



December 2019

Inside Dairy

Your levy in action

HEADING INTO 2020

This year's wins, next year's goals

CHANGING
SUMMER
MILKING
SCHEDULES



Farmers share wellbeing tips

Mythbuster:
Teat spraying post-Christmas?





over the fence...

Anyone else thinking: 'What a year?'
I know I am.

In my time as DairyNZ's chief executive, 2019 has been the most significant in terms of getting the best legislative outcomes for dairy farmers. I'm enormously proud of the effort by DairyNZ's team, who have worked with passion and dedication to get the best results over a huge range of issues. Those issues include immigration, biosecurity, *Mycoplasma bovis*, 'He Waka Eke Noa', and the Zero Carbon Bill.

Our 240-page submission on Essential Freshwater is a strong example. More than 25 DairyNZers (and often up to 100 supporting DairyNZers) worked over two months to compile what we believe is the most comprehensive of all submissions provided to the Ministry for the Environment. It includes a detailed economic analysis of what the impacts would be if the proposals were to go through with no changes. It's sobering stuff. We'll find out the Government's decision in February.

I also want to recognise the team's significant effort to support farmers with submissions, meetings, queries and insights. And finally, I want to acknowledge all the farmers who took time to make a submission too – thank you.

In this edition, read about five farmers who've given feedback on their year just gone, and their focus for 2020. We also hear from Waikato farmers Sam and Jacqui Owen about their on-farm groundwork for 2020. You can also read up on how to respond to common challenges in summer, such as heat stress, fatigue and pasture persistence.

Thanks to those who came along to our 'Offload, reload, recharge' sessions, held across the country in November and December, with some still to run in the South Island. If you couldn't make it, we'd love to hear your feedback on DairyNZ, and answer any of your questions about how we're investing your levy. Please email me – tim.mackle@ceo.dairynz.co.nz

Finally, a shout out to North Otago dairy farmer Lyndon Strang, and to Southland farmer Jon Pemberton from Ag Proud NZ, who did a great job representing the dairy sector on TVNZ's *Sunday* programme on November 3.

Have a wonderful holiday period. *Inside Dairy* will be back in February.

Tim Mackle
Chief executive
DairyNZ



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Inside Dairy is the official magazine of DairyNZ Ltd. It is circulated among all New Zealand dairy farmers and sector organisations and professionals.

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TAKE 5... TIPS FOR FARMERS

1. Flexible milking updates



Have you considered milking three times in two days (3-in-2)? DairyNZ is leading research into the human, animal and pasture response to 3-in-2 milking. Follow the progress of our four farmlets using 3-in-2 by signing up for fortnightly email updates – go to dairynz.co.nz/3in2

2. Farm visitor safety

If friends and family are visiting you this summer, remember they don't know your farm like you do. Take time to explain risks and make sure children are accompanied at all times on-farm. Let's keep everyone safe and well these holidays. Find out more at dairynz.co.nz/health-and-safety and worksafe.govt.nz

3. Race to beat heat stress



Installed a trough in your race yet? Competition for drinking water can reduce water intakes, even when it's hot. A water trough accessible from the race will ensure water restriction doesn't limit milk production or contribute to heat stress. More advice at dairynz.co.nz/heatstress

4. Tech Series out now

Want to find out about the effects of removing supplementary feed, or how nitrogen fertiliser use can be used tactically to assist pasture growth without compromising the environment or your profits? Check out the latest *Tech Series*, included with this issue of *Inside Dairy* and online at dairynz.co.nz/techseries

5. Book your pregnancy testing



The first test should be 11 to 14 weeks after mating start date and a re-test should be at least five weeks after the end of mating but no more than 10 weeks after the first test. Use the table on page 175 of *The InCalf Book* – dairynz.co.nz/incalf

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On the cover: Thanks to Whangarei farm manager Chloe Mackle for sending us this month's cover shot of dogs Kate and Tess loving their 'outdoor office'.



We appreciate your feedback

Email insidedairy@dairynz.co.nz or call us on 0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969). Alternatively, post to: Inside Dairy, Private Bag 3221, Hamilton 3240. For information on DairyNZ visit dairynz.co.nz.



LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

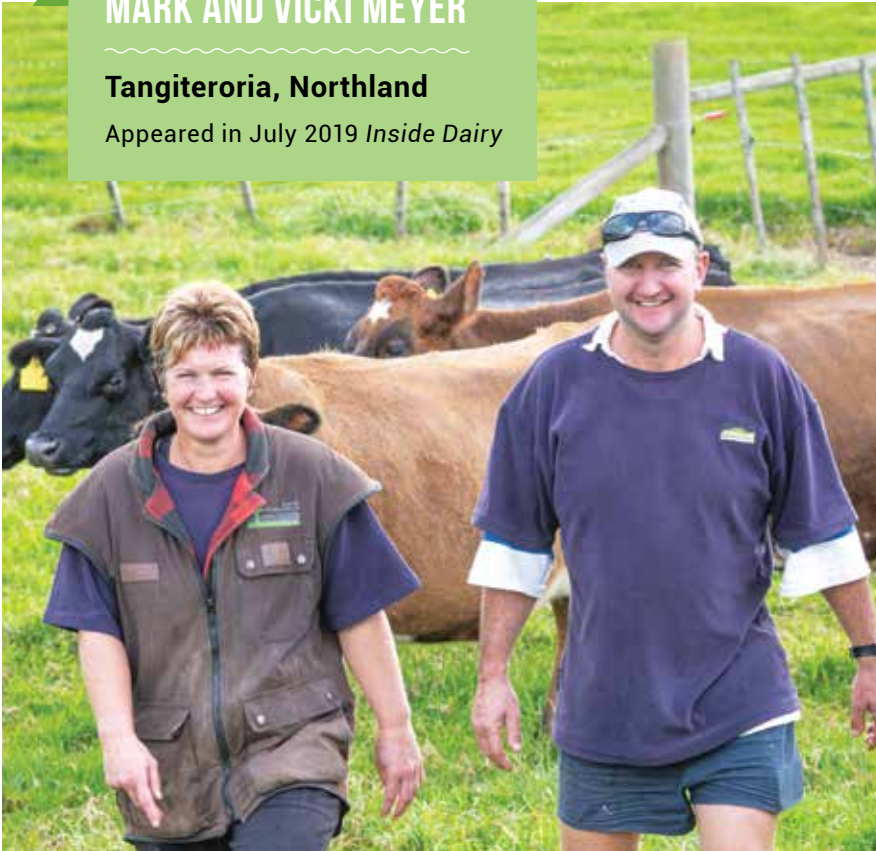
Five farmers featured in *Inside Dairy* in 2019 tell us about their year, where they're heading in 2020 and what they'd like others to know about dairy farmers and the dairying sector.



MARK AND VICKI MEYER

Tangiteroria, Northland

Appeared in July 2019 *Inside Dairy*



“We bit the bullet and made the hard decision to dry off the cows earlier than normal ...”

year, we’ll go from having four kids at school to only having two. It’s fantastic to be part of their journeys.”

Biggest challenge facing our sector?

“There’s a wave of change coming through the agricultural scene: government-led change, sector change, regional change. As farmers, we’re all trying our hardest to understand this change and how it is going to affect us individually and collectively.

“While we don’t necessarily agree with all of the change, we are trying to work our way through it, so that we can still farm in a profitable and sustainable way, both environmentally and socially.”

One thing you’d like non-farmers to know?

“Something we always think about when we leave the cowshed in the morning is that our milk is going to be turned into a product that is going to feed someone, somewhere around the world.

“That, to us, is a pretty awesome feat. Not every person can say that.”

Most proud of in 2019?

“On the farming front, we’re proud of how we managed to turn around our end of 2018/19 season. We’d ended up slightly down in production, due to minimal rain in autumn and a lack of grass growth.

“We’d been staring down the barrel of going into winter with skinny cows and not enough pasture for feed. We bit the bullet and made the hard decision to dry off the cows earlier than normal, which enabled us to get cows off grazing earlier and build cover here on the farm. This worked well, as we had awesome winter growth.

“As a result, the farm is going well at the moment. Logan (farm manager) is doing a great job in running the farm; he’s even still getting time to go off fishing!

“On the family front, we had a fantastic two-week family holiday to Hawaii in April and May. This was great to get away and recharge.

“We’re pretty proud of our kids’ sports performances this year too.”

Top of your 2020 ‘to-do’ list?

