

Inside Dairy

December 2018

Your levy in action

HANDS-ON SOLUTIONS TO GAINING CONSENT

Tararua plantain project targets N leaching

Regional focus

DairyNZ responding to
your local challenges

Improving waterways

New movement gets
whole country involved

DairyNZ 



over the fence...

As we look forward to the festive season, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on what a year it's been – the challenges and the achievements.

With a new government on board, DairyNZ leaders spent much of early 2018 building and cementing relationships in Wellington and regionally.

We continued to focus on supporting farmers with *Mycoplasma bovis*, both on the ground and at policy level, as we worked with the Ministry for Primary Industries towards the decision to eradicate. The recently released spring bulk milk testing results confirmed that eradication was the right decision. Above all, we need to acknowledge that managing this disease has been extremely challenging for affected farmers.

We've also been working closely with government on climate change policy and a range of other important topics, such as migrant workers and animal welfare legislation. And we've been liaising closely with regional councils, as many are currently reviewing their local regulations.

Last month we launched *The Vision is Clear*. I'm extremely proud of this dairy-led campaign that encourages all Kiwis to play their part in looking after our waterways. Check out our article on page 15.

And we continue to carry out important research and science to support you with great farming practices.

In this edition of *Inside Dairy*, we focus on what we're doing to provide you with proven, regionally specific solutions. Whatever challenge you're facing on-farm, we can offer expert advice and support – whether it's to attract more skilled workers or farm better environmentally. Read the case studies in this magazine, as we explore the ways we're responding to your needs right now and what we'll be doing in the future.

Finally, I want to welcome our two new board members: farmer-elected director Jacqueline Rowarth and board-appointed director Jo Coughlan. See page 16 for more information.

I wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. I hope you enjoy a well-deserved break.

As always, I welcome your feedback – email me at tim.mackle@ceo.dairyNZ.co.nz

Tim Mackle
Chief executive
DairyNZ



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The Vision is Clear: DairyNZ's Tim Mackle talks about our exciting new movement to improve the country's waterways, which encourages all Kiwis to get involved.

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On the cover: DairyNZ's newly established Taranaki Plantain Project is working with unconsented farmers to achieve compliance with local council nitrogen-leaching targets.

TAKE 5... TIPS FOR FARMERS

1. Mark and Measure 2019



Register for DairyNZ's Mark and Measure 2019: Taupo, May 21 to 23; Queenstown, June 11 to 13. Sold out in 2018, this popular business course will help you take control of your personal and business future. Go to dairynz.co.nz/markandmeasure

2. 'Wrapped' to recycle

Like you, we're concerned about the effects of too much plastic in our environment. We're looking for the most sustainable way to post *Inside Dairy* to you. For now, we're using a fully-degradable (not biodegradable) wrap material. It's suitable for soft plastic recycling (see collection centres at recycling.kiwi.nz/solutions/soft-plastics) and household recycling (see recycle.co.nz).

3. What price feed?



Use our feed price calculator to work out how much you can pay for supplementary feed. It's based on milk price, milk company, post-grazing residuals, supplement composition and your profit requirements from using a supplement. Visit dairynz.co.nz/supplement-calc

4. Keeping cows cool

Without ample shade and water, cows get uncomfortable in temperatures above 20°C. To minimise production losses and improve comfort, check flow to troughs, make water available in races, avoid moving cows during the heat of the day and consider once-a-day milking. Learn more at dairynz.co.nz/heatstress

5. Tips for managing effluent



Tested your effluent irrigator lately? DairyNZ has a range of resources that include information on measuring application depth and rates to get the best from your system. Check it out at dairynz.co.nz/effluent

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We appreciate your feedback

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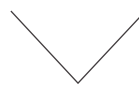
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Led by DairyNZ, the Tararua Plantain Project is helping unconsented farmers keep on top of nitrogen leaching. (Left to right: DairyNZ catchment engagement leader Adam Duker and local dairy farmers Mark Diamond, Blair Castles and Brad McNaughton.)



PLANTAIN PROJECT A TOOL FOR TARGETS



Without new tools, many dairy farmers in the Tararua catchment will almost certainly fail to meet lofty nitrogen-leaching targets and remain viable. That's why DairyNZ has just kicked off a potentially game-changing research project to test the benefits of plantain in local pastures.

Dannevirke dairy farmer Blair Castles is a farmer on a mission. He says when he found out DairyNZ was suggesting using plantain to reduce nitrogen (N) leaching, he was keen to get on board. He's just one of several farmers in the area who are tackling the issue head-on – and sharing their findings with other farmers, thanks to DairyNZ's newly established Tararua Plantain Project.

"I like what DairyNZ is trying to achieve and I'm keen to show other farmers what plantain is like in a sward," says Blair. "To reach the Horizons Regional Council targets, we have to reduce N leaching on our farm by eight to nine kilograms per hectare (kg/ha). All of us in the region need to get on board and do our best to be compliant."

WHY THIS PROJECT IS IMPORTANT

In the upper Manawatu, a significant proportion of dairy farms are operating without consent for intensive farming activities. They're faced with reducing N leaching by an average of 60 percent to meet targets outlined in the Horizons Regional Council *One Plan*. It's a massive challenge.

The Tararua Plantain Project sees a new approach by DairyNZ to fast-track development of science, through simultaneous research (locally and on research farms), recognising the size and urgency of the tasks ahead.

Through the project, DairyNZ scientists are working with unconsented farmers in the catchment. It's one of three catchment-specific projects helping farmers reduce their farm's environmental footprint. Paddock-scale research has begun on six farms and the findings will be shared with other farmers in the area.

DairyNZ catchment engagement leader Adam Duker had already been helping individual farmers in the area to complete their farm environment plans (FEPs are part of *One Plan* regional planning requirements). DairyNZ has also been working as an intermediary between farmers and Horizons to understand the catchment objectives and communicate these to farmers in practical terms so they can make on-farm changes.

"The low-cost production success of traditional ryegrass/clover in pasture is widely accepted," says Adam, the project's lead. "But I hope that once plantain's effectiveness in reducing N leaching has been demonstrated by this project, farmers in the district will see the merit of including it in their swards."

"I like what DairyNZ is trying to achieve and I'm keen to show other farmers what plantain is like in a sward."



Turning over a new leaf: Tararua catchment farmers need to reduce N leaching by an average of 60 percent to meet regional council targets.

EARLY ADOPTERS: FARMERS IN ACTION

Tararua dairy farmers Blair Castles, Mark Diamond and Brad McNaughton are already using plantain in their pasture. As System 2 and System 3 farmers and members of the project's monitoring group, they're keen for others to learn from their results.

“Working with the scientists has to be a good thing – I’m all for it.”



Adam Duker (*second right*) says the aim of the project is to help farmers make plantain work in their systems to significantly reduce N loss, while maintaining farm profit.

Blair Castles

Blair has been using plantain, along with chicory, for about six years. He's looking at taking out chicory and lifting the rate of plantain. At present, chicory is 10 percent of his sward; plantain's about the same.

“It wasn't difficult to establish but it's been very effective. We wanted to use more herbs in our 'fruit salad' pasture of ryegrass and clovers. We've achieved this and the cows like it. Depending on the trials, we could increase plantain in the future. We'll do anything we can to be compliant with the council regulations.”

Blair plants plantain in autumn, after the summer turnip crop has been lifted. He has a 15 percent regrassing programme underway, so it's early days in terms of results with plantain.

