

CalfWays



CalfWays National Action Plan

Sustainable and profitable beef from dairy pathways



Action Plan

1 Stakeholder Commitment

Goal: Sustainable practices for thriving, valued calves.

Objectives:

- Improve management of non-replacement calves to strengthen industry reputation and deliver more consistent performance in the beef supply chain.
- Strengthening cross-sector understanding of industry standards for calf management.

Strategies

- Dairy farmers commit to best practice calf management for non-replacement calves.
- Beef supply chain participants commit to sourcing policies that support best practice calf management.

2 Capability Building

Goal: Value creation capability for dairy and beef stakeholders.

Objectives:

- Increase industry knowledge to breed healthy calves which are fit-for-purpose.
- Deliver supporting tools to better capitalise on beef from dairy opportunities.

Strategies

- Understand optimal breeding, rearing and management strategies that complement dairy and beef production systems.
- Develop skills to evaluate the economics of different market options.
- Share best practices and success stories.

3 Market Connections

Goal: Robust opportunities for Australian dairy and beef stakeholders.

Objectives:

- Increase income opportunities for dairy and beef stakeholders.
- Establish long-term, economically sustainable beef from dairy collaboration.

Strategies

- Facilitate the development of supply chains through networks, tools, common market terminology and pricing models.
- Share market information in an accessible and universally understood format.

4 Fostering Partnerships

Goal: Stronger dairy and beef industries through collaboration and innovation.

Objectives:

- Develop joint solutions to advance sustainability outcomes.
- Secure funding for innovation and infrastructure.

Strategies

- Partnerships across and within dairy and beef sectors through R,D,E & A and private investment.
- Support research and innovation through exploration of funding opportunities.

Strategy overview

The management of dairy calves not required for herd maintenance presents both a challenge and an opportunity for the Australian dairy industry. Existing options for such calves has typically included consignment within 5-30 days as bobby calves, raising calves for beef production by either dairy farmers or specialised rearers, sale for live export or on-farm euthanasia.

The CalfWays National Action Plan represents a consolidated summary of the broader CalfWays Roadmap. CalfWays, developed by Dairy Australia with input from over 150 beef and dairy industry stakeholders, provides a unified framework to transform calf management by 2035. The initiative is designed to provide a viable future for all calves, ensuring that both the beef and dairy industries can thrive sustainably. CalfWays offers a comprehensive framework that seeks to balance industry growth with societal expectations for animal welfare, creating a more sustainable and economically viable future for the beef and dairy sectors.

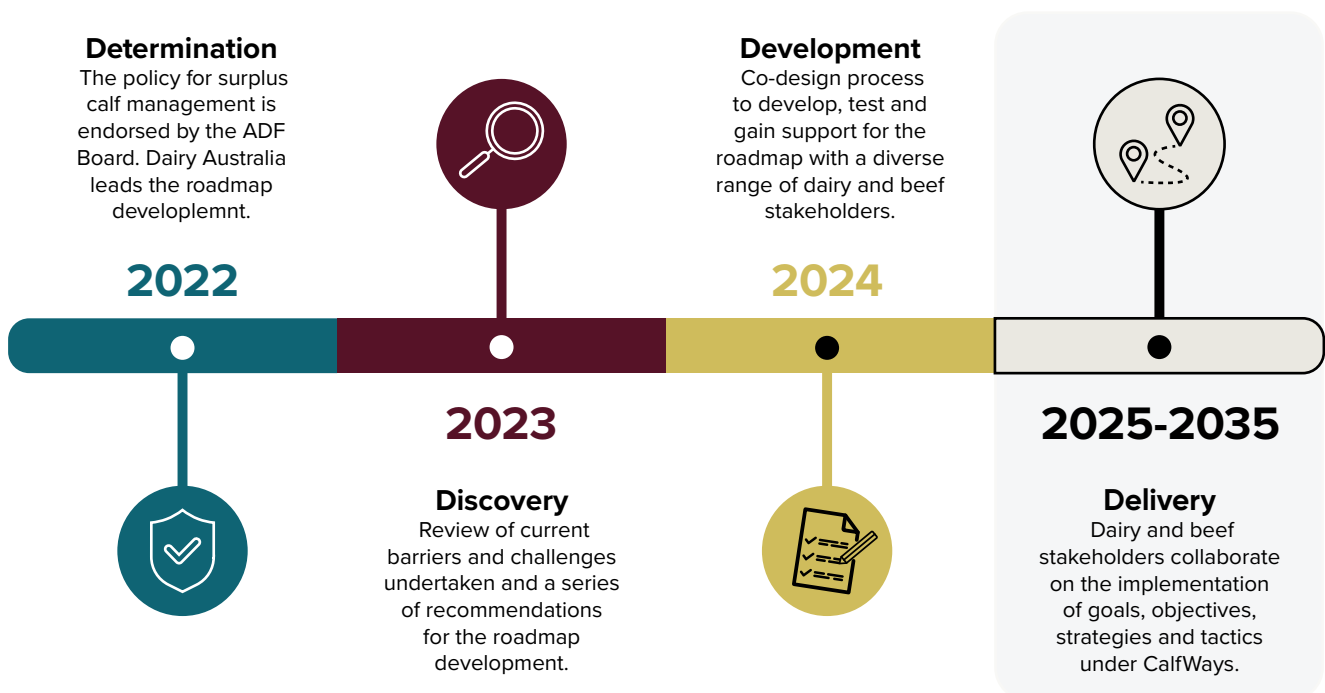
Strategic approach

CalfWays aligns dairy and beef sectors through shared goals, objectives, strategies and tactics to unlock value, reduce emissions, and meet societal expectations. By integrating non-replacement calves into productive markets, the roadmap supports corporate sustainability targets and offers significant economic potential for farmers, rearers, processors, and retailers.

Initial three-year co-innovation agreement

Starting in FY25-26, Dairy Australia and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) have jointly invested in a three-year co-innovation agreement to support the implementation of CalfWays. This funding supports an independent chair, a skills-based steering committee with members from both dairy and beef industries, and a dedicated CalfWays Co-innovation Lead role within Dairy Australia's Sustainable Dairy team. The steering committee will guide investment priorities and work plans based on the CalfWays Roadmap and foster industry connections. The Co-innovation Lead manages stakeholder and investor engagement, project development and implementation.

Timeline



Get involved with CalfWays

If you're passionate about creating a sustainable future for every dairy calf, there are three ways you can make an impact:

Endorse CalfWays

Show your commitment to animal welfare and sustainability by formally endorsing the roadmap.

Become an initiative sponsor

Support the delivery of CalfWays through in-kind or financial funding and resources that drive industry-wide change.

Sponsor a specific project

Invest in targeted projects that align with your business goals and help accelerate innovation in calf management.

Contact us:

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Acknowledgement and support

The CalfWays National Action Plan represents a consolidated summary of the broader CalfWays Roadmap. CalfWays, the dairy industry's roadmap to more sustainable calf management, has been developed by Dairy Australia with the assistance of Schuster Consulting Group.

Through the course of the development, more than 150 stakeholders from the dairy and beef industries were consulted on key challenges to improving surplus calf management and the opportunities surplus calves presented to both industries.

An advisory committee, comprised of dairy farmers, dairy processors and representatives from the red meat and livestock industry, assisted in the development of the roadmap.

Dairy Australia and Schuster Consulting Group gratefully acknowledge the contribution made by these stakeholders and their support in the development and implementation of CalfWays.

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Disclaimer

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