



YOUNG DAIRY SCIENTIST AWARD

Judged at the Australian Dairy Conference,
Crown Melbourne
13th February 2024

\$3,000 TRAVEL BURSARY PRIZE

- Suitable for 'early-stage' career scientists
- Research connected with the farm sector of Australian dairy industry
- Must relate to a recognised unit of study in last five years
- Five finalists selected to present at ADC Melbourne 2024
- Travel bursary to further advance field of study

COMPETITION WITH A DIFFERENCE

Are you in the early stages of your science career and conducting research related to the Australian dairy industry? If you have completed or are completing a diploma, under-graduate or post-graduate course at an Australian tertiary institution then you are eligible for the Australian Dairy Conference Young Scientist Award 2024.

Designed to nurture scientific excellence with communication prowess – to facilitate the process of communicating quality science to farmers and peers, young scientists must convince fellow scientists and dairy farmers (who see a research levy deducted from each milk cheque), that their research is soundly based and has exciting implications for the future of the dairy industry.

The Young Dairy Scientist Award is a great opportunity to showcase your scientific work to the Australian dairy industry and develop interpersonal and presentation skills to ADC delegates.

ENTRANT REQUIREMENTS

The Young Dairy Scientist Award is aimed at early-stage career scientists. Age is not a barrier, but nominees must have completed a recognized unit of study within the past five years.

Applicants must submit an application form and abstract of their work by **Friday 27th October 2023** to the ADC office via email admin@australiandairyconference.com.au. The abstract must be limited to a single page of A4 and it must provide sufficient information to confirm that it has been a well-conducted study with a hypothesis, analysed results and a soundly based conclusion.

These abstracts will be used to select a maximum of five finalists who will make a presentation at the Australian Dairy Conference (ADC).

Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by **Friday 3rd November 2023**.

The five finalists will be required to:

- Prepare an article for submission to an agricultural journal (a copy will be printed in conference proceedings)
- Prepare a display exhibit for presentation to delegates at the ADC event. We encourage you to be as creative as possible in this regard. Examples include a working model, products to display or a poster.
- Prepare and deliver a six-minute PowerPoint presentation to the full plenary session of the ADC on **Tuesday 13th February 2024**.
- Attend the conference Gala dinner on **Tuesday 13th February 2024** where the winner will be announced.

Each finalist will be given a complimentary full conference registration to attend ADC 2024 and \$1,000 reimbursement on their travel or accommodation costs (if required).

The winner will be offered a travel bursary of \$3,000 to attend a scientific or dairy conference of your choice to assist in your pursuit of knowledge in your chosen research field.

The competition is being co-ordinated by ADC Science Director Richard Rawnsley and administered by the Australian Dairy Conference.

COMPETITION CONTEXT

Excellence in all forms of communication is central to this competition. Entrants who reach the finals will be judged mainly in terms of their ability to deliver a message that makes their research understandable and relevant to the audience of primarily farmers and service providers who comprise the conference delegates.

Remember most conference delegates are dairy farmers who pay a research levy to Dairy Australia. Dairy farmers like to test the value their levy provides – much of which is directed towards Research and Development. Your input into the Conference provides an opportunity to reinforce the value of this levy.

Your challenge is to attempt to partly fill this awareness gap and convince an audience of levy payers that young and capable scientists are contributing to the future competitiveness of the Australian dairy industry through their research. The delegates are not asked to assess the scientific quality of your research, but rather, its relevance to the Australian dairy industry.

Your communication skills will need to provide an understandable explanation of your research. The conference delegates may not have your specialized training, but most of them will be successfully operating “multi-million dollar” family businesses.

They have an understanding of a wide range of management inputs from genetics to antibiotic use to nutrition to fertilizer use etc. Their very presence at the Conference is indicative of their quest for new and up-to-date information.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Australian Dairy Conference is pleased to provide quality-mentoring services to the Award finalists. Professional Conference Organiser Esther Price and Competition Coordinator and ADC Science Director Dr Richard Rawnsley (University of Tasmania) are both highly experienced in public speaking and dairy science communication respectively and will be available to all finalists for coaching through the initial stages of preparing the newspaper article and presentation.

KEY JUDGING ELEMENTS

Judging will be rated by three key elements:

1. How well your article presents your message,
2. Your verbal presentation and PowerPoint within the ADC conference
3. Creativity of your display and your accompanying commentary.

Judges will remain anonymous: anyone you speak to at conference could be one of the nominated judges.

The scientist who gains the highest combined scores from the judging of their verbal and power point presentation, and their article will be presented as the winner of the 2024 Young Dairy Scientist Award at the Gala dinner on Tuesday 13th February 2024.