“When I first started using it, I had some concerns around bloat on plantain, which doesn't happen with chicory. We had to monitor it, but so far we haven't had

any problems. As a precautionary measure we add bloat oil to the drinking water, which covers the clover as well, and this seems to be working well.”

He plants kale in winter and will also add fodder beet to the mix this year. “We used to grow swedes for our main winter crop, but this year we're changing to fodder beet on the runoffs and a bit on the milking platform as well.” Blair tries to keep his use of urea low: about four tonnes per year on the 100ha milking platform. He says this seems to be an effective ratio, so it's not necessary to pump more on.

“Farmers in the area are being proactive and we have council support, so working with the scientists has to be a good thing – I'm all for it. The *One Plan* limit-setting process can be quite overwhelming for farmers, but when you've got DairyNZ scientists doing this research it's not so daunting. I'm very happy to help and be part of it.”

“The plantain project has the potential to make a significant difference – economically and environmentally.”

Levels of algae and insect life are two elements to consider when assessing the health of streams, rivers, lakes and other waterways.



Reducing N leaching in streams (like the Raparapawai Stream on Brad McNaughton's property) will contribute to improving water quality across the catchment.

Brad McNaughton

Blair's neighbour Brad McNaughton has already done a few farm trials of his own and is including chicory and plantain in his pastures. About four years ago he started using 'Rocket Fuel' – a mix of plantain and chicory with white and red clovers.

"Plantain did well, so we're now including it in our regular regrassing programme," says Brad. "We're regrassing about 12 percent of the pasture a year, incorporating two kilograms (kg) plantain with 25kg ryegrass and 4kg clover."

"Plantain has deep roots and is drought-tolerant, which is good for us because we're not irrigated and it can get very dry here in the summer. I'm waiting to see how we go in autumn and whether the cows find plantain less palatable."

Brad says the monitoring group meets every three months, or before drilling, to gauge what everyone's doing and share information about the trial.

"Next season we'll sow in spring. I find you have to be exact with sowing plantain. We spray out with a herbicide after the turnips are lifted and direct drill the seed."

"I learned farming through DairyNZ discussion groups and talking to others but it will be a big step to plant 30 percent plantain. To some extent, it will come down to cost. Herbs are just another species in the paddock but if the trials are successful, we'll aim to gradually increase plantain in our pastures until we reach 30 percent."

Mark Diamond

Mark has been using plantain for three years. In a 10ha trial, he's using about 2kg plantain/ha as part of a mixed sward with ryegrass and clover, which he sows after the summer turnip crop has been lifted. "Plantain is easy to grow and is part of our ongoing regrassing plan. It's easier to manage than chicory and the cows love it."

Mark says farmers know they must make changes but, because every property is different, there's no 'one size fits all' solution. "We all live in houses of different shapes and sizes with different coloured roofs. Farms are much the same. Brad's property is completely different to mine, even though we share a boundary fence."

"It's definitely a hard one. Some farms have higher rainfall than others, and there are different options available to help reduce leaching, like off-paddock infrastructure and changes to farm systems – but these all come at a cost."

Mark is also trying a few other things, like using gibberellic acid and liquid urea, to strategically-reduce N losses and increase pasture growth at times when growth rates are typically low.

"The project has just started and I think there is merit in it, but we'll have more information in 12 months' time. The scientists are going to measure everything and tell us if plantain has made a difference to production and the bottom line. I'm hoping it's a 'goer'."

The Tararua Plantain Project provides a case study which could see dairy farmers in other parts of the country adopt the use of plantain to reduce N leaching.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

“Plantain is an excellent low-cost opportunity to make a positive impact on the *One Plan* targets at farm and catchment levels,” says Adam Duker. “This project will help farmers to make plantain work in their systems, with the aim to significantly reduce N loss while maintaining farm profit. We have an ambitious goal to have 95 percent of unconsented farmers in the district with 30 percent or more plantain in their cows’ diets by 2025.

“Water quality monitoring and modelling will provide direct feedback to farmers and the local community on the potential and actual improvements they’re making,” says Adam. “The project will serve as a case study for rapid adoption of new technology and a blueprint for possible adoption of plantain in other parts of New Zealand.”

■ Words: Christine Hartley ■ Photos: Brad Hanson



For further information check out dairynz.co.nz/Tararua and dairynz.co.nz/plantain

Farmers in the region can also contact Adam Duker.
Email Adam.Duker@dairynz.co.nz

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SUPPORT



DairyNZ catchment engagement leader Adam Duker, working with Horizons Regional Council, Massey University, agronomists and a six-strong project team, has developed the Tararua Plantain Project (*based on previous research – see below*) to help unconsented farmers. The project has outlined a seven-year plan to achieve adoption of plantain on 125 dairy farms, with the objectives to increase farm business and community resilience, and quantified gains in water quality. Levy funding (\$638,500 for the 2018/19 season) covers the project’s establishment phase.

Massey University

Professor Peter Kemp and a team from Massey University’s School of Agriculture and Environment are carrying out research at a university farm, measuring N

leaching from plantain pastures compared with ryegrass pastures. They’re supporting the project farmers by sharing the results of this research. In turn, Tararua farmers are contributing to the Massey research by evaluating ways to best integrate plantain into their farm systems.

Horizons Regional Council

Dr Nic Peet, Horizons strategy and regulation manager, says the project’s success will help drive water quality improvement in the Manawatu River and help farms meet regulatory requirements to reduce N.

“Without tools like the use of plantain, farmers in much of the Tararua are unlikely to be able to meet the *One Plan* N-leaching targets and remain viable. The plantain project is important and has the potential to make a significant difference – economically and environmentally.”

Previous and ongoing research – FRNL programme

The Tararua Plantain Project capitalises on research findings from the DairyNZ-led Forages for Reduced Nitrate Leaching (FRNL) programme. FRNL established that New Zealand-bred plantain cultivars reduce soil N concentration under cows’ urine patches. This allows plants to take up a greater proportion of N, reducing N leaching (estimated to be between 5 and 30 percent, depending on soil type and the proportion of plantain in the cows’ diet).



Kyla and Craig Morgan say hosting a discussion group was "easier than expected".

Toolboxes and talking points

Discussion groups help farmers to link up, support each other and make the best use of DairyNZ's farm assessment toolbox. Find out more about the toolbox – and a Bay of Plenty couple's experience hosting their own discussion group.

DairyNZ invests the farmer levy to produce a comprehensive range of farm assessment tools, resources and support. These aim to make life easier for farmers, their people and animals – without sacrificing profitability or environmental sustainability. Hosting a discussion group is just one item in our toolbox, and it was a useful tool for Kyla and Craig Morgan, Bay of Plenty contract milkers in their fourth season.

Before hosting their group, the Morgans first went through a whole farm assessment (a broad systems analysis of their farm business). These are carried out by trained rural professionals, including DairyNZ consulting officers (COs), who visit the farm and lead a structured discussion with the farm owner. Strengths, weaknesses, risks and opportunities are identified across all components of the business. The result is a comprehensive report and succinct action plan providing a pathway for the farm business team.

The couple then worked with their local DairyNZ CO, Kevin McKinley, to assess all areas of the farm business as part of setting up their discussion group. "Kevin did a pre-visit which made us formalise the sorts of ideas we wanted to generate from the group," says Craig. "Hosting a DairyNZ discussion group was easier than we expected and it mainly confirmed

what we thought: that we were understocked." Kyla agrees: "There was definitely potential for more stock to eat more grass and improve production and profit".

"The discussion group has been good – it gave us a kick in the pants to get on with things."

