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MEETING NEW FARMING CHALLENGES

A team of agriculture specialists from ECG McMillan will be on hand at this year's Dairy Expo at Poowong to help farmers take a fresh look at ways to improve their productivity, sustainability and profit.

Specialists in rural business management, organic farming, sustainable agriculture, farm mapping, and traineeships and apprenticeships will provide demonstrations and discussion.

Head of Rural Studies Babis Lagos said challenges including changes in milk prices were clearly impacting on farm managers and how they operate their businesses.

“The complexity and volatility of the environment that farming communities have operated in over the past decade has eroded the income of many dairy farmers who are constantly seeking ways to meet these challenges.

“Under current financial and socio economic conditions, Gippsland's rural sector is recognising more than ever the need to invest in traineeships and apprentices to address the perennial issues of succession farming and competent farm managers for the future.

“As a result, a new focus of education and training has been developed by ECG that is flexible, adaptable and innovative to help farm managers and their staff move forward.”

Mr Lagos said ECG McMillan offers the only Advanced Diploma course in Rural Business Management in Gippsland to help farmers and professionals in support industries to broaden their agri-business skills.

“ECG also offers Certificate to Advanced Diploma level courses in Agriculture while its Diploma in Sustainable Agriculture course is a first in Victoria. Farmers can also access short courses in chainsaw operations, farm chemicals use, whole farm planning, and working dogs.”

“We welcome farmers to meet the team at the Dairy Expo which comprises Chris Waddell - Agribusiness Management, Hugh Frith – Certified Organics, Dan Spencer -Farm Mapping, Babis Lagos- Rural studies, and Gerard McLaughlin - traineeships and apprenticeships.

For more information on ECG McMillan visit www.ecg.vic.edu.au or phone 03 5622 6000.

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