1. The article	When
<p>A 750 to 800-word article that could be considered suitable for publication in the Australian DairyFarmer or other agricultural publication. Each article will be published in Conference Proceedings. It is expected that delegates will read your article to get a background on your presentation, or to follow up on your Powerpoint presentation.</p> <p>A well written article should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a short but interesting title that grabs a reader’s attention; • start with THE key message and punch it home in the second sentence by highlighting its importance to the reader; • avoid using long scientific words and statistical terminology as well as “fuddy-duddy English” (notwithstanding, hence, nevertheless, whilst, etc); • not have long paragraphs; • use a bar graph rather than a table or line graph unless time trends are being compared for two measurements; • mention in the latter part of the article how this is part of your training at “wherever” and that you were working in Dr “So-and-So’s” lab with funding from the Dairy CRC, Dairy Australia or whoever. <p>We highly recommend each contestant consults a professional journalist for guidance on this task as well as reading feature articles in farming magazines.</p>	<p>To be submitted as a Word document on Friday 8th December</p>
<p>2. Your visual display or demonstration</p> <p>An imaginative display to visually demonstrate an aspect of your research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An exhibition booth within the sponsor’s area will be set up for the use of the Young Scientists candidates & their displays. • It is expected candidates will be available for explanation & questions about their display at the lunch break and the afternoon tea break of day 1. All other breaks will be available for you to network and enjoy the conference. • Cost and transport of display material to be organised & paid for by the contestant. • Please provide details of what you plan to display so that appropriate space and other logistics can be catered for. • Practice explaining your display and answering possible questions with your supervisors and other postgrads. 	
<p>3. The verbal presentation using Powerpoint</p> <p>The verbal presentation should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have an introductory slide that confirms the title as announced by the MC and uses your preferred name (not initials), but does not require you to repeat it; • use a title that is not too long and is a real “attention grabber”; 	<p>Final version of the PPT on USB to be submitted by Friday the 2nd February.</p>

- confirm your institution of origin and possibly your Department or lab, but not your co-workers. This is YOUR show;
- have a second slide that states why your research is relevant and important. Keep the background details for your poster;
- use bar graphs rather than line graphs without including statistical probability and tables full of numbers;
- Have no requirement what-so-ever for a laser pointer. Use clever PPT design to highlight any areas on a slide to which you want to draw attention;
- involve you carefully selecting a few good slides rather than having too many;
- allow you to come to a punchy and convincing conclusion that leaves the viewer wanting to know more and to visit your display (“I look forward to having the opportunity of meeting you at my display.”)

Timing is critical! You have 6 minutes for presenting and 3 for questions; and not a second more. The conference MC will not allow you to go overtime as others have to follow.

Please be prepared to accept a question from the floor. Questions allow you to demonstrate an ability to ‘think on your feet’. Please provide a concise relevant answer. If a long answer is necessary, invite the questioner to come and visit you afterwards at the designated exhibition booth for a more thorough discussion.

KEY DATES

- Friday 27 October** Nomination forms and abstracts lodged to admin@australiandairyconference.com.au
- Friday 3 November** Finalists notified.
- Friday 8 December** Submission of journal article. This article will in the first instance be published in the ADC Conference proceedings. Please submit to admin@australiandairyconference.com.au
- December** Complete the online ADC Speaker Registration form. The online link will be forwarded to finalists.
- Friday 2 February** Submission of PowerPoint presentation.
- 12 -14 February** Australian Dairy Conference, Hobart, Tasmania

ATTENDING ADC

ADC 2024 will be held at Crown Melbourne.

Finalists will be responsible for organising their own accommodation and the logistics of their own travel to and from Hobart and will be required to attend the following functions:

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| Monday 12 February | Pre conference workshop (afternoon) with Esther Price & Richard Rawnsley |
| Monday 12 February | ADC Welcome function 6pm – 10pm |
| Tuesday 13 February | Presentation as part of the ADC program Conference Day One |

Tuesday 13 February ADC Gala Dinner and Young Dairy Scientist Award Presentation 6pm – 10pm

All finalists receive full complimentary delegate registration to all conference functions.

Finalists will be emailed a complimentary registration link and required to complete an online conference registration form to register their attendance.

Each finalist is eligible for a travel bursary of up to \$700 to cover accommodation and travel if required. This can be claimed through the ADC office via admin@australiandairyconference.com.au by submitting travel receipts and bank account details for electronic transfer of funds.

CONTACT ADC

Have a question or would like more information regarding the Young Dairy Scientist Award?

www.australiandairyconference.com.au

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