Their experience shows how discussion groups provide insights into new ways of doing things, help farmers share knowledge and inspire them with the confidence to implement new practices. "The discussion group has been good," says Craig. "It gave us a kick in the pants to get on with things. It reinforced what we had in the back of our minds."

Other resources in DairyNZ's farm assessment toolbox include Mark and Measure, a three-day training course where farmers can learn key business concepts and skills, and gain confidence to achieve their own unique picture of personal and business success. There's also Farm Gauge, a quick and easy online self-assessment tool that looks at eight areas of the farm system, helping farmers to identify areas of opportunity and guiding them to the next steps.

Reach into our farm assessment toolbox



Training – Mark and Measure

From December 1, you can register for one of our two 2019 courses: Taupo, May 21 to 23; and Queenstown June 11 to 13.

Get more information (and/or register) online at dairynz.co.nz/markandmeasure

Tools – Farm Gauge

Visit dairynz.co.nz/farm-gauge

Support – discussion groups

Talk to your local CO – contact details are online at dairynz.co.nz/co

Meet our Upper NI Regional Team



DairyNZ's three 'Hubs' focus on the needs of dairy farmers specific to their regions: Upper North Island, Lower North Island and South Island. This month we talk to Upper NI Hub leader Sharon Morrell about her team's work and achievements.

What areas does the Upper NI Hub cover?

Northland, North Waikato, South Waikato and Bay of Plenty (BOP).

What roles are in your team?

I'm in charge of the Upper NI Hub overall, overseeing three regional team leaders (Northland, Whangarei and Waikato) and one farm business management specialist, several consulting officers (COs) and an events/administration team of four. One of our COs has been seconded to assist full time with DairyNZ's support for the Ministry for Primary Industries' *Mycoplasma bovis* response. We also work closely with other DairyNZ staff, such as catchment engagement leaders, Dairy Connect coordinators and animal husbandry specialists.

Has your team changed its structure or priorities recently?

Yes, previously we had one main leader for all of the regional teams. Having three Hub leaders means each can get a really good understanding of the needs and opportunities of farmers in their territories. We can link more easily into DairyNZ's wider resources, while creating broadened and stronger capabilities across our whole team, for example, by having farm business specialists as part of each Hub.

What regional problems are you trying to solve?

We want to see farms operate as thriving businesses which also effectively respond to environmental and sustainability issues. DairyNZ's region-specific projects are one way we do this. Our farmer discussion groups are another – they're the backbone of what we do. Our wider team also helps farmers from a regulatory perspective. Currently we're doing this in relation to the BOP Regional Council's plan changes for Rotorua; updated water quality requirements for BOP and for Waikato regions; and other plan changes being developed for Northland.

“Our farmer discussion groups ... are the backbone of what we do. It's all about sharing knowledge, experiences and support with each other.”



Denise Knop, DairyNZ CO Far North, discusses pilot sediment traps with the Hurunui discussion group.



What recent achievements are you most proud of?

I'm proud of how we link up with dairy farmers and across DairyNZ to provide better service to all farmers. Our work with experts in environmental stewardship as well as DairyNZ's Dairy Environment Leader farmers (DELs) is helping farmers apply regulatory changes and improve their farms' impact on the local

environment. For example, for BOP's upcoming Plan Change 9 on water use, we're planning events around metering, the consenting process and practical water efficiency measures.

In Northland, we're continuing work on kikuyu management resources for farmers, with input from local farmers and consultants, our development team, a DairyNZ CO and DairyNZ's marketing team (developing online resources).

Get in touch with your local Hub team – check out page 25 of this edition of *Inside Dairy* – or go online at dairynz.co.nz/contacts

DairyNZ projects: farmer-led, region-fed



Check out a snapshot of three DairyNZ regional projects that are building a better dairy sector by bringing farmers together.



E350 target farmer Kent Phillips (centre, with cap): "E350 helped me out of a hard winter, put me on top going into spring and provided multiple options going into summer."

DairyNZ consulting officer (CO). Each farmer is also connected with five 'associate farmers' to share their journey of change. A new feature is a simple wellbeing report allowing farmers to signal early when they need extra support.

DairyNZ development opportunities are another key element, says Chris. "One of our target farmers described our 'Mark and Measure' course to me as 'life-changing'." Another Northland farmer, Doug Phillips, describes E350 as "very supportive, for both us, the owners and our sharemilker. We've identified key components that have enabled us to consolidate our objectives".

Chris says farmer attitude change says it all. "In Year One, they sit there in the chair, arms

folded, and look across the table at you. By Year Two, the arms are unfolded, they're leaning on the table, listening and engaging. By Year Three, they're waving their hands at you and saying 'what else are we going to do to crank this thing up'."

Northland – Extension 350

Extension 350 (E350), launched in 2016, has four groups (or clusters) in place, each containing 35 dairy farmers and three more being established. It's supported by Ministry for Primary Industries, Northland Regional Council, DairyNZ, Beef + Lamb New Zealand and Northland Inc. The project recently won a sustainability development accolade at the 2018 Economic Development NZ Awards.

Dairying interest is led by ex-DairyNZ regional leader Chris Neill, and the project links in with DairyNZ's regional plan focus on economic growth for Northland. "We expect E350 to contribute more than \$100 million into this region within the next 20 years," says Chris. "We're already seeing our farmers make extraordinary productivity, goal-setting and budgeting turnarounds within their businesses."

Local clusters with five 'target' farmers achieve goals by focusing on profitability, sustainability and wellbeing. They work one-on-one with their mentor farmer, a consultant and with a

Taranaki – Dairy Trust Taranaki (DTT)

This Trust is made up of local dairy farmers (including members of NZ Young Farmers), rural professionals and representatives from DairyNZ, Fonterra, and local and regional councils. DTT operations manager Debbie McCallum says research has been going on in the Taranaki region for more than 40 years.

"We're carrying on that tradition, talking directly to our farmers and ensuring our research is science-based. DairyNZ is also a leading organisation in the sector and its regional priorities for Taranaki align with our DTT research goals, supporting our region's future farming business and the growth of its young people."



“These studies are dealing with important local issues and their results also have wider national importance.”

The Trust has four research sites across Taranaki: DTT Gibson (previously the Taranaki Agricultural Research Station), Waimate West, Stratford and Kavanagh (leased from Fonterra).

“One larger trial is examining the environmental and economic effects of autumn versus spring calving,” says Debbie. “Another looks at a potential future after palm kernel expeller (PKE), while living within Fat Evaluation Index (FEI) guidelines. These studies are dealing with important local issues and their results also have wider national importance.”

Debbie says DTT is getting plenty of positive comments from farmers, including locals Andy and Lisa Tippet, who say: “With climate changes and weather patterns shifting from the norm in the Taranaki region, a trial done on autumn calving is relevant and could provide useful information for farmers.” Next, the Trust aims to focus on social and wellbeing aspects of farming families.

Canterbury/Southland – work skills project

DairyNZ’s Jane Muir is heading a new three-year project, *Attracting and maintaining a skilled workforce in Canterbury and Southland*. “Dairy farmers in the two regions have told us that labour shortages are a burning issue, partly due to low unemployment and urbanisation,” says Jane. “We hope to make a step change in attracting more people to dairy by focusing our initial efforts on these regions, rather than go out with a scattergun approach across the country. Then we can roll out this project’s success into other regions.”

