Planning for Success

Partnership. Integrity. Commitment.
There has never been any doubt that the research carried out by NDDT, at NARF and other locations delivers benefit to the Northland dairy industry and in turn the wider farming industry of New Zealand. But it is only recently that an independent assessment was carried out to gain a better understanding of the regional economic contribution attributed to this work.

“Now read on to see how valuable me and my herd mates are . . .”
This is an introduction to the Northland Dairy Development Trust. Custodian of influential agricultural scientific research in Northland and the facilitator of an innovative future.

Delivered benefit to the Northland economy of over $315 million*

Resulting in a net return on-farm of $162 per hectare per year*

Represents a return on investment into research of $76 per $1 spent*

Split Calving Trial net on-farm benefit of $163 million

Kikuyu Trial net on-farm benefit of $141 million

Endophyte Trial net on-farm benefit of $9 million

Standoff Pad Trial net on-farm benefit of $5 million

All figures quoted are from the 2015 NDDT Economic Impact Assessment conducted by Nimmo Bell. *Benefits are assessed over six projects and cover a period of approximately 17 years. Benefits delivered outside the Northland region are not included.

The Science and the Value

An Economic Impact Assessment

The assessment, commissioned by NDDT and Dairy NZ was conducted by experienced agribusiness analysts Nimmo-Bell & Company Ltd. While scientific research has been conducted for many years, the assessment focused on just six trials carried out between 1998 and 2011.

This comprehensive evaluation not only provides insight into how important this work is to the Northland dairy industry and farming community, but it also illustrates impressive economic benefits to the wider economy. In addition to the quantifiable effects, the assessment also highlights spill - over advantages such as the role it plays as an independent industry watchdog, relevance to the wider agricultural industry and more. The full EIA report can be accessed online at www.nddt.nz/industryimpact.
Establishment, Purpose and Objectives

In 2006, the Northland Dairy Development Trust (NDDT, the Trust) was formed with the primary aim of commissioning relevant research to support and strengthen the Northland dairy industry. The trust formation was a joint initiative between the Northland Agriculture Research Farm (NARF) and Fonterra.

The Northland Agricultural Research Farm (NARF) was set up to research and trial innovative farming techniques, to provide training opportunities for young farmers and supply relevant information to the wider dairy industry. Originally established in the 1920’s as the Northern Wairoa Experimental and Demonstration Farm, the name was changed in 2001 to reflect a broader, Northland-wide focus which had developed over the years.

Today it is operated as an incorporated Society, owned by all Northland dairy farmers and managed by an executive committee of Northland farmers and rural professionals.

Recognising the need to safeguard the future of the work carried out at NARF, the NDDT was established as a central administrator, facilitator and enabler for this work. Trustees are appointed by NARF and Fonterra and are headed by an independent Chairperson.
**NDDT Objectives**

To raise the profile of Northland as an innovative and progressive dairying region.

To positively promote the dairy industry to both existing suppliers and people outside the industry through sound research with a focus on profitability and environmental stewardship.

To objectively evaluate new dairying technologies within robust scientific frameworks.

To utilise the valuable resource at NARF to conduct and share research relevant to Northland dairy farmers.

To attract a consistent level of funding and support from industry members and the community.

To encourage and strengthen the dairy farming community, attract new members and facilitate knowledge sharing.

To assist with improving the financial performance of the Northland dairy industry and its contribution to the Northland economy.

To encourage and facilitate on-farm extension work.

To be inclusive and assist other related bodies with their science and research.

**Partnership. Integrity. Commitment.**
Who are NDDT?

People Providing Purpose and Direction

Collaboration is key to the continued success of the work carried out by NDDT. The members of NDDT are an influential and high performing group. Their common passion for farming and belief in balancing science with on-farm experience to overcome industry challenges, is what drives a pragmatic approach to the research projects.

The dairy industry is well known for its turbulent but ultimately cyclic nature, and with such a long history and body of work spanning many decades, NDDT is uniquely positioned. It is this valuable history combined with the future focus that safeguard the integrity of this work and its ongoing benefit to the wider Northland economy.

Trustees are well respected dairy farmers and industry professionals. Three are appointed from the NARF Government Committee and the balance are from a geographic spread from around Northland.

Part time project managers are contracted to run each trial and there is a Coordinator and an Administrator also contracted on a part time basis.
Securing a Solid Foundation for Future Potential

While the recent Economic Impact Assessment validates the positive ‘gut feel’ of those involved with this vital research portfolio, it also confirms the importance of the role NDDT plays as guardian and steward of its future. It is critical that the research and science continues regardless of the cyclic adversity faced by the farming industry. As part of its strategic plan to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place to advance, the Trust now looks ahead with renewed confidence.

The front face of NDDT and its role as a touchstone in the Northland farming community has also been evaluated. The strength of the current network exists through organic growth, regular communication and useful knowledge sharing. The Trust recognises there is enormous potential to increase accessibility and benefit to this community by providing a centralised digital platform. As a result the NDDT website, www.nddt.nz has been launched.
**Introducing NDDT Online**

A useful resource where current trial statistics and Trust news are regularly updated, details of previous work are published, and relevant upcoming event information is advertised.

A mobile friendly version allows farmers to check farm data such as milk production and growth rates anytime.

The website represents the Trust’s motivation to service and grow its audience, in addition to providing an important forum for connecting directly with, and recognising the work of its supporters, funders and sponsors.

[www.nddt.nz](http://www.nddt.nz)

**Existing Partners**

*NDDT recognise the vital contribution its partners make to the ongoing success of the Trust.*

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