“On the farming front, we want to get Logan into a contract milking position on our farm. We have always wanted to try and step back from the day-to-day running of the farm.

“For the family, supporting the kids as much as possible is a top priority. Next



CHEYENNE WILSON

Tuhoe and Ngāti Awa.
Lincoln, Canterbury

Appeared in March 2019 *Inside Dairy*



2019 got off to a strong start for Cheyenne (right), following her success as runner-up in the 2018 Ahuwhenua Young Māori Farmer of the Year Award.

Photo: Alphapix.co.nz

Most proud of in 2019?

"Finishing managing the Culverden farm for the 2018/19 season was a huge milestone for me. I also recently graduated from the Agri-Women's Development Trust Next Level course. It was great to have such an amazing course available for rural women and supported by sector organisations."

Top of your 2020 'to-do' list?

"Making the most of my first year of [Lincoln] University and continuing to grow my network in the primary industries. I want to set myself up well for when I start my business working with rangatahi (youth), supporting them to get into roles in the primary sector."

Biggest challenge facing our sector?

"Mental wellness. There are always stress factors on-farm but, at the moment, farmers are feeling more pressure."

"I am proud to be an advocate for Farmstrong and be involved with the work they are doing around the wellbeing of farmers."

(Farmstrong is a nationwide wellbeing programme for the rural community. For more details see farmstrong.co.nz and also see our article on page 15 of this issue.)

One thing you'd like non-farmers to know?

"I would love for people to understand the work farmers do in their communities, sometimes perhaps behind the scenes and unnoticed. I think the social impact of the work farmers are doing isn't recognised, as it's too hard to measure."



"I would love for people to understand the work farmers do in their communities, sometimes perhaps behind the scenes and unnoticed."

Most proud of in 2019?

“One of our proudest achievements this year, and indeed in our career so far, was winning the Waikato Share Farmer of the Year title [at the New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards – see photo on right]. We were also national runners-up in our first year entering.

“One of our other highlights was expanding our family. We had our second child in July, called Hadli Gruff [joining daughter Etta]. Our goal is to grow our family and business simultaneously.”

Top of your 2020 ‘to-do’ list?

“Secure another job that will help us grow towards our goals. In what shape or form, we’re not sure yet.

“We’d also like to upskill as much as possible in the environmental space, to help steer our own future and that of the next generation.”

Biggest challenge facing our sector?

“The environmental space and continuously improving animal welfare. We need to consider these along with the long-term profitability of our businesses, and within that, give all our generations of farmers the confidence to prosper and grow in this current climate.

“We need to demonstrate all the good things we do, making farming attractive for the younger generations to ensure a strong and positive industry for the future.”



MARC AND NIA JONES

Tokoroa, South Waikato

Appeared in April 2019 *Inside Dairy*

One thing you’d like non-farmers to know?

“That we want a better New Zealand by having prosperous communities and a lower impact on the environment without sacrificing social and economic wealth.

“Our pioneering generation did a lot for the growth of this country, and there might have been a few poor decisions made environmentally, but they didn’t have the science to know any different in them days.

“So, as today’s farmers, we’re aware of the need to aim for a more sustainable farming model and kick ass on all these environmental goals. Our farming generation’s legacy is to leave New Zealand and its people in a better state.”

“We need to demonstrate all the good things we do, making farming attractive for the younger generations ...”

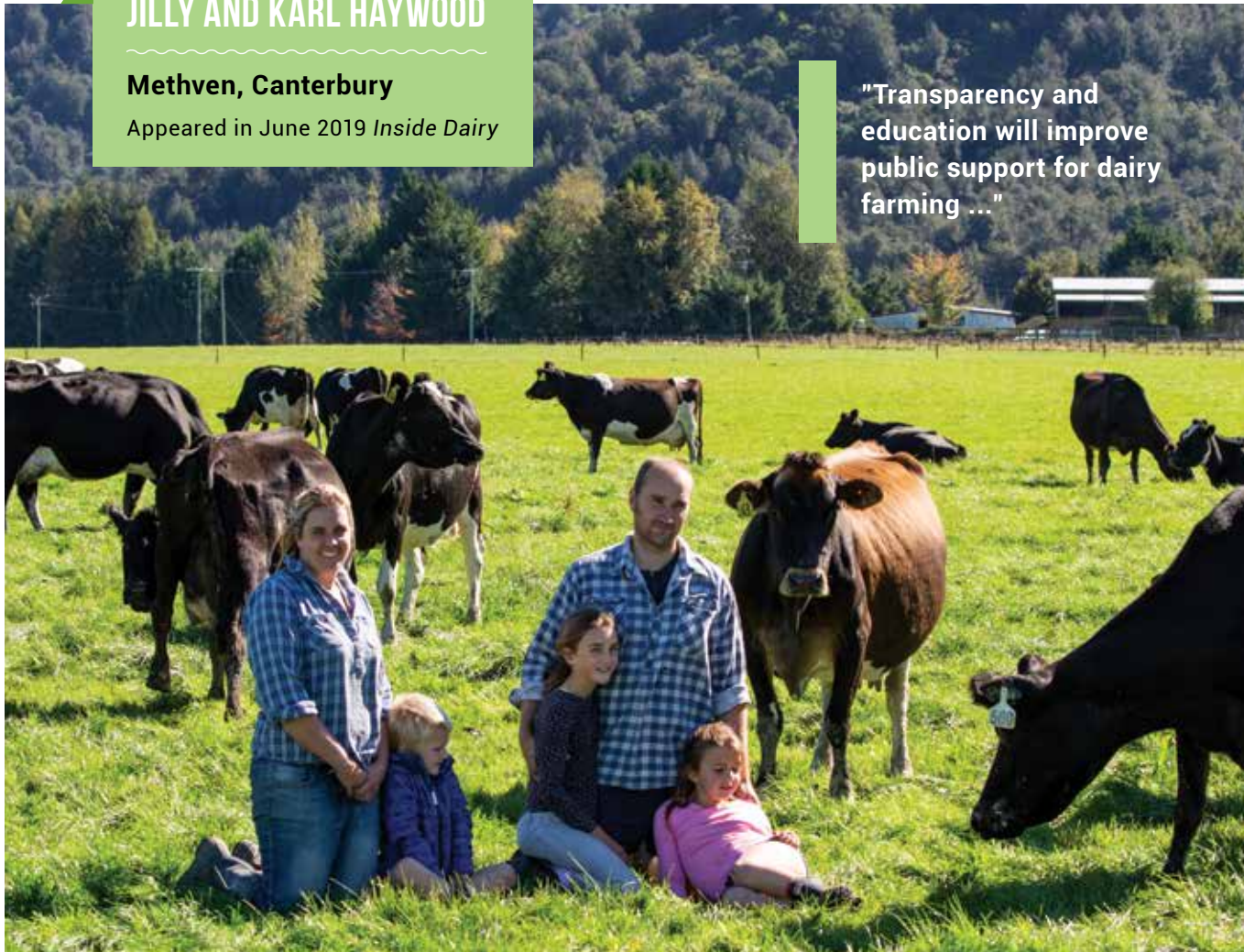


JILLY AND KARL HAYWOOD

Methven, Canterbury

Appeared in June 2019 *Inside Dairy*

"Transparency and education will improve public support for dairy farming ..."



Most proud of in 2019?

"We're most proud of increasing our 6-week in-calf rate by seven percent (from 64 percent to 71 percent). We didn't use any intervention and the weather through mating was terrible. Putting our lower body condition score cows onto once-a-day milking five weeks prior to mating, and feeding molasses, contributed hugely.

"We're also proud that we had a 99 percent in-calf rate in our heifers – but we did use a CIDR synchro programme with them."

Top of your 2020 'to-do' list?

"Our goal is to be more proactive in increasing public awareness and transparency of our dairy farming business. We'd like to start a social media presence allowing people to have an insight into the daily lives of our cows.

"We'd also like to invite people on to the farm to see what we do, starting by inviting a Christchurch school out for a farm visit."

Biggest challenge facing our sector?

"Public perception and government regulation putting unsustainable financial, social and emotional pressure on

farmers and our reputation.

We're responding by continuing to do the best we can for our animals and environment, for example by protecting our waterways through better management practices and reducing the number of bobby calves we send.

"Transparency and education will improve public support for dairy farming and that's the motivation behind our goal for 2020."

One thing you'd like non-farmers to know?