The project aims to attract people at all levels (new workers and career-changers), upskill them and retain them. “That means increasing awareness of the opportunities, creating pathways into (and support within) the sector, and creating great workplaces. Not only for New Zealanders, but also our immigrant worker community too, as they fill important gaps in our workforce.”

DairyNZ’s ability to leverage off its partners will get everyone working together to join the dots. “Some of that is us working with farmers, and with our sector partners like the Dairy



DairyNZ’s Jane Muir meets with Greg Patchell, head of ImmigrationNZ, at Waikato’s Innovation Park.

Women’s Network, Federated Farmers and NZ Young Farmers. We’ll also work with schools and universities and other sectors, and with government and local government organisations,” says Jane.

“The ultimate short-term goal is that farmers in Canterbury and Southland gain resilience in farming because they can access the skills they need and create flow-on benefits from that. Plus we hope to provide employees in our sector with meaningful, enjoyable jobs.”

Take a tour around our regions

- DairyNZ regional projects and results – dairynz.co.nz/regional
- Meet our regional consulting officers – dairynz.co.nz/co
- Find regional case studies in our ‘business’, ‘environment’, ‘feed’, ‘animal’ and ‘milking’ sections at dairynz.co.nz
- Check out a snapshot of DairyNZ’s regional plans on the following two pages.



REGIONAL PRIORITIES:

Supporting our sector's economy, environment, people and cows.

Check out this snapshot of DairyNZ's regional plans, developed with farmers by our regional teams. The plans aim to help farmers achieve sustainable success for their businesses and the dairy sector, by linking sector research, policy requirements and support. We will be refreshing these plans annually.



WAIKATO thrive, stewardship

VISION: Dairy farmers and their businesses provide a strong foundation for leveraging Waikato's future innovation and primary industry success.

1 **PRIORITY 1:**

Dairy farms thrive now and are also equipped for future business development.

2 **PRIORITY 2:**

Protecting and nurturing the environment for future generations.

TARANAKI pride, efficiency, future focus

VISION: Competitive, resilient and future-focused dairy farming, connecting local research, strong farmer leadership and community.

1 **PRIORITY 1:**

Pride in the region and community.

2 **PRIORITY 2:**

Getting the house in order through effluent management.

3 **PRIORITY 3:**

Competitive farm businesses for Taranaki, with more opportunities for young people.

NORTHLAND opportunity, sustainable

VISION: Farmers are proud to be dairy farming in Northland, running competitive and resilient farm businesses. These play a major role in regional, community and industry development, while reflecting and supporting Northland's unique natural and cultural attributes.

1 **PRIORITY 1:**

Northland: an attractive business opportunity.

2 **PRIORITY 2:**

Environmental and business management: doing the right thing now.

BAY OF PLENTY thrive, better landscapes, Māori agribusiness

VISION: Integrated dairy farming is thriving in a strongly-networked community, shaping and meeting expectations, and enduring into the future.

1 **PRIORITY 1:**

Thrive now, innovate for the future.

2 **PRIORITY 2:**

Dairying in a better landscape by meeting environmental objectives as part of viable businesses objectives.

3 **PRIORITY 3:**

Thriving Māori agribusiness.

LOWER NORTH ISLAND leading the way, sustainable, capability

VISION: Proud to be dairy farming in the Lower North Island: competitive and resilient farm businesses supporting regional, community and industry development while embracing and enhancing the Lower North Island's unique natural and cultural attributes.



WEST COAST/TOP OF THE SOUTH inspirational

VISION: The dairy sector in West Coast is thriving through resilient farm businesses. These attract the best available workforce and meet community expectations in caring for their environment and animals.



PRIORITY 1:

Boosting morale and enthusiasm for dairying on the West Coast.



PRIORITY 1:

Leveraging the region's innovation capability.



PRIORITY 2:

Farming to the reality through environmental success and future innovation.



PRIORITY 3:

A test case for other regions through evaluation, process and policy.



CANTERBURY/NORTH OTAGO

prosper, capability

VISION: The dairy sector in Canterbury/North Otago is thriving through resilient farm businesses. These attract the best available workforce and meet community expectations in caring for their environment and animals.



PRIORITY 1:

Protecting and nurturing the environment, building competitive and resilient farm businesses and improving public perception.



PRIORITY 2:

Attracting and maintaining a skilled workforce.

SOUTHLAND/SOUTH OTAGO

resilient, people, caring for cows

VISION: The Southland region is an area of New Zealand where growth may be achievable, provided it's appropriately managed.



PRIORITY 1:

Attracting a skilled workforce.



PRIORITY 2:

Dairy farming fits with community values for a healthy environment and well-cared-for animals.



PRIORITY 3:

Existing farmers are resilient and have access to diverse and supportive networks to help grow their businesses.



MORE INFORMATION

- Regional priorities in action – read this issue's case studies, pages 10 and 11.
- Regional priorities and outcomes – get details at dairynz.co.nz/regional-priorities
- Find out about DairyNZ's regional projects – dairynz.co.nz/regional





Dairy Women’s Network: forging connection and support

The Dairy Women’s Network is making a difference to farming communities and businesses nationwide. We find out how from DWN’s Jules Benton – and why becoming a regional leader is a great opportunity.

DairyNZ is a founding partner of the Dairy Women’s Network (DWN), supported by your farmer levy – recognising the organisation’s invaluable influence and reach across the sector.

Jules Benton is chief executive officer of DWN, which has 35 groups and 86 volunteer regional leaders (RLs) based across the country.

“Making connections, sharing experience and learning new skills is the basic function of these groups, as we endeavour to reach women in dairy across New Zealand,” she explains.

Regular DWN workshops in every region offer valuable insights into best practice for running a dairy business. Learning modules this year focused on calf rearing, herd testing, building emotional resilience, getting the most from employees, coaching conversations and budgeting.

Jules says the network’s RLs also forge support within the DWN through coffee catch-ups, ladies’ nights and wellness events in their communities.

In turn, the DWN is committed to the personal development of regional leaders, providing exclusive access to experiences that instil self-confidence through better leadership.

“Our regional leaders are at the forefront of connecting rural women and facilitating DWN workshops that enable better business practice. We’re highly appreciative of the time and effort they spend supporting our network initiatives,” says Jules.

“In return, we help them develop better leadership skills and empower them to be business and community leaders immediately – and possibly leaders for the sector in years to come.”

DWN’s annual Leadership Forum is another key event for RLs. Appropriately themed ‘Value me’, the 2018 DWN Leadership Forum held in March was well-received. Funded by DairyNZ, these conferences help inspire, equip and motivate regional leaders. Learning includes public speaking skills, networking and connecting, event organisation, presentation tools and communication.

“One attendee said, ‘I am more self-aware and happier to share my views/opinions’,” says Jules. “Another noted that ‘to date [being a regional leader] is giving me more networking



DWN regional leaders gather at their annual conference to share their experiences and extend their leadership skills.

opportunities and visibility in the sector, which is fantastic. I can’t wait to see what else I get from being part of this organisation and the benefits for myself personally and for my company’.”

Find out more at dwn.co.nz

Interested in volunteering for the DWN?

You’ll be a key part of a team of women who stand together and make things happen. Call the DWN on 0800 396 748 or email regionalmanager@dwn.co.nz to find out more.

DWN Conference 2019

Save the date – May 1/2, 2019, at Christchurch Town Hall. Visit dwn.co.nz for more details.



Invest in you!

1- 2 May 2019
Christchurch Town Hall

For more information keep an eye on www.dwn.co.nz/dwn19

WATER MOVEMENT GETS EVERYONE INVOLVED



DairyNZ has launched an exciting new movement to get everyone to play a role in improving NZ's waterways, explains chief executive Tim Mackle.

