

# Australian Dairy Conference grant application

## For young farmers

The Gardiner Dairy Foundation is providing funding for three young farmers from south-west Victoria to attend the Australian Dairy Conference in the Melbourne from Wednesday 11 - Friday 13 February 2026.

The Australian Dairy Conference was initiated by a group of farmers, scientists and industry representatives to inspire the dairy industry, promoting pride in its achievements and generate optimism in the industry's future.

The grant, provided by Gardiner, will give three young farmers the opportunity to travel to Melbourne and learn about the latest developments in the dairy industry from world leading researchers and professionals. They will also meet and network with farmers and industry representatives from around Australia.

**"Attending the Australian Dairy Conference was a great experience for me. I learned so much and met some amazing people."**

**– 2023 attendee, Marc Johnston, dairy farmer.**

Travel, accommodation and event registration is included in the grant.

### Application criteria:

- Be aged between 18 – 40 years old
- Be available to travel to and attend the conference (11-13 February 2026)
- Be a farmer or farm employee (able to provide dairy license number upon request) from south-west Victoria
- If you are a farm employee, the approval of your employer must be included in your application
- Be available to give a presentation and a brief testimonial to the YDN members about the conference at a future YDN event

**Applications close on Sunday 7 December 2025.**

**Please complete the application form below.**

**For more information, contact Liza Fahey on 0408 141 820 or [liza@westvicdairy.com.au](mailto:liza@westvicdairy.com.au).**

**Email your application form to [liza@westvicdairy.com.au](mailto:liza@westvicdairy.com.au) or drop it off at the WestVic Dairy Office – 5 Cressy Street, Camperdown.**

**Please return completed application form via email to [liza@westvicdairy.com.au](mailto:liza@westvicdairy.com.au), In person to the WestVic Dairy office in 5 Cressy St, Camperdown.**



2. How will attending the conference benefit the farm business in which you work?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

3. How will you use information learned from the conference to benefit others in the industry? Please provide two examples of how you will share your learnings with others.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

4. What do you think is the biggest challenge for young people entering the dairy industry? Why?

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**EMPLOYER (If the applicant is a farm employee)**

The applicant has discussed with me the leave they require to attend the Australian Dairy Conference in 2026.

Name of employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT**

I agree that I will be available to attend the Australian Dairy Conference (11-13 February 2026) and will be available to give a presentation to YDN members upon my return.

Name of employee: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of employee: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

