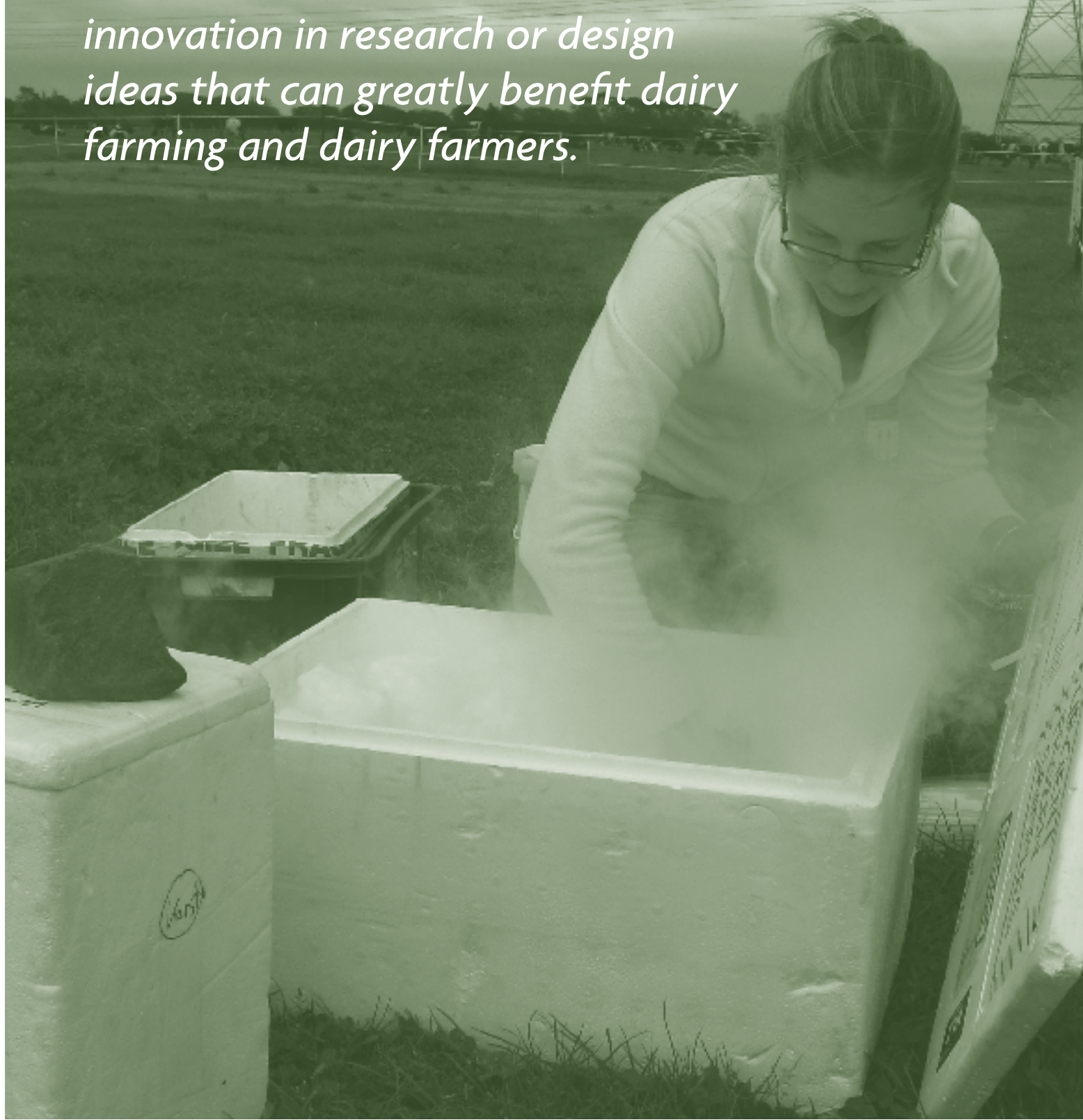


A small portion of levy funds is invested in those who show innovation in research or design ideas that can greatly benefit dairy farming and dairy farmers.



Project contracts 2008/09

A summary of projects contracted during the 2008/09 season in the on-farm innovation area.