The Vision is Clear: Let's Improve our Waterways is now streaming across the country, showing the work being done by dairy farmers and other New Zealanders to benefit rivers, streams, lakes and beaches. It calls on all Kiwis to follow the movement, get involved and look after New Zealand's waterways.

The campaign can be heard on the radio, seen on Facebook and Twitter, and read about in the paper. We're encouraging people to visit thevisionisclear.co.nz.

Launched on November 1, *The Vision is Clear* got off to a great start: the first week's Facebook post reached 327,669 people and 93,000 viewed the video in the first five days.

On day one of the campaign, an article ran on *The NZ Herald's* website homepage sharing the movement's purpose and encouraging all Kiwis to get behind the campaign. The article reached thousands of people, with more than half from Auckland. Articles will continue to roll out in December, reviewing the state of all New Zealand waterways and the research underway by the dairy sector to improve water quality.

So why are we doing this? Well, in part because you, New Zealand's dairy farmers, have been doing great work to look after your waterways – and we need to showcase this. DairyNZ is also working on solutions to reduce dairying's impact on the environment. We all know there's more work to be done.

And we know most of you have invested heavily in this – not only financially, but also personally – with your time, energy and passion.

Dairy can play its part but we can't do it alone. Water quality is affected by many other users. We knew we had to do something differently and so we took a leadership position – 'why not get the whole country doing their bit, as well as dairy farmers?' – to work together to improve the state of our waterways.

We're really excited about *The Vision is Clear*: how it could change the way New Zealanders think about their own impact on water and how they can care for their local waterways.

SUPPORT THE VISION IS CLEAR MOVEMENT

THE VISION IS CLEAR

LET'S IMPROVE OUR WATERWAYS

We need you to get involved and support *The Vision is Clear*.

Please check out thevisionisclear.co.nz, view the videos and share the stories on social media. The 'story of a river' video is one to look out for.

Why get behind the movement? Because if everyone plays their part, it all adds up to cleaner waterways for New Zealand.



DairyNZ welcomes two new directors to the board

Held in Invercargill on October 31, DairyNZ's Annual General Meeting (AGM) saw sustainable farm systems discussed and two new directors joining the board.



DairyNZ chairman Jim van der Poel said the 2017/18 season was another big year for dairy farmers, with great progress made in developing farm systems for the future.

"We as a farming community are committed to farming within environmental limits and maximising value from our pasture-based farming systems. This is what continues to be our competitive advantage," said Jim. "By continuing to improve our sustainability, we are safeguarding the dairy sector's future."

Jim said the *Dairy Tomorrow* strategy, launched in 2017, is

now central to the sector's future progress.

"It has six commitments which encompass the environment, resilient businesses, producing high-quality nutrition, animal care, great workplaces and growing vibrant communities."

Several AGM resolutions results were also announced at the AGM, including setting new director remuneration levels and appointing dairy farmer John Gregan to the Directors Remuneration Committee. Jim also introduced two new directors to DairyNZ's board, who you can read about below.

Visit dairynz.co.nz/agm for more.

Who are the new directors?

Jacqueline Rowarth

Farmer-elected director Jacqueline Rowarth has a wealth of science, agribusiness and policy experience.

"When I was 16 years old, I wanted to save the world and this belief has never been far from mind. I've always had a passion for sustainable food production and look forward to working with DairyNZ in their work to help dairy farmers achieve this vision."

Jacqueline was the first chief scientist for the Environmental Protection Authority. Her other past roles include Professor of Pastoral Agriculture at Massey University and Professor of Agribusiness at Waikato University.

She has 35 years' experience as a soil scientist, with a research focus on managing the productive environment (nutrients and greenhouse gases). In 2011, Jacqueline invested in a family-run dairy operation in Tirau.



Jo Coughlan

Board-appointed director Jo Coughlan brings considerable experience to DairyNZ and is thrilled to be joining the team.

"I grew up on a sheep and crop farm in Mid Canterbury and married a Southland farmer, but have lived in Central Wellington for more than 20 years, where we have raised our six children. I feel I can bring both an urban and rural perspective to the DairyNZ board."

"I'm excited to be a part of a sector that, while facing challenges, will continue to play a key role growing the New Zealand economy and is focused on creating a better future for our children."

With about 20 years' experience in senior public relations, government relations and communications roles, Jo is currently managing director for Silvereye Communications, working with a wide range of public and private sector clients.

Jo replaces Barry Harris, who retired from the DairyNZ board after 11 years.



Tree-planting is one way farmers can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Here, Minister for Climate Change James Shaw opens a beech forest on Damian and Jane Roper's farm in Patea, in June 2018.



Zero Carbon Bill nearly here

The dairy sector will look very different in 2050, spurred on by our collective work to reduce agricultural emissions and meet a new 2050 target, says DairyNZ senior policy advisor Milena Scott.

The content of the Zero Carbon Bill is likely to be announced this month, and is expected to be legislated next year. The Bill will commit New Zealand to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. For the dairy sector, this will require us to take action to reduce methane and nitrous oxide.

There has been widespread support among the agricultural sector for a reduction and stabilisation of methane levels in order to meet our climate change targets and safeguard our reputation as a producer of environmentally sustainable agriculture. Our latest research shows we can reduce levels up to 10 percent with existing mitigation options. In time, greater reductions will be achievable as we continue improving the way we use our land, and as methane-reducing technologies are developed.

All farms are different, and not all options discussed in the Dairy Action for Climate Change workshops this year will be suitable for your farm system. We are committed to supporting you to choose a package of options suitable to your farm system and situation to reduce agricultural emissions. Many of you are planting trees and constructing or restoring wetlands. We're also doing significant work to improve cow productivity.

By 2050, our sector will be more sustainable, more productive and – importantly – still world-class.

Learn more at dairynz.co.nz/zero-carbon

MESSAGE FROM HON JAMES SHAW, MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

*I want to thank New Zealand farmers, farming organisations, and farming support networks, including DairyNZ, for taking on climate change – even while the sector has also had to handle *Mycoplasma bovis* and other challenges.*

I've been welcomed onto farms all over New Zealand and it's clear that farmers see the climate challenge and are moving to meet it.

I know farmers are stewards of the land and that you're practical people. Farmers have told me they want to do their bit, but need to know they'll have tools to make the transition and that their actions will be recognised.

I've taken those concerns on board. We're working on ways to help with the transition and to help farmers take advantage of this change so they can prosper in the future.

Agriculture is an integral part of New Zealand, which is why farming leadership and determination is critical in our climate change strategy. It's also why I'm optimistic that our little country can show the world how to feed more people more productively, more profitably and more sustainably.



Students' research supports Pillars

We talk to three of DairyNZ's PhD students currently involved with projects under the levy-funded *Pillars of a new dairy system* research partnership.



Stacey Hendriks



Charlotte Reed



Olivia Spaans

Stacey Hendriks

Stacey is using DairyNZ electronic activity data to look at how dairy cow behaviour and metabolic and immune markers might link with the presence of subclinical disease. "We're focusing on the 'transition' period when cows are calving. This is when they're at increased risk of metabolic and infectious diseases due to temporarily-reduced immunity," says Stacey.

"This study still has several other stages to come, but in the long term, we hope we'll be able help farmers monitor individual cow behaviour to detect issues early, so they can improve lifetime productivity, cow health and wellbeing. This method would allow early intervention in a way that is non-invasive and more efficient than current measures like blood testing at a herd level."

