Max comes from a dairy farm at Timboon and has enrolled in an Advanced Diploma of Agribusiness Management and Diploma of Agronomy at Longerenong Agricultural College.

Max plans to bring new knowledge and technologies into dairy farming and to share ideas and innovation among his fellow dairy farmers through participating in discussion groups in south-west Victoria.

TOTAL

DAIRY SERVICE

See us at Site C15 and C16
at next week’s
Sungold Field Days!

COWELD

FEED SYSTEMS

FEEDTECH

FEEDING SYSTEMS

DeLaval

Timboon

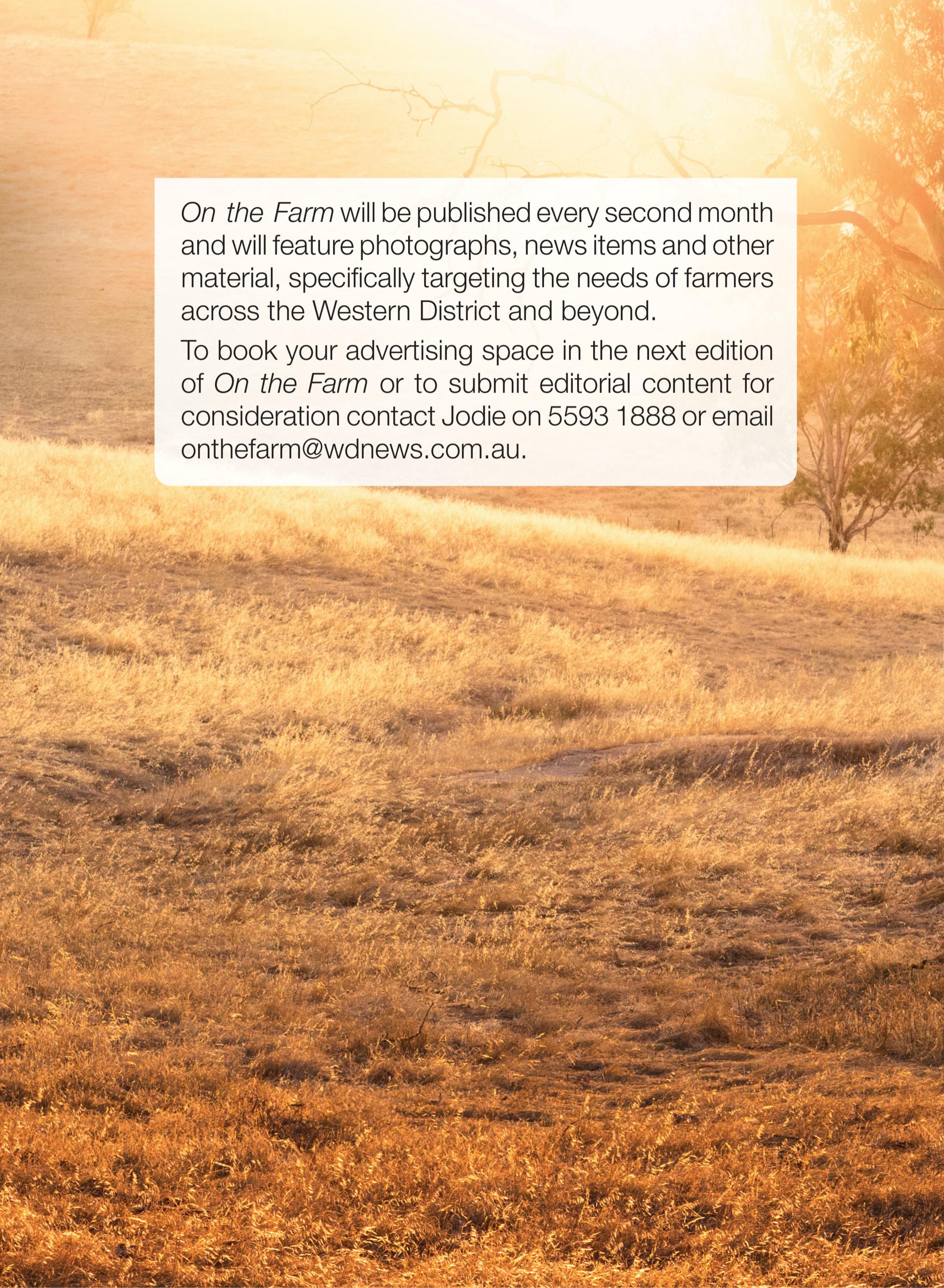
111 Bailey Street

5598 3337

Warrnambool

50 Caramut Road

5561 3252

A golden-hour photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a dirt road or path winds through tall, golden-brown grass. In the middle ground, a single tree stands on the right side of the path. The background shows a hazy, sunlit horizon. The overall tone is warm and serene.

On the Farm will be published every second month and will feature photographs, news items and other material, specifically targeting the needs of farmers across the Western District and beyond.

To book your advertising space in the next edition of *On the Farm* or to submit editorial content for consideration contact Jodie on 5593 1888 or email onthefarm@wdnews.com.au.