

## FarmDay follow-up

This was an opportunity for city dwellers to visit a farm and an opportunity for them to see what goes on in the country. It was a chance too good to miss for a lot of urban dwellers who normally wouldn't be able to visit a farm. There are many people who do not know a farmer, myself included prior to coming to work at Waikato Federated Farmers. It was a chance to get a small insight into the operations of a grassroots business and to appreciate where our milk/cheese/meat and grain comes from - which is not just the supermarket shelf.

A sincere thank you goes to our Waikato farmers, Doug and Kathy Bentham, who were willing to open their gates to the general

public. They are proud of their chosen lifestyle on the land and with just cause. It was great to see the community rally together to assist where possible, which is something to be envied.

Congratulations to the Bentham family for being our first farm to put their hands up to host a Farm Day. I do hope there will be many more to come, as even the dairy farmers who volunteered on the farm learnt what it is like to operate a goat farm.

**Gaylene Bamford - Waikato Regional Assistant**



## WAIKATO FEDERATED FARMERS PROVINCIAL CONTACT LIST

### Provincial President:

Stewart Wadey, 07 888 1808

### Vice President:

Walter Scott, 07 889 7144

### Meat & Fibre Chairman:

Andre de Hann, 07 873 8631

### Grain & Seed Chairman:

Syd Fraser-Jones, 07 887 5780

### Dairy Chairman:

John Bluett, 07 825 9709

### Sharemilkers Section Chairman:

Jeff Bolstad, 07 884 4127

### Sharemilkers' Section Executive:

Malcolm Piggott, 07 888 0000

### Sharemilkers Employers' Section Chairman:

Tony Wilding, 07 883 4802

### Rural Women of NZ:

Anne Rawson, 07 878 1070

### Waikato/BOP Young Farmers' Chairman:

Chris Irons, 07 878 5227

### Waikato Hauraki/Coromandel Rural Support Trust:

0800 787 254

### Regional Assistant:

Gaylene Bamford, 07 858 0820

Waikato Branch Chairmen Contact List

## BRANCH CHAIRMEN CONTACT LIST

*If you would like to attend a meeting, these are the people to talk to. You would be most welcome.*

### CAMBRIDGE

Julian Stone, 07 827 6805

### HAMILTON

Tony Armstrong, 07 829 8609

### MATAMATA

Ivan Knyvett, 07 888 5029

### MORRINSVILLE

Dave Fish, 07 887 3826

### NORTH WAIKATO

Sue Saunders, 07 854 9868

### OTOROHANGA

Roy Johnson, 07 873 7874

### TE AROHA

Stuart King, 07 884 5857

### TE AWAMUTU

Kees Rombouts, 07 871 3848

### TOKOROA

Mary-Ann Mathis, 07 886 9493

### WAITOMO

Charles Digby, 07 878 8642

**Security solutions for Waikato farmers**  
**Free call 0800 824 832**

# LOCAL VOICE

## PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER



WAIKATO

MARCH/APRIL 2009

## Never fear - Waikato Federated Farmers are here

Too many farmers are ignorant of the serious legislative and regulatory issues we are currently addressing such as the Water Allocation - Variation 6, the Waikato/Tainui Raupatu Waikato River Settlement and the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS). So it's great to have an excellent team of members and elected representatives in our region that are really on the ball. They are backed up by an incredibly talented national Federated Farmers policy team representing Waikato farmers.

### CONCERNS ON THESE ISSUES IN BRIEF ARE:

#### Water Allocation-Variation 6

There is a lack of fairness and equity in Variation 6, adopted by Environment Waikato (EW) councillors, to impose such a draconian water allocation within their constituency. If we are unsuccessful in our Environment Court appeal (estimated to be \$240-400k over a four or five year process for our Agricultural Working Group), I cannot guarantee financially profitable pastoral



primary production security for individuals. There will be a flow on effect for important servicing industries in our regional rural and urban communities and, last but not least, for our New Zealand economic wellbeing, due to the significance of primary food product export income. The present and the next generation of Waikato rural and urban families within the Waikato Regional Council constituency need to be treated with respect as we will keep the current recession at bay in New Zealand. We will endeavour to do our very best for you on this issue.

Waikato/Tainui Raupatu Waikato River Settlement

In response to a personal invitation from Tau Henare MP, chair of the Maori Affairs Committee, Waikato Federated Farmers'

has submitted to a process initiated by that Parliamentary Committee. The legislative process of the Waikato/Tainui Waikato River settlement is well on its way through, in my opinion, a flawed consultation process. I have made my concerns known, with diplomacy and integrity, where skilled agricultural representation is a cause of concern in the Settlement Legislation, which has already passed its first reading in the House of Representatives. The watershed is a huge area of agricultural land that will be under statutory board governance as prescribed in the Deed of Settlement Agreement with New Zealand statutory privileges. I understand this will last for 30 years in the short-term. The make up of the skill set on that governance is one of the issues we have submitted on.