	Project Number	DairyNZ Funding \$'000's (excl. GST)	Parties
KAG Cloverbase: kikuyu grass management and elimination with clover	OF152	3	Kikuyu Action Group Inc.
A study of the impact of sowing clover pastures on kikuyu elimination and farm productivity. Continuation of OF134.			
Real-time, online monitoring for animal health and environmental impact management (year 2)	OF156	157	South Island Dairying Development Centre
This project will develop data capture procedures for monitoring indicators of animal health and environmental impacts. Co-funded by SIDDC and SIDE.			
Dairy effluent nitrate minimisation	OF159	9	AJ Hann
This project seeks to develop a novel method to reduce nitrates into waterways from dairy shed effluent pond systems.			
Control of staphylococcus aureus in dairy cows by methods compliant with organic standards	OF161	4	Organic Dairy Producers Group
This project is seeking to develop means of reducing and controlling somatic cell count in organic dairy herds.			
Intensification and winter management	OF163	147	Wairarapa Moana Incorporation
Through improved knowledge and practices this project aims to allow intensification of dairy farms. In particular, limiting nutrient loss to below future regulatory requirements.			
Women in Dairying: growing the leadership pipeline	OF802	45	Ecosynergy Ltd
The project aims to:			
1. Identify causes for women's low uptake of dairy sector leadership opportunities			
2. Carry out a pilot intervention with identified women leaders to test mechanisms to facilitate the entry of women in the New Zealand dairy sector leadership pipeline.			
KAG cloverbase: kikuyu grass management and elimination with clover	OF804	15	Kikuyu Action Group Inc.
A study of the impact of sowing clover pastures on kikuyu elimination and farm productivity. Expansion of OF152.			
Beneficial processes of insect pest management in South Island brassica growing systems	OF808	10	Brassica Crop Committee
This project focuses on defining the status of resistance in DBM (diamondback moth – a key pest) to key classes of insecticide in important areas of brassica production in the South Island. Also, the status of the white butterfly and leaf miner parasitoids is being assessed and introduced into regions where they are not present. Best management practices are being developed for different growing systems (forage and seed crops compared with vegetables) and for the main cultivars, plus undertake major tech transfer initiatives.			
Management and control of YBG and other C4 grass weeds	OF809	4	Yellow Bristle Grass Action Group
This project aims to provide farmers with best management options, including financial costs and benefits for control of YBG (yellow bristle grass) and other highly invasive C4 grass species. These options will include best practices for management of existing populations as well as strategies for dealing with new infestations.			
Air-milk separation technology and fixed time milking for high throughput automatic milking	OF810	61	Waikato Automatic Milking Farmer Group
This project aims to deliver a feasibility assessment and proof of concept for a method of milking that has the potential to achieve up to a 50% improvement in milking throughput on current single stall automated milking systems.			

	Project Number	DairyNZ Funding \$'000's (excl. GST)	Parties
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Heifer synchrony	OF811	45	Animal Health Centre, Morrinsville
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This project will assess the biological efficacy of heifer synchrony programmes and the economics of these programmes.

AgriKids - engaging and developing youth	OF813	50	New Zealand Young Farmers
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To inform and educate New Zealand primary school children about farming, farm skills, food production and the rural lifestyle through completions in a fun and educationally-focused event and follow-up activities, school programmes and an interactive website.

Automating the monitoring and management of dairy effluent land application	OF815	90	Harmonic Aotearoa Ltd
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The project aims to identify enhancements that will be required to ensure the decision process of the Re:Generation tool is applicable to the major dairying regions of New Zealand and to ensure the system works well at a farmer level and can be easily adopted.

Intensification and winter management	OF816	50	Wairarapa Moana Incorporation
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Continuation of OF163. Through improved knowledge and practices, this project aims to allow intensification of dairy farms. In particular, limiting nutrient loss to below future regulatory requirements.

National mentoring scheme	OF817	30	AgFirst Waikato Ltd
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The Rural Mentor Programme's focus is to provide an 'offline' mentoring service to farmers within the dairy and wider pastoral industries.

Costs and benefits of providing shelter on irrigated land on the Canterbury Plains	OF820	4	Dairy shelter on the Canterbury Plains group
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The main purpose of this project is to review research relating to the benefits and costs of providing shelter that is compatible with spray irrigation and provide guide information.

Farm systems review	OF901	25	AgFirst Waikato Ltd
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The project will re-examine the key farm system types with an aim of developing/reviewing rule of thumb guides for current and future pricing assumptions for feed inputs into a dairy system, and demonstrating the value to farmers of using a whole farm modelling process to optimise profitability.

Looking ahead

Investment in this area is determined on a case-by-case basis.

2009/10 Investment to be contracted

Farm systems research: \$0.750 million

Proportion of levy: 1%