Charlotte Reed

Charlotte is examining how disease and fertility breeding value affect oocyte (unfertilised egg) quality. "Up to 30 percent of New Zealand's dairy cows' pregnancies are lost in the first week, and we know that oocyte quality is one of the major factors driving early pregnancy loss in cows," says Charlotte.

"By identifying oocyte quality in dairy cows and linking it to the biochemical make-up within the ovarian follicle, we can then try developing solutions for reducing this early embryonic loss. These solutions could be delivered through improved genetics for fertility or ways that farmers can manage the herd to ensure the follicle is in good shape for providing a high-quality oocyte when cows are bred."

Olivia Spaans

Investigating cows' inflammatory states – in particular, leading up to, during and after calving – is the focus of Olivia's study.

"We want to know how dairy cows' inflammatory states affect their immune function, reproductive physiology, health and ongoing fertility," says Olivia. "Inflammation around the calving period is normal to some degree and it performs some important functions, but it's damaging if it goes on too long."

Later in the study, Olivia will potentially be testing some anti-inflammatory compounds which farmers might be able to administer at the 'right time' (still to be pinpointed) to get their herds' health back on track before mating and calving starts. "It's really cool to be working on something that will make a difference on-farm – it's very farmer-connected."

"It's really cool to be working on something that will make a difference on-farm too – it's very farmer-connected."

Pillars funding

The *Pillars of a new dairy system* programme is levy-funded, with matched co-funding from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and aligned core funding for fertility from AgResearch. Additional funding and resources are provided by Fonterra, Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC) and CRV Ambreed.

Find out more

Pillars research – dairynz.co.nz/pillars

DairyNZ awards, scholarships and student research opportunities – dairynz.co.nz/scholarships



Planting projects connect children with farmers

DairyNZ and the Student Volunteer Army recently joined forces for one of our in-school education projects, which paired students and farmers to carry out wetlands planting.

The DairyNZ levy-funded project enabled students to help look after waterways in their areas while learning about local farmers' environmental initiatives.

Working with education specialists School Kit, DairyNZ matched 25 urban and rural schools around the country with 25 farmers to carry out on-farm planting projects. Some of the farmers involved in the project are volunteers who regularly host classroom visits on their farms as part of DairyNZ's education programme.

"This was a really exciting initiative that saw farmers and children working together to enhance the environment," says DairyNZ's external engagement manager Phillipa Adam. "We know children love swimming and playing in rivers and streams and it's great to have them involved with us in looking after them – in a fun way."

Using the Student Volunteer Army (SVA)* method, each student completely planned their own project, taking a different role such as project manager, farmer liaison and finance manager. "It also enabled them to visit a farm, meet the farmers and manage a project contributing to the wider community," says Phillipa.

Cheryl Hickford, principal of Motumaoho Primary near Morrinsville, says her students (the whole school took part) were really excited about being involved in the planting project.

"We have a gully with a waterway running through it – with the school on one side and a farm on the other and it was fantastic to work with the farmer to plant it. The children love going to the gully and looking for eels, and now they can see they're making a difference because there are more eels in the stream," says Cheryl. "Being part of this project has helped the children learn how important it is to give back to the environment. It's all about educating children for a sustainable future."

Before planting, each class researched the topic using videos and information provided in the teaching guide, investigating the benefits of planting, says Phillipa. "Children learned from resources that are commonplace in many farmers' tool kits," she explains. "These included the regional wetlands and waterway planting guides and the online riparian planner, which gave



Photo credit: Paul Sutherland

"Being part of this project has helped the children learn how important it is to give back to the environment. It's all about educating children for a sustainable future."

them an idea of the importance the dairy sector places on sustainability."

Visit dairynz.co.nz/education to learn more about DairyNZ's education programme. To find out what you can do to look after waterways visit dairynz.co.nz/waterways

*The SVA was formed when a group of University of Canterbury students came together to help those affected by the Christchurch earthquakes. Today the SVA is inspiring and activating students for community good. It recently partnered with School Kit to introduce this programme into schools.



Farmer input crucial for labour market survey



A shortage of skilled and capable people is a risk to dairy farmers' and the sector's future, so it's vital that farmers tell us about their workforce needs. Our phone survey this month will focus on Canterbury and Southland farmers, as DairyNZ's Jane Muir explains.

Farmers are telling us that getting the right people with the right skills is one of their biggest challenges right now. The workforce shortfall is particularly true in Canterbury and Southland, so that's why this month's DairyNZ farmer phone survey will focus on those areas.

We also know farmers are concerned about the impacts of the changes in immigration policy last year, making migrant labour more difficult to access.

Our labour market survey of Canterbury and Southland aims to collect 500 phone surveys of farm employers in these regions, who currently have the greatest need. It's the first survey of its type completed in the dairy sector.

We're wanting to obtain robust and current data on workforce supply and demand, as well as the size and scope of the people challenges (including around migrant labour).

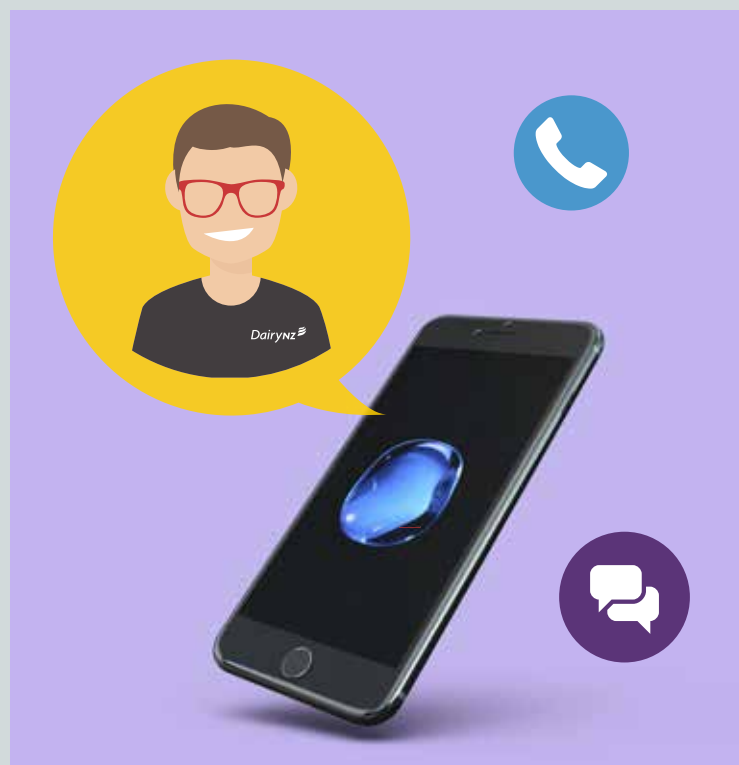
This will build a picture of the biggest challenges and opportunities for improvement.

Having robust data, rather than anecdotal information, will allow us to have informed, evidence-based discussions with stakeholders, including government, around projects, policy settings and decision-making on key areas like immigration. It will help drive our future plans for supporting farmers' workforce needs.

We're expecting a very positive response to this survey by farmers. If you're contacted by phone to complete this survey and employ staff, we strongly encourage you to take part. It's critical that farmers take the time to let us know their views on this pressing issue.

DairyNZ's labour market survey is part of a bigger levy-funded project, *Attracting and retaining a skilled workforce in Canterbury and Southland*. For more on this project see page 11 in this edition of *Inside Dairy*. You can also read more about a career in dairying and check out our resources for employers and employees at dairynz.co.nz/people

“If you're contacted by phone to complete this survey and employ staff, we strongly encourage you to take part.”