### ETS

This issue has been of constant concern to farmers in the Waikato. District elected chairs and representatives have diligently presented unanimous remits to our Waikato region executive, with instructions to pursue the right protocols for Waikato and that the National Board (who are based in Wellington) be proactive on the ETS references to New Zealand's primary food production and agriculture. Both national and Waikato Federated Farmers were heading down the track to submit to the ETS Select Committee. I agreed, upon contact from National Board vice chairperson, Frank Brenmuhl (our board spokesperson on the ETS), that one significant submission to Government would be advantageous to our members. The Federated Farmers submission is substantial and represents our concerns. I shall represent you when the submission content is explained to the ETS Parliamentary Select Committee.

My calendar, to date, as your president has been a very busy one. I am well supported by my team as the demand for our skills gives us no time to 'twiddle our thumbs'.

With so much work coming in for the Waikato Executive to address, we are to get a new policy person who will join the Hamilton based policy team, managed by Dr Paul Le Miere. Paul has had an interesting initiation into Federated Farmers lobby requests from members. He has been working 24/7 due to

the work load being undertaken. He is also trying to establish his family home since recently moving to New Zealand from a very senior position with the Jersey Government. If ever you get the chance, buy Paul a beer, he deserves one or more. We need eminently skilled people like Paul in our organisation.



**Stew Wadey - Waikato President**

## SELLING THE FARM?

**Educate yourself, so you make good investment decisions**

### INVESTMENT SEMINAR

This two hour presentation is run by ABN AMRO Craigs, The largest private portfolio advisory firm in New Zealand, with over six billion dollars under management.

Geoff Buchan, a senior portfolio manager with ABN AMRO Craigs, will be covering topics including:

- Low risk investments
- Fixed Interest, Property, Bank deposits
- Tax minimization
- Currency and interest rates
- Income protection.

Gain valuable knowledge from a truly independent source, the only cost is two hours of your time.

**1pm, Wednesday 22 April 2009**

**5th Floor President's Room  
 Waikato Federated Farmers' Building  
 169 London Street, Hamilton**

Please note the only available parking on-site is "WFF" parks situated at the rear left hand side of the car park.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

### Please RSVP to:

Gaylene Bamford, Regional Assistant,  
 Waikato Federated Farmers  
 Phone: 07 858 0820



There's a new website in town. Ruraltrader it's called. This site's goal is to be the one stop shop for all things farming and rural. A tall order some might say, but one the guys and girls at ruraltrader are working hard to fill.

Many farmers know that to get all the information they need on a daily or weekly basis, at least four or five websites need to be visited. News sites, weather, farming market information and various rural event sites. You will find all these catered for at ruraltrader and much, much more.

The site contains a forum, a place for people in the rural community to get together and discuss issues that pertain, just to them.

Other features include blogs written by experts on a varied range of subjects and last but not least a 'Special Interest Section'. The special interest section contains information and articles on everything from general farming to small block, equine, organics, hunting, fishing and even photography. There is something for everyone.

As a provider to the rural community they have also put together a fund of money for rural non profit groups to apply for. Take a look [www.ruraltrader.co.nz](http://www.ruraltrader.co.nz)

## Rains arrive early

The autumn rains have arrived earlier than usual and were very happily received by most farmers, though it has brought some bad eczema outbreaks particularly in young stock and dairy cows.

The extra grass has delayed the culling of dairy herds and improved beef schedules, but the overseas beef market is still extremely cautious and should fluctuate for a while yet. Hopefully our Asian markets will help to stabilise beef prices and the commodity market in general.

Lamb prices have improved markedly, but the worrying thing is that there has not been any great effort to improve our marketing or have concrete supply agreements with farmers or retailers. This concerns me because an ad-hoc marketing system is unreliable and unsustainable. We must commit to our industry and they must get their marketing in order.

It is great to see heavier lambs get better prices, as many farmers were going for bigger lambs, but got the rug pulled out from under them a few years ago. Farmers on better land have excited sheep farming. With an eye on sustainable land use we need more options, not less.

Wool Partners is up and running and shows some promise of action, which is where they are needed. Wool Grower Holdings (WGH) is the investment arm of the business and will hold a series of meetings around the country to drum up farmer support. I await these



meetings with interest and hope WGH has an attractive proposal to present to farmers so we have confidence to back the wool industry into prosperity. We have a good natural

## Season production good

### The 08/09 dairy season

The present season will end up being a good production season due to the summer/autumn rainfall we have had. This puts us in a better position to last season, production wise, but definitely not payout wise. As dairy farmers, for us to get through this global downturn will have to manage our resources wisely. Finances being the main issue, particularly over the next six months with a low dairy income coming in due to dairy companies advance rates. On average, dairy farmers will need between 60c and \$1 p/kg milk solids increase in overdraft facilities from their banks to get through to 20 October 2009. If you have not already looked at your cash flow for the next eight months, I



suggest you use Payment Predictor on the Federation's website. On the farm cost side we need to manage costs frugally and in some cases, challenge our suppliers on what they are actually charging us. We all need to look at how we are actually running our dairy businesses to make sure we are doing the right things to get through this present global crisis. We need to talk to our bankers, consultants, accountants and trusted friends to help us get through.