"We genuinely deeply care about our animals, environment and people. Our role (and our purpose) is to protect and nurture our environment and our livestock to ensure a farming future for generations to come.

"Farming can be extremely tough with the long hours, isolation and exposure to unpredictable forces such as weather and disease, but it's our love of the animals, and the land that we farm, that drives us."



PHIL AND BECKY WILSON

Oamaru, Otago

Appeared in April 2019 *Inside Dairy*



"Farming is what we eat and breathe ..."

the Alps to Ocean/A2O cycle trail] who see what we do over the fence. We've all got things we can improve on and nutrient limits we need to stick to.

"We want to keep the business sustainable, and apply that approach to our environment, animals and people."

One thing you'd like non-farmers to know?

"I'd invite them to come and see what we do and encourage them to talk to farmers. Farming is what we eat and breathe and we are proud of what we do."

"More farmers and local communities are becoming more environmentally aware, which is great. It takes all stakeholders to contribute to get momentum for improvement."

"We're all just caretakers of the land, really."

Most proud of in 2019?

"We had a really good production year for 2018/19 and we have a good team culture on-farm."

"Environmentally, we carried out planting to enhance challenging areas on-farm and we also put in a sediment trap."

"On a personal note – our fourth child Elliott arrived in July."

Top of your to-do list for 2020?

"Keep running a sustainable farming business and keep our good team environment going. We will continue to help our staff set and reach their goals, so they can be proud of what they achieve on- and off-farm."

"We'll also continue to support their personal goals and aspirations; and spend time with them socially – whether that's 10-pin bowling, playing touch rugby or sharing a meal."

Biggest challenge facing our sector?

"The public's perception of us from every angle. We've also got cyclists coming through our land [via



GET THE FULL STORY ON OUR FARMERS

Check out their *Inside Dairy* 2019 stories and videos online at dairynz.co.nz/inside-dairy



Dairy scientist leaves a legacy

We acknowledge the passing of Dr Arnold Bryant, who made an outstanding contribution to New Zealand dairying over more than 30 years as a highly influential dairy scientist.

Originally from Nelson, Arnold completed a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science at Massey University. He was one of only a few people from a rural background to attend university at the time. During his postgraduate study, Arnold worked closely with Ruakura's Dr C. P. McMeekan and was awarded a PhD in veterinary physiology through Massey in 1968.

In 1980, Arnold became the leader of Ruakura Animal Research Station's dairy science section. He was then appointed to a senior role at the Dairying Research Corporation (DRC), before retiring in 1995. His contribution to New Zealand dairying was formally recognised in 2010, when he was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

"Arnold had a big impact not just on our careers, but on the thinking and coordination of New Zealand dairy science at the time."

Arnold met his wife Margaret while studying for his Masters at Massey, and she was also involved in the dairy sector for many years, managing the milk analysis laboratory at DRC. Sadly, Margaret passed away just a few weeks before Arnold.



Arnold Bryant (centre) back in Dexcel days (pre-DairyNZ), flanked by Kevin MacDonald and John Penno.

DairyNZ chief executive Tim Mackle says Arnold was passionate about the practical application of science and his presentations at the annual Ruakura farmers' conferences were legendary.

"He was an outstanding communicator and he travelled extensively around the country, speaking at farmer



When DairyNZ opened its Scott Farm riparian planting area in 2007, we were honoured to have Arnold Bryant cutting the ribbon.

discussion groups, field days and conferences," says Tim.

"He was well known and respected by scientists and farmers alike. I was fortunate as a young scientist to be mentored by Arnold, alongside others such as Eric Kolver and John Penno. Arnold had a big impact not just on our careers, but on the thinking and coordination of New Zealand dairy science at the time.

"On behalf of the DairyNZ board, staff and the dairy sector, we extend our sincere sympathies to the Bryant family. Arnold leaves a huge legacy in his contribution to the principles of profitable pasture management and dairy farming in New Zealand," says Tim.

Setting up for the future

Key changes made by Waikato dairy farmers Sam and Jacqui Owen have laid their on-farm groundwork for 2020 and beyond. They're also focused on growing dairying's next generation.

The Owens stepped up to 50:50 sharemilking in the 2014/15 season at Walton – then the milk price more than halved. That's when Sam became chair for MP3, a DairyNZ-supported three-year project focusing on 'profit, planet and people', starting with 35 Matamata-Piako farms.

"I wanted to help others make their way through that price drop. MP3 also enabled us to grow our budgeting and financial skills to work out that doing that would be profitable for us.

"As well as that, I learned that there are plenty of things that will give a better work-life balance for farmers and their staff – and that can actually improve productivity."

Sam and Jacqui (a qualified lawyer who also contributes time to the Rural Support Trust) moved to Eureka at the start of the 2016/17 season. They continue to factor learnings from MP3 into their decision-making and future planning.

Laying the groundwork

Inspired by MP3, the Owens made the following changes in 2018 and 2019:

- Created weekly and daily 'jobs to do' plans.
- Sam completed a Diploma in Agribusiness.
- Experimented with different breeding options.
- Better targeted and timed nitrogen (N) fertiliser use.
- Used 'less-N' sires at mating, to reduce N leaching.
- Recycled plastic and silage wrap.
- Planted trees and identified other areas for improvement.
- Updated feed budgets, reducing bought-in feed by 20 percent.
- Continuously updated their sustainable milking plan (SMP).
- Used PaySauce software for wages and tax.



"Our future focus will be on improving our profitability while maintaining or improving our environmental footprint."

- Used more smartphone tools (timesheets, maps, apps, DairyNZ's *Facts and Figures*).

"Those changes are hitting the ground now and we'll carry on with these," says Sam.

Transitioning into 2020

Next, year, the Owens intend to:

- transfer SMP data into a farm environment plan (FEP)
- expand their effluent area to catch more runoff
- use a recently acquired small lease block to grow replacements and the herd
- have Sam do further study at Massey or Lincoln.

"Overall," says Sam, "our future focus will be on improving our profitability while maintaining or improving our environmental footprint."

The next generation

With his role as a DairyNZ Dairy Environment Leader (DEL) and a board member for the Port Waikato School Camp, Sam's also got a passion for getting young people into the sector. In his own next generation, daughter Abbie won a significant science fair award this year (see page 22 of this issue) and she and brother Rhys are on board with DairyNZ's water quality campaign, The Vision is Clear.

"On a recent beach visit for a Surf Life Saving day, they told everybody to pick up one piece of litter each," says their proud dad.

Your levy at work in 2019



Providing solutions and proactively shaping the dairy sector's future have been two of DairyNZ's focus areas in 2019.

Nitrogen (N) leaching solutions

DairyNZ is taking its science out to the farm. We're helping farmers work out how to reduce the contaminants entering waterbodies, and ensuring their performance is recognised in farm nutrient budgets.

Next steps include investigating additional mitigation options: plantain added to pasture as a proven approach to reduce N leaching and, further out, cows bred to reduce the amount of N leached from their urine.

Having your back

DairyNZ went into bat for farmers this year on proposed Government environmental reforms. Two examples were the Essential Freshwater Package and the Zero Carbon Bill. Both submissions were underpinned by scientific, economic and policy analysis from some of the country's leading experts.

➔ Essential Freshwater Package

The proposed reforms for freshwater management were released in September 2019. DairyNZ's policy, science, economics and farmer-facing teams worked hard to analyse and summarise the proposals. We looked at their potential implications for dairy farmers and their communities, along with the likelihood of the proposals' ability to deliver on the required water quality outcomes.

Dairy farmers had a strong input in this process – thousands attended DairyNZ meetings, asked questions and made submissions.





➔ Agriculture not entering the Emissions Trading Scheme

The Government initially intended to implement a greenhouse gas tax on farmers. Thanks to strong advocacy from our sector, the Government will now work with agricultural groups, including DairyNZ, to deliver an emissions scheme much better suited to delivering the on-farm change needed to most efficiently meet emissions targets.

Check out the full extent of your levy at work in our 2018/19 Annual Report at dairynz.co.nz/annual-report

Essential Freshwater

 **240-PAGE**
submission

3000    
submission templates downloaded

20  **2000**
farmer events farmers at events

25  **27** 
DairyNZ staff directly involved technical papers submitted

Cows do the darndest things

Moo

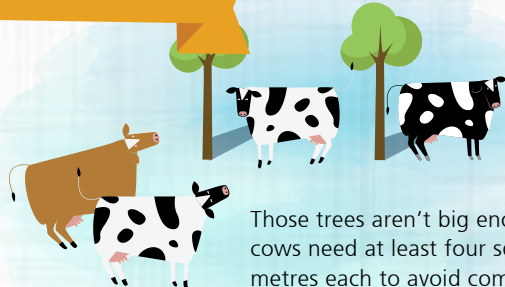


Just like humans, cows sometimes do strange things when they're dealing with heat.