Key points



- 1. The challenge:** finding the right people with the right skills and capabilities to work on-farm as well as in other opportunities within the sector.
- 2. The first step:** our December labour market farmer phone survey, which will initially focus on Canterbury and Southland.
- 3. The focus:** connecting dairy farmers' voices with our planning and support for dairy sector workforce needs.

Balancing the benefits and cost of mixed plantain swards



While plantain has potential for reducing nitrogen loss from dairy farms, issues like the cost of establishing and maintaining plantain may offset some of its benefits. DairyNZ farm systems specialist Chris Glassey explains why.

Since October 2017, DairyNZ researchers have been attempting to establish and manage plantain in mixed pastures on 30 percent of DairyNZ's benchmark farmlet at Scott Farm, Hamilton – without disrupting its production cycle or adding significantly to its working expenses.

Stocked at 3.1 cows/hectare (ha), the farmlet averages 1150 kilograms of milksolids/ha (kg MS/ha) and aims to do this with very little purchased feed from outside the milking area (System 1). Any disruption to the normal pasture growth curve has to be carefully managed to avoid adverse impacts, given the farmlet's high stocking rate, as establishing any new pasture can be disruptive to feed supply .

Successes

Successful establishment results from broadcasting 3kg to 6kg of plantain seed/ha onto existing pasture in spring, particularly after pugging damage. A paddock broadcast in November 2017 (without spraying) resulted in a plantain population of 13 plants/square metre (m²) in April 2018.

Plantain establishes well when direct-drilled in spring (again without spraying) into annual ryegrass. This resulted in plantain populations of 50 plants/m², with an additional cost of broadcasting 3kg/ha of white clover seed in summer to help fill the gaps as annual ryegrasses died out. So far this has been achieved with little disruption to the farm system.

Issues for the Waikato environment

1. Spring planting

Attempting to establish mixed ryegrass/plantain pastures using spray-drill in spring 2017 had issues for ryegrass establishment, as summer weed grasses competed vigorously with ryegrass. Plantain established reasonably well (27 plants/m² in April 2018). Ryegrass was successfully re-drilled in autumn. An additional cost will be the spraying to control summer weed grass seedlings germinating in spring 2019.

2. Autumn planting

Establishing new pastures including plantain poses problems in autumn. Plants successfully establish but then limit the use of



Scott Farm plantain pasture seen in February 2018, four months after establishment.

herbicides for controlling weeds during this time. Best practice grazing management can also be compromised by high nitrate levels in new pasture. Bypassing these issues might require establishing the ryegrass in the autumn, before adding the plantain by broadcasting in spring.

3. Winter grazing

Winter grazing management for mixed plantain pastures appears to be different to ryegrass. Long intervals between grazing over winter for pastures including plantain appear to reduce the palatability of plantain compared with ryegrass.

Cows offered paddocks that hadn't been grazed for at least 10 weeks (from May to August) grazed all the ryegrass in a paddock first before eating the plantain eventually.

What's next?

DairyNZ and a group of collaborators are currently sourcing funding for research that will give us a greater understanding of plantain's future role in both profitable and sustainable milk production, which reduces environmental impact.

Find out more about plantain at dairynz.co.nz/plantain and read about our plantain research at dairynz.co.nz/FRNL

Fonterra 'Open Gates' farm day

DairyNZ took part in some of last month's Fonterra 'Open Gates' farm days on November 11, meeting with the public and sharing projects we're working on with farmers and communities. It was a great opportunity for the public to see what the sector and you, our dairy farmers, are doing to look after the land and improve water quality. We also showcased our other community initiatives, such as our education programme in schools and Rosie's World. Find out more about this annual event at opengates.co.nz



Four-year-old Megan Clark points out her beautiful Rosie colouring-in to dad Craig at the Manawatu farm day.

What do you think about NAIT?

DairyNZ is encouraging dairy farmers to make a submission on how the NAIT (National Animal Identification and Tracing) scheme can be improved.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is calling for feedback on proposed changes to the NAIT Act 2012 and regulations. Through this consultation process, MPI is aiming to improve biosecurity risk management and animal traceability.

"It's vital that dairy farmers take a close interest in what is being proposed, given the importance of biosecurity to the sector and to New Zealand," says DairyNZ chief executive Dr Tim Mackle.

Submissions close on December 19 – visit mpi.govt.nz/NAITconsultation



Photo: OSPRI



Queen Elizabeth and Don Ferguson inspect their cows during her 1990 visit to the Ferguson farm near Otorohanga. Photo credit: Richard Wallace.

Her Moojesty's Kiwi connection

DairyNZ's communications team ensured dairy farming got the right royal treatment in *Woman's Day* magazine's special souvenir edition marking Prince Harry and Meghan's recent visit. The double-page spread is about the close connection between Her Majesty ('Her Moojesty', as *Woman's Day* put it) Queen Elizabeth and award-winning Jersey breeder and dairy farmer the late Don Ferguson, of Ferdon Genetics, and his widow June. To read the DairyNZ media release, and the *Woman's Day* story it inspired, go to dairynznewslink.co.nz

Summer weather gets a twister



It's fair to say we've had some particularly interesting weather over the past few months. There's been a tornado in Waikato, a twister in Ashburton, a waterspout in Auckland, hail and high winds in Wellington, snow in Southland and flooding in Otago – and let's not forget the drought across much of the country.

If you're in doubt about how to prepare for such weather events, check out dairynz.co.nz/adverse-events or keep an eye on our Facebook page.



Photo taken by Ben Turner at DairyNZ's Scott Farm, Waikato.

Waikato farmers acting early on effluent management

We talk to three Waikato farmers involved in our Dairy Environment Leaders programme, about how they're managing effluent on their farms.

Ian Taylor, Puketaha

When constructing a new effluent pond, Ian set his sights firmly on the future, by choosing a system that far exceeded minimum standards.

He'd been planning an effluent pond for a while, but was waiting on results from a project investigating how effluent runs through peat soil. However, a very wet spring last year prompted him to act earlier than expected.

"I went for a pond that was twice the size I needed, at 2000 cubic metres. I wanted to build some contingency in, because the regional council rules have changed – and who knows what they'll be in another 10 years," says Ian.



compliance and were set up for the future.

"We knew the effluent system was a red flag, and we knew what our responsibilities were when we bought the farm. We've created a plan and we've been working with the regional council, whose people have been really easy to work with," says Melissa.

John Hayward, Te Awamutu

Over the last nine years, farm owners John Hayward and Susan O'Regan have been working on a plan to make their farm one of the most environmentally sustainable in the region. New effluent ponds will be the latest investment, adding to a long list of work, including regenerating wetlands, planting riparian strips and fencing waterways.



"Putting in ponds makes it a lot simpler for us and takes the stress away – it fits in with where we want to be in our business," says John.

"We're going through a process around that now and there's an opportunity to add another pond in the middle of the farm as well, instead of having one big one."

Melissa Slattery, Te Aroha

Part of the Slatterys' process for buying a new farm a year ago was investigating its current effluent system.

Melissa and husband Justin, who were both brought up on dairy farms around Te Aroha, knew it needed upgrading. They were quick to create a plan for ensuring they met



DairyNZ resources and events

Regional councils nationwide will be looking to ramp up inspections of high-risk effluent management systems over the coming months.

