

Calling dairy innovators

- Pitch and profile your dairy innovation or research project
- Seeking the latest in dairy science, innovation and tech
- Innovations and projects that can demonstrate their impact
- Open to farmers, innovators, scientists and researchers
- Innovations and projects should be 'farm-ready'
- Finalists to present at ADC 2027 Adelaide
- Winner receives \$3,000 bursary to assist professional development

Have a great innovation or project that can make a difference to the Australian dairy industry?

The ADC Innovator Award is seeking fresh and emerging dairy innovations and projects that have the greatest potential to impact the Australian dairy industry.

This is an opportunity to profile and highlight your research, innovation, on-farm trial or scientific exploration in front of the national industry at ADC 2027 Adelaide 24-26 February 2027.

Overview

- Opportunity to showcase your dairy related innovation or project to the Australian dairy industry during a dedicated session on the main stage at ADC 2027 Adelaide.
- Innovations must be relevant to the Australian dairy industry and have demonstrated potential for impact – they need to be 'farm-ready' and have strong adoption capability within 12 months of February 2027.
- A competitive application process answering key questions about your project, it's impact and relevance to the Australian dairy industry. Applications to be accompanied by a 45 second video explaining your project.
- Preliminary judging round will identify 4-5 finalists based on their innovations and projects, relevance to dairy farmers and ability to communicate.
- Nominated finalists will undertake communication and presentation training before presenting a 5 min talk and Q&A as part of a dedicated session at ADC 2027 Adelaide 24-26 February 2027.

Australian Dairy Conference
Adelaide
24-26 February 2027



2026 winner – Daniel Carson
Alps2Ocean Foods

Award requirements

- Demonstrated relevance and ability to impact or enhance an aspect of the Australian dairy industry
- Suitable innovations and projects include research projects, new technologies, or on-farm trials relevant to dairy.
- Innovations and projects that can have an immediate impact on the dairy industry will be preferred. For example, the innovation or project should be 'farm-ready' within 12 months from February 2027 – to ensure relevance and application to dairy farm operations.
- Applicant needs to demonstrate an ability to communicate their innovation or project to the Australian dairy audience and showcase its relevance to the industry.
- The ADC Innovators Award is open to all ages and individuals involved in the Australian dairy industry.
- Finalists must be able to attend ADC 2027 Adelaide 24-26 February 2027 and attend all training components.

Assessment criteria & competition stages

Applicants will be required to communicate their innovation or project to a farmer audience demonstrating relevance to the Australian dairy industry.

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Ability to communicate your project/innovation to a farmer audience. How well you can convince Australian dairy farmers that your project or innovation will help or enhance their operation.
- Relevance to the Australian dairy farming audience & ADC purpose of innovation and advancing the industry.
- Strength of supported background research, data, usage, trials or science-led investigations into the success or performance of your project or innovation.
- Implementation of the project or innovation – how 'farm-ready' is your project/innovation? Preference will be weighted towards projects and innovations that have demonstrated ability to be implemented in the short-term.



Application stages

Application process

Applications for the ADC Innovators Award opens September 2026.

Applications for the ADC Innovators Award close on 14 October 2026.

As part of the application process, participants must submit:

1. Online application form - 250 word responses to each question:
 - Tell us about your project and/or innovation?
 - What impact will your innovation/project have on the Australian dairy industry?
 - Why do you want to attend ADC 2027?
2. A 45 second video outlining: Why should you and your project/innovation be considered for the ADC Innovators Award

Preliminary round

Applicants will be shortlisted based on online application. Applicants who progress to the Preliminary round will be invited to deliver an online 5min presentation followed by question time with a judging panel on 26 October 2026.

ADC Innovators Award Finalists will be determined by preliminary round judging with the nominated finalists announced by the 30 October 2026.

Finalist professional development

All finalists are required to participate in the professional development and training program provided by ADC in preparation for presenting to delegates at ADC 2027 in Adelaide Thursday 25 February.

Finalists must:

- Prepare and submit their draft presentation by 17 November 2026.
- Attend the compulsory Online Fundamental Presentation Training session 17 November, designed to build an understanding of the ADC innovators session and strengthen presentation and communication skills.
- Attend the compulsory face-to-face presentation workshop at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Wednesday 24 February 2027. This workshop will focus on refining presentations, building stage presence and providing finalists with a rehearsal opportunity.

Participation in both training sessions is a compulsory requirement for all finalists.

Attendance ADC 2027

Finalists are responsible for organizing their own accommodation and logistics of their own travel to and from ADC 2027 Adelaide. A travel bursary is available if required. Finalists will be required to attend the following functions:

Wednesday 24 February 2027

- Presentation training and workshop (pre-conference 9am – 3pm)
- ADC First Timers Function 5.30pm
- ADC Welcome Function 6.30 – 8.30pm

Thursday 25 February 2027

- ADC Conference Day 1 – present as part of plenary sessions
- ADC Gala Dinner & Innovators Award winner announcement

Friday 26 February 2027

- ADC Conference Day 2
- ADC Happy Hour Drinks



Winner of the ADC Innovators Award will receive:

\$3,000 bursary for professional development which may include conference attendance, undertake a course, study tour or similar.

ADC Innovators Award Finalists will receive:

- Complimentary delegate registration to ADC 2027 Adelaide including all social functions.
- Professional development - communication training to enhance presentation skills (two sessions).
- Travel bursary of up to \$1000 to cover accommodation and travel (if required). Travel costs needs to be claimed through the ADC Secretary via admin@australiandairyconference.com.au with travel receipts.

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ADC Innovators Award milestones

Date	What	Details
September 2026	ADC Innovators Award Applications open	- Online submissions open - 45 sec video explaining project / innovation
14 October 2026	ADC Innovators Award Applications close	- Online submissions close - Shortlist applications
26 October 2026	Preliminary Judging Round	- Preliminary judging round with short-listed applicants to determine finalists for ADC 2027. - Applicants who progress to the Preliminary round will be invited to deliver an online 5 min presentation followed by question time with a judging panel.
30 October 2026	Innovator finalists	- 2027 finalists appointed and notified
17 November 2026	Online Training	- Online Fundamental Presentation Training with Semi Finalists. Participants will be required to present their 5 min presentation for feedback.
24 February 2027	Innovators Training	- Professional development session to prepare to present from 9 - 3pm - Adelaide Convention Centre
25 February 2027	Finalist Judging	- 5 min presentation to delegation at ADC 2027 Adelaide.
25 February 2027	Winner announced	- ADC Gala Dinner Thursday 25 February 2027

Have a question or would like more information regarding the ADC Innovators Award?

Shareena Pearce
 ADC Secretary
 0417 347 077
admin@australiandairyconference.com.au
www.australiandairyconference.com.au

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