Why are my cows standing in the sun when they have trees there?



A cool breeze somewhere else in the paddock is more effective than the trees



Those trees aren't big enough – cows need at least four square metres each to avoid competition

Why are my cows standing so close together on a hot day?

The shadow of another cow is the best shade they can find



Why is that cow standing in the trough?

Moo



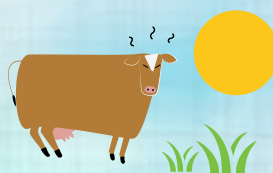
It's a fast way to cool off (or, someone pushed her in fighting for access to water)

Why are my cows hanging around the trough?

The trough can't keep up – they're waiting for water



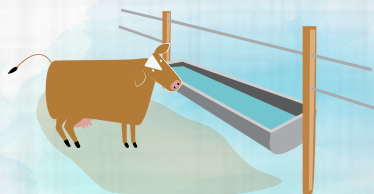
Why aren't my cows eating?



Food generates heat during digestion – when it's warm, cows eat less

What can you do?

Check and improve flow rates



Consider an in-race trough so cows have extra chances to drink

Consider offering more grass overnight



Wise decisions at Owl Farm

A 2018 *Inside Dairy* article prompted farm manager, Tom Buckley, to adjust his summer milking schedules at Owl Farm, based at St Peter's School in the Waikato. Here's how it went.

Most farmers like a complete break from all things farming at Christmas time. Some though, like Owl Farm's Tom Buckley, can't resist getting in a little targeted reading, including an October 2018 article originally published in *Inside Dairy*.

Partly inspired by the article's farmer (Manawatu's Hayley Hoogendyk) and her summer milking schedule changes – and having tried once-a-day (OAD) milking over the 2017/18 summer season – Tom felt it was time to give something else a go.

A new solution

So last summer, Tom's team switched the herd's twice-a-day (TAD) milkings to earlier times (4.30 a.m. and 1 p.m.), to shift the cows' walking and yard time away from the hottest part of the day.

"I don't 'speak cow', but I think they really enjoyed the schedule change. They walked more quickly to and from the shed. One of my team members told me she's really happy that they don't have to spend time and energy pushing the cows anymore.

"After each morning milking, the cows were fed 'easy-to-eat' feed – silage, palm kernel and turnips. When they returned to the yard at noon, they had an hour under the sprinkler, were milked, then went straight to the pasture paddock.

"That meant they ate all their grass feed in the late afternoon and overnight, in just over 15 hours. This also made grass allocation easier over summer," says Tom.

On-farm benefits

Tom says the farm's production dropped by only 0.1kg MS/cow over a six-week period last summer, compared with dropping 0.2kg MS/cow over the same six-week period the year before.

"We also gained an extra 12kg MS/cow for the season, even though it was a really hot, dry summer."

"It's great for our people and our cows and means more time with family ..."

Tom adds that other contributors to maintaining last summer's milk production included a lot of work done on pasture improvement, a good growing season in spring, and a tight calving pattern helping to increase mating response.

This coming summer, Tom's team plans to put troughs along the race to improve their cows' access to water to and from the shed.



Tom (centre) checks grass growth on Owl Farm with farm assistant Malou Obedencio (left) and ZIC La Arni Bayquin.

Happy people, happy cows

“There’s a big drive these days for staff and farmers to be home by 5 p.m. and now we’re almost always done by 3 p.m.,” says Tom. “We can either go home, or use that time to do other on-farm jobs.

“It’s great for our people and our cows and means more time with family – that’s especially good over summer school holiday time.

“By doing the same thing year in and year out, you’re never going to get any better. You’ve always got to be open to change and accept that if it doesn’t work, try something else.

“I know this works here. So, if we’re seeing some hotter and drier weather and the cows aren’t eating their grass in the morning, I’ll flick straight through into our summer milking schedule.”



Plenty of options for milking times

The time you choose to milk can have a large impact on your cows and people, particularly during the hot summer period. Because cows feel the heat more than we do, if you feel hot in the shed, you can be sure they feel worse.

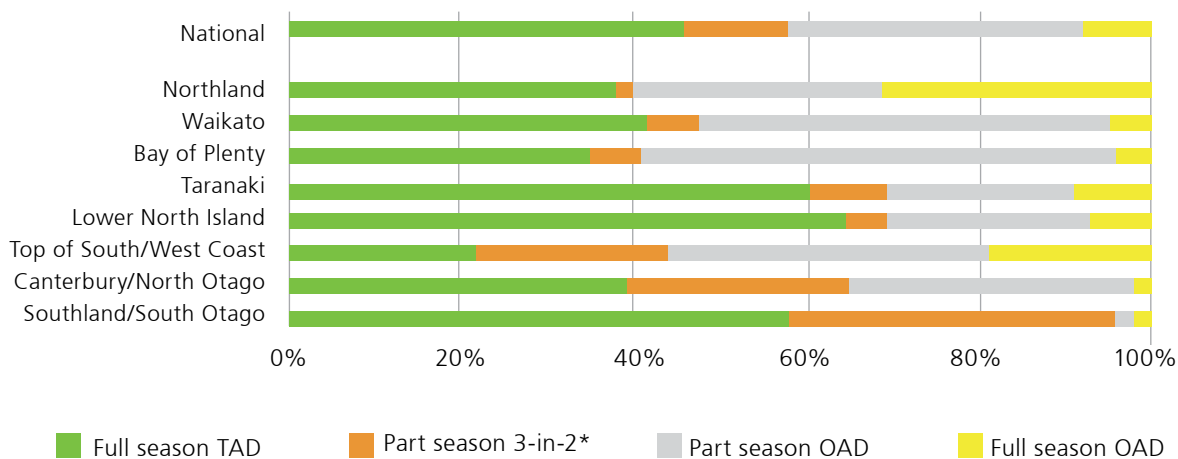
Kiwi dairy farmers have traditionally used 10-hour:14-hour milking intervals (e.g. 5 a.m. and 3 p.m.) to maximise milk yield while keeping relatively sociable hours. However, recent survey data indicates that at peak lactation, while 47 percent of farmers were using 10:14, 32 percent have adjusted their milking schedule to 9:15, with some extending this to 8:16. Research shows there should be no production loss with an 8:16 interval.

In many regions, it’s common to extend these milking intervals even further to milking three times in two days (3-in-2) or once-a-day (OAD). For example, in Northland, 31 percent of farmers milk full-season OAD; in Southland, 38 percent use 3-in-2 for part of the season.

Even within 3-in-2, farmers are using a range of intervals, with the most common being 12:18:18 (e.g. 5 a.m., 5 p.m. and 11 a.m.), but ranging as far as 9.5:18.5:20 (e.g. 5 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 9 a.m.).

When milking OAD, you can choose any time of the day to milk. The key message here is that there are a range of options possible, allowing you to choose milking times that best suit your team and avoid the summer heat.

Regional use of different milking regimes in a 2018/19 survey of 500 farms



*Farmers who used 3-in-2 may also have used OAD

Just the facts, ma'am

This article is part of *Inside Dairy's* occasional look at milk as a sustainable nutrient-dense food, alternative plant-based 'milks' and synthetic substitutes.



Fact: New Zealand is already the world leader in sustainable nutrient-dense dairy products.

Fact: Along with the export of premium dairy products, a valuable 'export' to the world would be our dairy farming expertise. As revealed by the International Dairy Federation (IDF) New Zealand Committee, if all dairy producers were as efficient as we are, more than half of the global emissions from dairy production could be eliminated. This is an interesting addition to the discussion about New Zealand leading the world in addressing global climate change.

DairyNZ's position is that when people decide what food to eat, they need accurate, science-based information grounded in the New Zealand context and aimed at the best health and sustainability outcomes.

In keeping with this, *Inside Dairy* brings you some facts to have at your fingertips should you wish to get involved in the conversation, either in person or on your social media feeds.