DairyNZ has a range of resources to help you manage your system, including

effluent compliance checklists. These checklists are a self-audit to help farmers to achieve resource consent compliance in all regions of New Zealand.

Visit dairynz.co.nz/effluent



December events

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
31					1	2
3	4 SOUTHLAND/SOUTH OTAGO Edendale Woodlands discussion group gets together at Andrew and Vanessa Wilkinson's farm to talk about non-cycler options, CIDR usage and silent/shy heats.			7	8	9
10	11	12 TARANAKI Taranaki organics group: forward planning for seasonal issues within an organic system.		13 CANTERBURY/NORTH OTAGO Methven discussion group: open forum looking at farm system and seasonal topics system.		16
17	18 LOWER NI Kimbolton/Apiti Christmas discussion group: Come along to Te Marama, one of the Hopkins Farming Group's farms. Lunch provided.		20 BAY OF PLENTY Western Bays/Mangakino discussion group: looking at current issues and seasonal topics at David Dysart's farm.		22	23
24			27	28	29	30

FOR A FULL LIST OF WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH, VISIT DAIRYNZ.CO.NZ/EVENTS

NORTHLAND

Sheila Russell has recently started as DairyNZ's Dairy Connect coordinator for Northland. Sheila and husband Geoff are 50:50 sharemilking in Wellsford with their two children, aged six and eight.



Originally from the United Kingdom, Sheila is also a Dairy Women's Network regional leader for the Rodney District and a judging coordinator for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

After enquiring about a connection through Dairy Connect a few months ago, Sheila saw this position advertised and decided she wanted to help others.

Get in touch with Sheila on 021 067 7891, and learn more about Dairy Connect at dairynz.co.nz/dairyconnect

BAY OF PLENTY

Want to see how top local farm businesses are spending their money, and find areas for improvement in your own business?

Two Bay of Plenty farms are part of DairyNZ's Budget Case Studies, which showcase farms around the country as they budget their production and estimate farm working expenses for the new season.

Check out their 2018/19 budgets and 2017/18 season reviews at dairynz.co.nz/budget-case-studies

TARANAKI

Please be aware that most of this month's Taranaki discussion groups will be end-of-year Christmas social events. The groups will focus on setting up for summer and offer a great networking opportunity for farmers to connect with like-minded individuals before the holiday period.

Visit dairynz.co.nz/events to find a discussion group near you.

LOWER NORTH ISLAND

As part of DairyNZ's Budget Case Studies, Hawke's Bay/Wairarapa farmers Daniel and Rochelle Cammock have opened up their books for others to learn from. They're among about 20 farm businesses sharing their figures.

Daniel and Rochelle are Fonterra suppliers on a 50 percent-irrigated farm. They're milking 490 cows (two herds of 280 and 200) on 190ha, with 58ha of support land nearby. Read about their season so far and view their forecast budget at dairynz.co.nz/budget-case-studies

TOP OF SOUTH ISLAND/WEST COAST

Keen to learn some strategies to improve pasture production and resilience, whatever the weather conditions? Head along to a field day hosted by SMASH (Smaller Milk and Supply Herds) in Kowhitirangi on December 6. You'll hear from two guest speakers, DairyNZ principal scientist David Chapman and Ballance science extension officer Aimee Dawson. Plus, you'll get an insight into the farming operation of progressive young farmers Thomas and Hannah Oats, 2015 West Coast/Top of the South Farm Manager of the Year winners. For more on this free event go to smallerherds.co.nz/event-list

CANTERBURY/NORTH OTAGO

Tania Burrows is DairyNZ's new Dairy Connect coordinator for Canterbury/North Otago, taking over from Sara Crawford. Tania and her husband are lower order sharemilking 1000 cows in Ashburton, with their three girls aged 12, 10 and five.



From a teaching background, Tania is also the Dairy Women's Network regional leader for the Mid Canterbury region, and runs her own part-time business as a leadership coach.

If you're thinking of trying something new on-farm, or are facing challenges and would like to talk with someone experienced, contact Tania today on 022 025 5648. Plus, learn more about Dairy Connect at dairynz.co.nz/dairyconnect

SOUTHLAND/SOUTH OTAGO

Southern Dairy Hub will be hosting a discussion group called 'Pasture Plus' on December 6. This interactive session is for anyone wanting to increase their pasture, supplement and winter feeding knowledge, and pasture management skills.

Those who attend will look at how to set up for summer management, including options for managing pasture growth rate variability and nitrogen fertiliser use.

Find out more at dairynz.co.nz/events

DairyNZ consulting officers

Upper North Island – Head: Sharon Morrell 027 492 2907

Northland

Regional Leader	Tareen Ellis	027 499 9021
Far North	Denise Knop	027 807 9686
Lower Northland	Tareen Ellis	027 499 9021
Whangarei West	Ryan Baxter	021 809 569

Waikato

Regional Leader	Wade Bell	027 285 9273
South Auckland	Mike Bramley	027 486 4344
Hamilton North	Wade Bell	027 285 9273
Matamata/Kereone	Frank Portegys	027 807 9685
Morrinsville/Te Aroha/Waihi	Euan Lock	027 293 4401
Hauraki Plains/Coromandel/Paeroa	Wade Bell	027 285 9273
Te Awamutu	Stephen Canton	027 475 0918
Otorohanga	Michael Booth	027 513 7201
South Waikato	Kirsty Dickins	027 483 2205

Bay of Plenty

Regional Leader	Andrew Reid	027 292 3682
Central BOP (Te Puke, Rotorua)	Kevin McKinley	027 288 8238
Eastern BOP (Whakatane, Opotiki)	Ross Bishop	027 563 1785
Central Plateau (Reporoa, Taupo)	Colin Grainger-Allen	021 225 8345
Katikati, Galatea, Waikite/Ngakuru	Jordyn Crouch	021 619 071

Lower North Island – Head: Rob Brazendale 021 683 139

Taranaki

Regional Leader	Sarah Dirks	027 513 7202
South Taranaki	Nathan Clough	021 246 5663
Central Taranaki	Sarah Payne	027 704 5562
Coastal Taranaki	Anna Arends	021 276 5832
North Taranaki	Lauren McEldowney	027 593 4122

Lower North Island

Horowhenua/Wanganui/Southern and Coastal Manawatu	Kate Stewart	027 702 3760
Wairarapa/Tararua	Abby Scott	021 244 3428
Hawke's Bay	Gray Beagley	021 286 4346
Northern Manawatu/Rangitikei	Jo Back	021 222 9023
Central Manawatu	Richard Greaves	027 244 8016

South Island – Head: Tony Finch 027 706 6183

Top of South Island/West Coast

Nelson/Marlborough	Mark Shadwick	021 287 7057
West Coast	Angela Leslie	021 277 2894

Canterbury/North Otago

Regional Leader	Erin Christian	021 243 7337
North Canterbury	Amy Chamberlain	027 243 0943
Central Canterbury	Natalia Benquet	021 287 7059
Mid Canterbury	Stuart Moorhouse	027 513 7200
South Canterbury	Heather Donaldson	027 593 4124
North Otago	Trevor Gee	021 227 6476

Southland/South Otago

Regional Leader	Richard Kyte	021 246 3166
South/West Otago	Mark Olsen-Vetland	021 615 051
Central and Northern Southland	Nicole E Hammond	021 240 8529
Eastern Southland	Nathan Nelson	021 225 6931
Western Southland	Leo Pekar	027 211 1389

Merry Christmas

From the team at DairyNZ

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healthy and happy
holiday season and a
prosperous new year.
.....



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