



ONE YEAR ON...

SUMMARY

What have we achieved?

What do we need to keep working on?

SUSTAINABLE DAIRYING –

WATER ACCORD

A commitment to New Zealand
by the dairy sector



Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord

The Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord (the Accord) has been developed under the oversight of the Dairy Environment Leadership Group (DELG). DELG includes representatives from farmers, dairy companies, central government, regional councils and the Federation of Māori Authorities.

Accountable Partners

In accordance with this Accord the following parties have specific responsibilities and are accountable for delivering the commitments and monitoring and reporting as specified. They undertake to carry out those responsibilities in good faith and to the best of their abilities.



John Luxton
Chairman



Dairy for life

John Wilson
Chairman



Laurie Margrain
Chairman



Kingi Smiler
Chairman



Graeme Milne
Chairman



Stephen Allen
Chairman



Malcolm Bailey
Chairman

Supporting Partners

Supporting Partners make commitments to the outcomes of this Accord in support of the Accountable Partners.



Friends of the Accord

Friends of the Accord are supportive of the purpose of this Accord and commit to contribute to its success in the spirit of collaboration.

- Westland Milk Products
- Regional/Unitary Councils: Northland Regional Council; Auckland Council; Waikato Regional Council; Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Hawke's Bay Regional Council; Gisborne District Council; Taranaki Regional Council; Horizons Regional Council; Greater Wellington Regional Council; Environment Canterbury; West Coast Regional Council; Marlborough District Council; Tasman District Council; Otago Regional Council; Environment Southland
- The Federation of Māori Authorities
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Ministry for the Environment

One Year On...

The Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord was launched in July 2013.

The first annual progress report aims to set out what the Accord has achieved in its first year of operation from June 2013 to May 2014.

While we have made some real and meaningful progress during the 2013/14 dairy season, there is still a lot more work to do.

This Accord involves a large number of industry players as well as all of New Zealand's dairy companies and has commitments and targets for five key areas:

- Riparian management
- Nutrient management
- Effluent management
- Water use management
- Conversions

The purpose of the Accord is to enhance the overall performance of dairy farming as it affects freshwater by:

- Committing to good management practices expected of all dairy farmers in New Zealand
- Recording pledges by the dairy sector, with the support of others, to assist and encourage dairy farmers to adopt those good management practices and to monitor and report progress

To view the full report go to www.dairyatwork.co.nz

Dairy sustainability initiatives



SUSTAINABLE DAIRYING – **WATER ACCORD**

The dairy industry's commitment to improving water quality



DEVELOPING **1,000** FARMING LEADERS

to create positive environmental changes



EnviroReady FIELDAYS

for farmers to gain the knowledge to ensure responsible farming



TRAINING & CERTIFYING INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

to provide better advice to farmers



CREATING SUSTAINABLE **MILK PLANS**

for good environmental practice



OVER 50

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

aimed at improving dairying's environmental performance



WATER QUALITY

Working with councils, farmers and the community to create plans that meet a region's **water quality** objectives

The dairy industry cares about the health of New Zealand’s freshwater and natural resources. The Water Accord is one way that we are showing our commitment. We are also committed to reporting on how we are doing.

We are learning the lessons from our first year of operation under this new Water Accord. DairyNZ and all the dairy companies are working together to fix issues and address areas that need attention and focus – most notably, nutrient management data collection and how to collate, align and verify dairy company information at an industry level. We have met some, but not all of our targets for this past season.

We certainly recognise and applaud the efforts of farmers, dairy companies, DairyNZ staff and our ‘Supporting Partners’ and ‘Friends’ of the Water Accord for their work and support to date. We are making real strides in key areas such as setting standards for new farm conversions to dairy, stock exclusion from waterways and effluent and nutrient management advice and training. There are still areas where we need to do better and where we need to learn from this first report on how we can lift our performance and ensure we meet our key targets going forward.

We are working closely with regional councils around the country to assist them with implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. We are committed as an industry to farming within environmental limits to maintain and enhance the land and resources that our industry relies upon for its success.