Environmental

- New Zealand dairy is 64 percent more emissions-efficient than the global average.
- New Zealand dairy products are so sustainable that a litre of our milk shipped to Ireland (the next most efficient producer) would still have a lower emissions profile than milk produced there.
- If milk is to be produced anywhere, it should be here. At 0.80kg CO₂/kg MS, New Zealand milk's emissions are world leading and well under half the global average of 2.5kg CO₂/kg MS.
- The greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint of plant-based alternatives is rarely acknowledged. Soy beverage can have double the GHG footprint of New Zealand milk per unit of nutrition, and rice beverage 10 times.
- Fermentation-produced proteins (using cells) also have substantially higher footprints – up to 50 times higher.

Nutritional

- Most countries recommend at least one serving of milk (250ml) or milk products daily, some up to four each day. New Zealand dietary guidelines recommend at least two to three serves.
- Although there are plenty of manufactured plant-based alternatives available, they do not contain the nutrition of milk naturally produced by New Zealand dairy cows. Some carry warnings that they're not suitable as a complete milk replacement for children under the age of five.
- While some essential nutrients may be present in plant-based alternatives, they are not always in a form that can be absorbed by the human digestive system.
- Many of the nutrients in the plant-based beverages have been formulated in at the factory in order to mimic natural dairy.

Note: For scientific references go to dairynz.co.nz/plantbasedbeverages

Nutrient content: cow's milk & plant-based

	Content per 100mls			
	Protein (g)	Calcium (mg)	Vitamin D (micrograms)	Vitamin B12 (micrograms)
Dairy	3.6	124	1	0.4
Almond	0.4-1.5	75-120	0-2.5	0-1
Soy	3.2-3.3	120-160	1-2	0.4-1
Oat	0.3-2.5	100-120	0-1.5	0-0.5
Hemp seed	1.4-2.2	No data	No data	No data

Farmers' tips for staying well

How do other farmers look after themselves and their teams? Check out the advice below, including some great ideas from Farmstrong.

“

“I make sure I have a network of people I can reach out to when I need to. On my days off, I always get off-farm, whether it's to catch up with friends or go hunting.”

Cheyenne Wilson, contract milker/agribusiness student, Canterbury.

”

“

“Keeping well is absolutely crucial to the success of this business. How do I get time off? By having good rosters, good staff and booking it in.”

Tony Coltman, equity manager, Canterbury.

”

”

“When you're getting stressed and anxious on the farm, the world closes in. What I discovered was the best thing I can do is pull on the running shoes and go for a run. It clears my head and burns off stress.”

Marc Gascoigne, farmer/owner, Waikato.

”

”

“If I'm feeling down, I'll ring my mates straight away and have a yarn. That'll always lead to us going diving that week or playing rugby. Then, all of a sudden, the little dramas I had on-farm, that were really getting to me, feel like bugga all and I'm good to go again.”

Tangaroa Walker, contract milker, Invercargill.

”

“

“The number-one thing is to look after myself. If I don't look after myself, I can't look after my family, our team, our farm.”

Dylan and Sheree Ditchfield, farmers/owners, Southland.

”

“

“You have to look after yourself and your staff because if you don't, you won't enjoy farming as much, your business isn't going to thrive and people won't want to work for you. If you look after your staff, they'll look after you.”

Duncan Rutherford, farm manager (14 staff), North Canterbury.

”

Farmstrong's Top Tips



Farmstrong is a nationwide, rural wellbeing initiative that helps farmers and their families cope with the ups and downs of farming. Here are some of its suggestions for keeping well.

Stay connected – Surround yourself with a network of people you can reach out to. It can be as simple as having a conversation in the pub or over the fence.

Keep active – Biking, walking, hunting, team sport – whatever appeals. It keeps you 'farm fit', boosts your mood and gets you off-farm.

Enjoy the small stuff – When you're working, take a moment to stop and enjoy the view or the nature. Not a bad office, is it?

Eat well – Make sure you have enough fuel in the tank to keep your energy levels up.

Look after yourself, look after your team – People are the most important part of the dairy sector.

To find out what else could work for you, check out Farmstrong's farmer-to-farmer videos, stories and tips at farmstrong.co.nz

▶ Also, see DairyNZ's wellness advice, '10 signs of illness and burnout', and helpline contacts at dairynz.co.nz/wellbeing

Two farmers elected to DairyNZ Board



Waikato-based dairy farmers Tracy Brown and Elaine Cook were elected to DairyNZ's Board at its Annual General Meeting in October.

Tracy and Elaine are two of five farmer-elected DairyNZ directors and three Board-appointed directors who contribute to DairyNZ's strategy and priorities on behalf of dairy farmers.

DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel welcomed the directors and recognised the role they will play in the dairy sector.

"I welcome Tracy Brown and returning director Elaine Cook to the board," says Jim. "These directors will play a key part in setting the future direction of DairyNZ. As dairy farmers, we have always evolved and we are on the cusp of the next phase. We are in a period of increased innovation to build and empower

New Zealand dairy farms to be profitable businesses in the most sustainable way," says Jim.

This year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in Hamilton on October 22. It focused on DairyNZ's highlights and key activities during the 2018/19 dairy season, including the investment of \$67.8 million levy-payer funds into six areas driven by the sector's Dairy Tomorrow strategy.

For more information on DairyNZ's Annual Report, investment priorities and AGM, visit dairynz.co.nz/agm

Tracy Brown



Tracy has been dairying with husband Wynn on their Matamata farm, called 'Tiroroa', for 25 years. She's held roles as DairyNZ's Dairy Environment Leaders chair, Ballance Farm Environment Awards Alumni chair and a Dairy Women's Network trustee.

"I have been leading environmental change for a decade, building relationships and empowering farmers to lead and find regional solutions," says Tracy.

"We need to drive the delivery of creative solutions and innovation to evolve our farming systems for the future, increasing profitability and lowering our footprint."

An Agri-Women's Development Trust 'Escalator' Alumni, Tracy was a finalist in the 2017 Westpac Women of Influence Awards and won a Sustainable Business Network's 'Sustainability Superstar' award in 2018. She was recently appointed by Cabinet to the Freshwater Independent Advisory Panel.

Elaine Cook



Elaine and her late husband took the traditional path to farm ownership, farming in Waikato and Southland, and winning NZ Sharemilker of the Year in 2006.

Elaine has farming interests in a 300ha family farm in Otautau, Southland, but lives in the Waikato with her three daughters.

"I believe DairyNZ's role is increasingly vital. As farmers, we are innovative and world leading. We need a framework that links all these great things we do, to tell our story about sustainable and ethical food production," says Elaine.

"I love dairy farming, and am passionate about the sector and helping drive industry objectives to ensure we are farming well into the future."

Elaine's governance experience is with organisations that create value in agri-business, research and innovation, industry good, pastoral dairy farming and education. Examples include Southern Dairy Hub and NZ Young Farmers.



He Waka Eke Noa—
**OUR FUTURE
IN OUR HANDS**



DairyNZ's huge win for farmers

Agriculture will not be entering the ETS – and it's thanks to your levy investment.

In October, after months of engagement with DairyNZ and other sector bodies, the Government announced that agriculture would not be entering the emissions trading scheme (ETS).

Instead they have accepted an agricultural sector proposal titled 'He Waka Eke Noa – Our Future In Our Hands'. This proposal is to build an enduring farm-level emissions reduction framework that will allow the dairy sector to have more control over how it prepares for and starts the process of managing emissions.

This is a huge win for dairy farmers. Entering the ETS would have taken money out of farmers' pockets at a time when it would be much better invested in on-farm environmental initiatives to reduce emissions and improve water quality.

We know farmers are committed to playing their part and want to take action to reduce agricultural emissions, but the mechanism to incentivise action needs to be right – and it needs to be fair.

Entering the ETS at the processor level, even with a 95 percent discount, would have cost the average farmer more than \$2000 each year. This cost would have increased over time as the carbon price increased and the rate of discount decreased. It also would have simply charged all farmers the same amount based

on production, rather than environmental impact.

This is a great example of how your levy has been invested to secure tangible wins for farmers.

Instead of forcing a new tax on farmers, the Government will be working with DairyNZ and other sector organisations to deliver a five-year plan and develop a fair pricing mechanism. The plan will include clear and measurable actions, outcomes and timeframes to support action across a number of environmental improvements, such as climate change, water quality and biodiversity.