Hon. John Luxton
Chairman
DairyNZ



Malcolm Bailey
Chairman
Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand

Making dairy farming work for everyone

Competitive global and local

Farm Profit

Increase on-farm profit and resilience through greater efficiency



Research and Development

Research and develop innovative technologies and solutions to meet the future needs of dairy farms



Talented People

Attract, develop and retain highly skilled and motivated people throughout the industry



Biosecurity and Product Integrity

Enhance the assurance levels of New Zealand’s biosecurity and product integrity



Industry Information Systems

Create and maintain industry-wide systems and structures to serve the needs of dairy farmers



Responsible today and tomorrow

Environmental Stewardship

Proactive environmental stewardship and wise use of natural resources



Animal Welfare

Farm to high standards of animal health, welfare and well-being



Work Environment

Provide a world-class work environment on-farm



Local Communities

Enhance the communities we live in



National Prosperity

Grow dairying’s contribution to the prosperity and well-being of New Zealand



Sustainable Dairy Farming

Summary and highlights

**ONE
YEAR ON**

WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED SO FAR...

- ◆ Every dairy company has an assessment programme in place for new conversions that sets out environmental and other requirements that have to be met before milk supply can start from a new dairy farm.
- ◆ All dairy companies have programmes in place to assess the effluent systems of suppliers on a three-yearly basis, with several companies assessing every farm every year. Three dairy companies have reported 100% of farms assessed in the three year period to 30 May 2014, adding up to 99% of farms being assessed overall in New Zealand.
- ◆ A recent DairyNZ survey of 1,000 dairy farmers shows that 69% of them had either invested in an effluent system upgrade in the last 12 months or were planning to in the next 12 months.
- ◆ Every dairy company has developed programmes to collect nutrient management information from their farmers.
- ◆ For the 2013/14 season, 56% or just over 6,400 farms provided nutrient management data to their dairy companies.
- ◆ Dairy companies report nearly 24,000 kilometres of measured Accord waterways (94%) have been excluded from stock, although this has not yet been fully verified.
- ◆ Fourteen Farm Dairy Effluent Warrant of Fitness assessors have achieved certification.
- ◆ Nearly 250 farm staff attended an effluent management course in 2013/2014.
- ◆ There are now 78 rural professionals across the country certified as Nutrient Management Advisers, able to advise farmers on efficient use of nutrients. Another 56 are in the process of certification.

What we've made the most progress on...



Assessment systems and advice for new farm conversions to dairy



Stock exclusion and crossings and fencing off waterways



Effluent management system assessments, advice and training



Regional riparian management advice tailored to farmers



Ensuring farmers have accredited experts they can turn to for nutrient management advice

We need to put more focus on...

- ◆ Nutrient management data collection at the farm level and how to benchmark and deliver quality and useful information back to farmers.

We're working on...

- ◆ A three year water use study on over 100 dairy farms across the country is underway. Data from the first 59 farms was collected during the 2013/14 season. Preliminary results will be available in 2015.
- ◆ While Greater Wellington and Tasman regions achieved zero significant non-compliance for farm dairy effluent, nationally, the rate of significant non-compliance for farm dairy effluent systems and management practices for the 2013/14 season was 7%. We want to keep making progress in every region.

WHAT THE TOUGHEST CHALLENGES ARE...



Collecting nutrient management data and performance benchmarking

The collection of data from individual farms is a major undertaking for dairy companies, as nutrient management information reporting by farmers has not previously been required in the dairy industry. Several companies have included provision of nutrient management data in their conditions of supply for the first time. However, despite significant resources being directed to this commitment, not all farmers were able to provide the required data within the requested timeframes. Dairy companies have also implemented quality control procedures that add further challenges to achieving agreed targets.

This is a challenging target but the industry is determined to achieve it through monitoring and reporting nutrient management performance on-farm. We are driving continual improvements in the quality of data from the farmer and also of information going back to farmers.



Aligning data systems

We have made good progress in using Geographic Information Systems to gather robust on-farm stock exclusion data. However we have learnt from our first audit report that we need to improve our systems and processes for nutrient data and information collection at the dairy company level. We need to ensure it is collected in a way that allows for valid aggregation/collation as an industry.

DairyNZ

Corner Ruakura and Morrinsville Roads
Private Bag 3221
Hamilton 3240

0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969)

For further information:

Email info@dairynz.co.nz

dairyatwork.co.nz

dairynz.co.nz

dcanz.com

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Dairynz 



The Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ) is the umbrella body of companies processing milk in New Zealand. www.dcanz.com

DairyNZ is the industry organisation representing New Zealand's dairy farmers, funded by farmers through a levy on milksolids. www.dairynz.co.nz or www.dairyatwork.co.nz