This includes rolling out farm environment plans for all farms by 2025 to ensure every farmer knows their emissions footprint, where those emissions are coming from, and what they can do to manage them. We know how important it is for farmers to have reliable data; it allows you to make decisions and trade-offs that factor in all aspects of your business.

New Zealand dairy farmers are world leaders when it comes to the sustainable, emissions-efficient production of high-quality nutrition. He Waka Eke Noa is about ensuring we stay that way.

Dairying's future is now in our own hands, as we work in partnership with the Government to deliver on our commitments.

"This is a great example of how your levy has been invested to secure tangible wins for farmers."

education update

"I liked rolling down the hill. I learnt that calves have a soft fur." – Skye-Lee

'Best experience I've ever had'



That's just one comment from the thousands of students who visited a dairy farm this year, thanks to more than 70 farmers and DairyNZ's education programme.

Visiting a dairy farm for many younger Kiwi kids creates memories that can last a lifetime. At DairyNZ, we know if a trip has hit the mark when a flurry of brilliant artwork and 'thank moo' letters arrive in the mail. Check out the colourful selection on this page.

Teachers are encouraged to upload photos from their visit to our DairyNZ Schools website, so others can see what they got up to. The expressions on young faces say a thousand words.

Farmer hosts are key

We also receive some heartfelt comments to send on to our wonderful host farmers, who make DairyNZ's school farm visits possible

through their generosity and voluntary help.

In total, these farmers welcomed around 5300 children, their parents and teachers onto their farms this year. Children ranged in age from five to 13 years old and all had been studying some aspect of dairy farming in their classroom before the visits.

Get involved

If you're a dairy farmer who'd like to become a DairyNZ school farm visit host, contact karen.sandoy@dairynz.co.nz

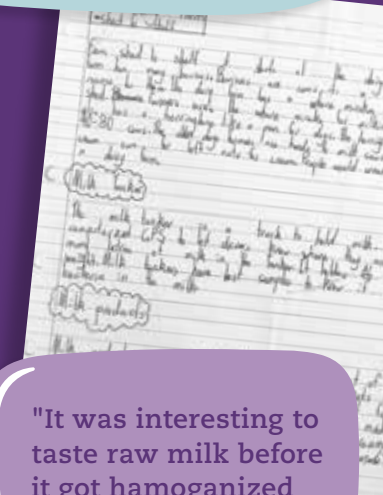
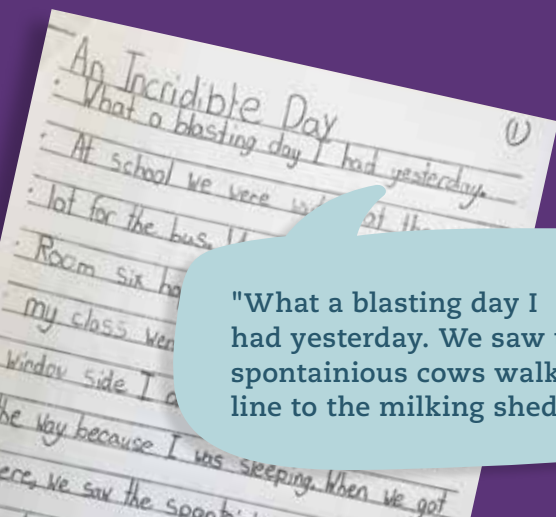
Teachers can register online for a class visit and/or view past visit photos at dairynzschoools.co.nz



"I like it when I saw the robots in action because they were really cool. It was interesting to learn the robots were 250,000 dollars each." – Cameron

"It was interesting to taste raw milk before it got homogenized and pasturised. It was delicious and it was also creamy." – Sariah

"What a blasting day I had yesterday. We saw the spontaneous cows walking in a line to the milking shed." – Jen



Back to bovis basics

As the *Mycoplasma bovis* Programme continues, here's a timely reminder of the key 'need-to-knows'.

What is *Mycoplasma bovis*?

Mycoplasma bovis (*M. bovis*) is a bacterial disease, with no cell wall. This means it doesn't respond to antibiotics and can lead to serious conditions in cattle.

Testing can be difficult as the bacteria 'hides' in animals and doesn't always stimulate an immune response.

How does it spread?

M. bovis spreads from animal to animal through close, prolonged contact. Between farms, it spreads through the movement of animals that are infected but may not be showing symptoms. It can also spread through feeding untreated milk to calves.

How does it affect cattle?

M. bovis can result in:

- untreatable mastitis in dairy and beef cows
- severe pneumonia in up to 30 percent of infected calves
- ear infections in calves
- abortions
- swollen joints and lameness in all ages of cattle.

While some conditions can be treated, affected cattle will always be carriers of the disease.

Bulk milk testing

As part of the eradication programme, ongoing bulk milk testing will continue each month on all dairy farms across the country, indefinitely.

Samples are being taken by tanker operators as part of the normal milk collection process.

Due to the large number of samples being taken frequently, farmers won't be notified of every test result. No news is good news.

Farmers with a positive test result will be contacted by the *M. bovis* Programme staff. Their farm will be placed under a Notice of Direction (NOD) restricting cattle movements, while sampling and testing of the herd is carried out to determine the farm's disease status.

Protecting your farm

There are many ways to protect your farm from *M. bovis* and other diseases. Use the DairyNZ Biosecurity WOF to help you set up biosecurity measures for your farm (see publications on our dairynz.co.nz/biosecurity page).



M. bovis spreads from animal to animal through close, prolonged contact.

Completing NAIT records is a must. Make sure your animals are tagged and registered – and movements are recorded.

It's vital that you prevent your stock from mingling with cattle from another herd – during transport, over the fence or at grazing.

Technical Advisory report

The independent Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has provided its latest report on the *M. bovis* Programme. The report shows the Programme is making multiple changes to ensure we have the best chance of getting rid of *M. bovis* from New Zealand.

The TAG supports the changes made following both the DairyNZ-commissioned review and Ministry for Primary Industries review of the backlog that happened earlier this year. While the TAG says it's too early to see the full impact of changes made, there are positive signs of improved performance, including fewer infected farms, and more farms with high-risk exposure testing clear.

Read more about *M. bovis* and the TAG report at dairynz.co.nz/mbovis

Teat spraying after Christmas

Tempted to stop teat spraying at this time of year? It might simplify systems over summer but is it such a good idea in the long run? DairyNZ's Jane Lacy-Hulbert investigates.



Why stay vigilant?

In early lactation, new infections are more likely to show up as clinical cases, due to the types of the bacteria involved. That's why we tend to be more diligent at spraying teats to prevent mastitis during this time.

As the lactation progresses, it's important to stay focused – these infections tend to show as subclinical mastitis, which is harder to spot. Although these cases may only affect the somatic cell count, these new infections are of concern.

Infections due to minor types of bacteria can put the udder more at risk of infection by major pathogens, once cows are dried off. As we move towards using less antibiotics at dry off, it becomes even more important to reduce the mild infections picked up when cows are in milk.

Teat spraying's 'double hit'

Teat spraying has two main actions:

1. Retain moisture in teat skin

Teat spray contains emollients that helps skin retain moisture and remain smooth and soft. Dry, rough teats are harder to keep clean, retain more bacteria on the surface, and are less able to withstand milking, leading to minor sores and teat damage. New Zealand research has found that, within two days of stopping teat spraying, the moisture levels in milked teats had dropped to levels normally seen in dry cows.

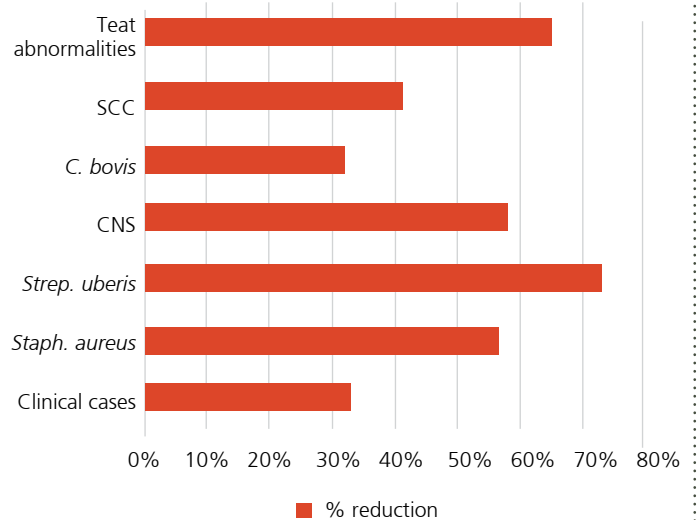
2. Reduce bacterial numbers

Teat sprays can't kill all bacteria on teats, but good application leads to lower numbers on teat skin. A study across five dairy farms (using an iodine-based product) found that cows not teat sprayed for a whole lactation had twice as many new infections, higher somatic cell counts and more teat damage than teat-sprayed herd mates (see *Figure 1*).

Manual vs automated teat sprayers

Some farmers prefer a simple, manually operated 'garden sprayer'; others, a pressurised wand or an automated system. Aim for one that regularly achieves good coverage within the first few minutes after milking.

Scale of reduction in new infections by different pathogens and other measures for sprayed cows compared to unsprayed cows during a lactation



With hand-held devices, expect to use 15 to 20 millilitres (mls) per cow per milking. With pressurised wands or automated systems, expect to use 25 to 30 mls per cow per milking.

Learn more about teat spraying at dairynz.co.nz/dairy-stockmanship

Myth No need to teat spray after Christmas.

BUSTED Bacteria remain present on teats at any time of year. Teat spraying is THE most effective measure to prevent new infections.





Summer pasture management

Adjusting rotation length now will set your farm up for a smoother run when the summer dry arrives, says DairyNZ's Kieran McCahon.



Proactive and reactive management

How you manage pasture during summer can affect your farm's annual pasture production and utilisation, which influences milk production and profitability.

That's why it's important to make decisions now (proactive management). By the time dry conditions start to affect pasture covers and you've identified a pending feed deficit, you'll have few options for climbing out of a feed hole. Proactive decisions will determine your pasture supply before dry conditions hit, and can prevent or delay the onset of other, more expensive, management decisions (e.g. culls and supplementary feed).

However, it's also important to think now about the reactive management decisions you'll make if a feed deficit arrives later. Smart reactive decisions will limit the effect of a deficit on future pasture production and persistence.

Ryegrass leaf stage

Ryegrass tillers maintain only three live leaves, and about 40 to 50 percent of potential growth happens between the two- and three-leaf stages. So, time your grazing for between the 2.5-leaf to three-leaf stage to maximise growth and quality, while ensuring plants have replenished enough energy to re-grow.

In dry conditions when soil moisture is limiting growth, ryegrass tillers require more time to grow three leaves. You'll need to extend your rotation length (see below) to maximise growth and ensure energy reserves are restored before grazing.

What does good proactive management look like?

1. Increase your rotation length toward 30 days before dry conditions arrive. It can be difficult to extend the grazing rotation during a feed deficit as both pasture allowance and pasture covers decline.
2. Consider a tactical application of nitrogen (N) fertiliser (30kg N/ha) before soil moisture levels fall. This will:
 - provide a greater response than to N applied in dry conditions
 - increase pasture covers, making it easier to lengthen the rotation
 - promote ryegrass tillering, potentially improving persistence.
3. Pregnancy test early and develop a list of planned culls.

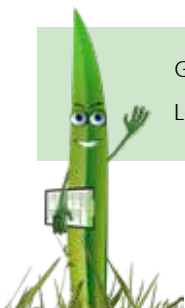
What does good reactive management look like?

Good reactive decision-making builds on the proactive decisions you've made in late spring/early summer.

1. Graze between the 2.5-leaf and three-leaf stage and set your rotation accordingly.
2. Ensure your paddocks are grazed to the same grazing height achieved in the previous round (1500 to 1600kg DM/ha). Grazing below this height risks removing the tillers' growing points, located near the base of the plant.
3. Once target residuals have been met, and if supplementary feed is not being offered, consider standing cows off to limit over-grazing damage.

Get more advice at dairynz.co.nz/summer-management

Learn more about leaf stage and how to incorporate this into grazing management at dairynz.co.nz/leaf-stage





See you at Mark and Measure 2020

Mark and Measure is DairyNZ's business course for farm owners, contract milkers, and herd-owning or variable-order sharemilkers. Here are our 2020 courses:

- Taupo, May 19 to 21
- Hokitika, June 30 to July 2 (for Westland suppliers)
- Hanmer, June 16 to 18

Courses were booked out in 2018 and 2019, so get in early to avoid missing out. Register now at dairynz.co.nz/markandmeasure



"We got a new grasp on our business. Mark and Measure gave us time out to refocus and make new goals and plans for the next five years."

Belinda and Ben Price, farm owners, Mark and Measure Taupo 2019.



Farm work and public holidays

Did you know that when an employee's usual work day falls on a public holiday, they're entitled to a paid day off, no matter how recently they joined the team?

If you agree together that they'll work on that day anyway, they must be paid at least time and a half for the hours worked and be given another paid day off (a day in lieu). This will be the case for any employees agreeing to work on public holidays over the upcoming festive season:

- Wednesday 25 December
- Thursday 26 December
- Wednesday 1 January
- Thursday 2 January

For more information, visit dairynz.co.nz/leave

Here's something Tree-warding

As part of our Vision is Clear movement, DairyNZ has launched a new initiative to inspire every Kiwi to play their part in improving waterways.

'Do something Tree-warding' is a nationwide drive to encourage people to donate a native tree. Each tree will be planted near a waterway, in conjunction with conservation charity Trees That Count, throughout the country next year. You'll see it all over the GrabOne and NZ Herald websites, and hear it on *The Hits* radio stations.

Check it out at grabone.co.nz/tree-warding and help to spread the word.



Dairying's future is bright

Congratulations to Abbie Owen (Morrinsville Intermediate) and Olivia Brown (Matamata Intermediate) on winning DairyNZ-sponsored awards at the East Waikato Science and Technology Fair held recently.

Abbie won 'Best in Fair' and 'Best Science Project' for her study on feeding frequency in calves. Over five weeks, she found greater weight gains in calves fed six litres of milk (divided into three feeds a day), compared to those fed that amount all at once.

Olivia's 'Buzzfence' gadget won 'Best Tech Project'. It's already saved her dad five minutes when putting up a 200-metre temporary fence (it holds a fence reel in place on the motorbike).



Proud winners Abbie (left) and Olivia (right) – dairying's next generation.



Ag path leads to Southland

DairyNZ's new Southland/South Otago regional leader Ollie Knowles may have been raised in a big city, but it's rural New Zealand that has captured his heart.

Ollie started at DairyNZ in October, moving from Mt Maunganui to Invercargill with wife Charlie and daughter Andie (seven months).

Although he grew up in Auckland, time spent on a family friend's farm as a youngster soon set Ollie on a path towards agriculture.

"Every school holidays, I bussed down to Eltham – an eight-hour bus trip. At the time I thought 'this is a pretty cool industry to be part of' and I had really good experiences."

After high school, Ollie took a year off to decide on a career path – at the time it came down to agriculture and building.

"However, two or three months in I already knew agriculture was definitely something I wanted to pursue."

Ollie went on to complete a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours) at Lincoln University. He specialised in soil science, which led him to a career with Ballance Agri-Nutrients for the past nine years, first as part of a sales team and then in science extension.

Early in his career, Ollie had the option of completing a PhD but his passion was (and still is) helping farmers in the field, especially as they face new challenges.

"I enjoy working alongside farmers and getting to know how they operate, while working together to address challenges. That's where my background in soils and use of nutrients has helped."

The keen outdoorsman is no stranger to Southland and Otago, having spent three years based out of Oamaru and then a year in Southland with Ballance.

"I think it is a pretty cool region. Southland is a great climate for farm production and it has so much to offer. You've got all the south and east coast if you're looking to get into or onto the



water. Surfing, diving, fishing – it's all there.

"Diving-wise, over the last four or five years, every other year, I've been coming down to Fiordland on a diving trip with uni friends. I just love that part of the world – it's an absolutely awesome slice of New Zealand."

Ollie is proud to be part of the agriculture sector and says it's a big contributor to Southland's economy.

"It is exciting to be part of such an important sector. Everyone's got to eat or drink; everything comes from the primary industries."

Ollie is looking forward to meeting dairy farmers and other partners in the region and is happy for farmers to contact him by phone on **027 226 4420**, or email at ollie.knowles@dairynz.co.nz

December events

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2	03 BAY OF PLENTY Take time before you sign – join us at a Reporoa seminar to discuss opportunities, risks and reality checks for contract milkers, lower order sharemilkers and farm owners.				7	8
9	10 LOWER NORTH ISLAND Tararua Plantain Open Field Day – hear about the first-year results of the Tararua Plantain Project.		12 CANTERBURY/NORTH OTAGO 'Offload, Reload, Refresh' Kaikoura – join DairyNZ directors and your local DairyNZ team at Takahanga Bowling Club to discuss the future of dairying. Light supper provided.		13 NORTHLAND Celebrate the end of a busy year by joining the Tapora Discussion Group for a round of golf at our local course.	
16	17 WAIKATO An after-milking get together for the Huntly Discussion Group to celebrate the end of a busy year. Refreshments provided.		26	27	28	29
30	31					

FOR A FULL LIST OF WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH, VISIT

DAIRYNZ.CO.NZ/EVENTS

NORTHLAND

DairyNZ works with Northland dairy farmers on a range of projects to ensure regionally relevant information is available and farmers have access to forums to discuss issues unique to Northland.

Follow the progress of these projects, including local research and farmer-to-farmer learning, at dairynz.co.nz/northland to help inform your own decisions.

WAIKATO

One of the farmer-led projects DairyNZ works with is the P3 Trust project (Profitable, Progressive Plains). P3 assists Hauraki Plains dairy farmers to improve profitability, lifestyle and community outcomes.

As part of the project, five high-profit Hauraki Plains farms share their information through a weekly email. The email provides a regular update of key performance indicators that local farmers can benchmark their property against. Visit dairynz.co.nz/hauraki for more information and to sign up for the email.

BAY OF PLENTY

Protecting our valuable water resources is crucial for dairying in New Zealand. One way to do this is through planting and fencing riparian zones, which help to maintain and improve our water quality. These zones filter nutrients, sediment and bacteria that leave the land as runoff.

The practical 'how to' guide for riparian management in the Bay of Plenty at dairynz.co.nz/publications/environment covers planting and maintaining riparian zones for a sustainable and profitable dairy farm. It also includes advice from industry and regional council experts.



DairyNZ consulting officers

Upper North Island – Head: Sharon Morrell 027 492 2907

Northland

Regional Leader	Tareen Ellis	027 499 9021
Far North	Amy Weston	027 807 9686
Lower Northland	Hamish Mathews	021 242 5719
Whangarei West	Ryan Baxter	021 809 569

Waikato

Regional Leader	Wilma Foster	027 246 2147
South Auckland	Mike Bramley	027 486 4344
Hauraki Plains/Coromandel	Jaimee Morgan	021 245 8055
Te Aroha/Waihi	Euan Lock	027 293 4401
Cambridge/Hamilton	Lizzy Moore	021 242 2127
Huntly/Tatuanui	Brigitte Ravera	027 288 1244
Matamata/Kereone	Frank Portegys	027 807 9685
Pirongia	Steve Canton	027 475 0918
Otorohanga/King Country	Denise Knop	027 513 7201
Waipa South	Kirsty Dickens	027 483 2205

Bay of Plenty

Regional Leader	Andrew Reid	027 292 3682
Central Plateau	Colin Grainger-Allen	021 225 8345
Tokoroa	Angela Clarke	027 276 2675
Eastern Bay of Plenty	Ross Bishop	027 563 1785
Central Bay of Plenty	Kevin McKinley	027 288 8238

Lower North Island – Head: Rob Brazendale 021 683 139

Taranaki

Regional Leader	Mark Laurence	027 704 5562
South Taranaki	Nathan Clough	021 246 5663
Central Taranaki	Mark Laurence	027 704 5562
Coastal Taranaki	Caroline Benson	027 210 2137
North Taranaki	Ian Burmeister	027 593 4122

Lower North Island

Horowhenua/Coastal and Southern Manawatu	Kate Stewart	027 702 3760
Wairarapa/Tararua	Rob Brazendale	021 683 139
Hawke's Bay	Gray Beagley	021 286 4346
Northern Manawatu/Wanganui/Woodville	Jo Back	021 222 9023
Central Manawatu/Rangitikei	Rob Brazendale	021 683 139

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	Rachael Russell	027 261 3250
North Canterbury	Amy Chamberlain	027 243 0943
Central Canterbury	Rachael Russell	027 261 3250
Mid Canterbury	Stuart Moorhouse	027 513 7200
South Canterbury	Heather Donaldson	027 593 4124
North Otago	Alana Hall	027 290 5988

Southland/South Otago

Regional Leader	Ollie Knowles	027 226 4420
West Otago/Gore	Lucy Hall	027 524 5890
South Otago	Guy Michaels	021 302 034
Central/Northern Southland	Nicole E Hammond	021 240 8529
Eastern Southland	Nathan Nelson	021 225 6931
Western/Central Southland	Leo Pekar	027 211 1389

DairyNZ directors

Jim van der Poel	021 848484
Elaine Cook	027 223 2049
Colin Glass	027 486 4064
Jacqueline Rowarth	027 694 4334
Peter Schuyt	027 557 4242
Jo Coughlan	021 522 142
Tracy Brown	027 291 1716

Or send an email to: chair@dairynz.co.nz or director@dairynz.co.nz

TARANAKI

Caroline Benson has recently joined the Taranaki team as our new consulting officer for Coastal Taranaki.



Caroline is an American who moved to New Zealand for veterinary school 11 years ago after finishing a degree in Animal Science at North Carolina State University. She's worked as a clinical and industry vet across New Zealand for more than six years, working mainly with production animals.

She's excited about her role with DairyNZ and is looking forward to meeting new farmers and learning their systems. See the full list of regional teams at dairynz.co.nz/co

LOWER NORTH ISLAND

A significant and potentially game-changing DairyNZ research project is now well underway, testing the benefits of growing plantain on local pastures. The seven-year Tararua Plantain Project began in the 2018/19 season, involving 125 Tararua dairy farms.

The project's been developed by DairyNZ catchment engagement leader Adam Duker, working alongside the Horizons Regional Council, Massey University, agronomists and a six-strong project team.

Find out more from the farmers involved in the project at dairynz.co.nz/tararua

TOP OF SOUTH ISLAND/WEST COAST

'Offload, Reload, Refresh' – join DairyNZ directors and staff to discuss the future of dairying at one of these unique DairyNZ events being held in the South Island/West Coast this month.

Get an overview of the latest local and national insights and other breakthroughs that will help the dairy sector meet future challenges.

Find out how you can help influence the future of the sector and gain clarity on 'where to next' for you, your community and the wider sector. Event details at dairynz.co.nz/events

CANTERBURY/NORTH OTAGO

What is the vision for dairy farming in Canterbury/North Otago? What are its priorities and what does 'good' look like?

Over the last year or so, DairyNZ has led a collaborative project called Plans for Regions, which brought together farmers, rural professionals and local governments. They identified the current and future priorities for dairy farming in the Waikato.

To find out what DairyNZ and the dairy sector are planning to do in response – including research, development, adoption, communications, and policy work – visit dairynz.co.nz/p4r

Merry Christmas

From the team at DairyNZ

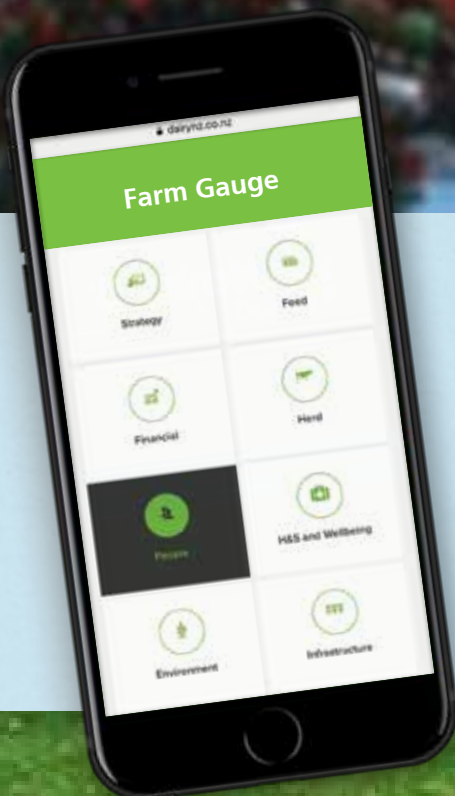
.....
Wishing you a safe,
healthy and happy holiday
season and a prosperous
new year.
.....



Give your business an
early Christmas present.

Check out dairynz.co.nz/farmgauge

It'll help you discover where to invest your time,
effort and resources in 2020 for the biggest impact
for your business.



DairyNZ