### DairyNZ

More farm discussion groups are to be held in the area and if you think you need one in your district then take the initiative and start one up, because during previous downturns the discussion groups have been a good mechanism for farmers to get help for each other, so the majority of us survive. As farmers, we need to look out for each other at this time. We can share resources and knowledge and work together in your district to get through this time. In the present situation, what we are facing affects all dairy farmers and working together will make our businesses, families and communities stronger.

Recently Federated Farmers had a meeting with the bankers, Rural Support Trust, MAF Policy and DairyNZ to discuss these issues. The Rural Support Trust is available as a confidential free service for all rural people. If you are under financial pressure, have

product which needs better marketing and financial commitment.

Don't forget Meat and Wool New Zealand's (MWNZ) consultation round's coming up and I congratulate James Parsons on successfully contesting our northern ward on the board.

Tom Mandeno has done a great job representing us in the past and his expertise will be sorely missed, but I am sure James knows where Tom lives if he needs some information.

We as farmers have to decide on levies and the direction of spending for MWNZ. Do we need monitor farms, and if so, which direction should they take? It is important that farmers attend the next consultation round as well as the Waikato Federated Farmers AGM on 5 May, as there are some long term decisions to be made that will have a serious financial impact on farming in New Zealand.

Here ends the lesson.

**André de Haan - Waikato  
Meat & Fibre Chair**



work pressures, family and health concerns, employment issues, or stock feed and welfare problems they can help with advice, support and information.

The bankers are working hard with their clients to ensure farmers have the finances available to get through this situation. In the future, DairyNZ will be running field days aimed at getting farmers through this present downturn by meeting up for discussions groups.

**John Bluett - Waikato  
Dairy Chair**



## WAIKATO RURAL SUPPORT NETWORK

For all rural people experiencing stress for whatever reason, the phone number is:

**0800 RURAL HELP or  
0800 787 254**

## 2009 Waikato Federated Farmers ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS



WAIKATO

**Stew Wadey, President Waikato Federated Farmers, invites you to attend either an Annual General Meeting in your District or the Waikato Regional Annual General Meeting.**

Here are some of the dates to put in your diaries, please look out for further advertising for all of these meetings. For further information contact your District Chairman or our Regional office.

| DISTRICT      | DATE  |
|---------------|---|
| Cambridge     | Held on the 9 <sup>th</sup> March               |
| Hamilton      | 7 <sup>th</sup> or 27 <sup>th</sup> April - TBA |
| Matamata      | TBA   |
| Morrinsville  | 6 <sup>th</sup> April                           |
| North Waikato | 14 <sup>th</sup> April                          |
| Otorohanga    | 16 <sup>th</sup> April                          |
| Te Aroha      | 8 <sup>th</sup> April                           |
| Te Awamutu    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> April                           |
| Tokoroa       | 28 <sup>th</sup> April                          |
| Waitomo       | 15 <sup>th</sup> April                          |

### Waikato Regional Federated Farmers Annual General Meetings:

**11 am, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

**Hamilton Airport Motor Inn & Conference Centre  
Airport Road, Hamilton**

- Dairy Industry Group
- Meat & Fibre Industry Group
- Grain & Seeds Industry Group
- Regional Annual General Meeting

(Nomination forms are available from the Regional Office. These need to be lodged for the Annual General Meeting no later than 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009.)



## A great season

A good growing season, with excellent silage and grain crops is in store for us. Perhaps it will end up the best crop the Waikato has ever seen. But alas, a slack market has crippled us. How quickly the scene has changed since price and contract setting in September and October 2008.

The silage harvest is under way and crops are moving, but in most cases at a depressed price after many contracts have not been honoured.

Federated Farmers is firm on contracts being honoured by both farmers and contractors in all forms of agriculture. If an impasse develops between parties over a contract, meaningful dialogue plus some give and take will generally settle the matter. What we don't want is a complete rejection by one party of the contract.

Contractors are part of the farming scene throughout New Zealand. We need contractors to carry on our farming operation and most contractors will survive this present downturn and recoup some of their losses in future years for which all farmers will pay.

**Syd Fraser-Jones -  
Waikato  
Grains & Seed Chair**



### Waikato Federated Farmers MEETINGS BEING HELD IN 2009 AT THE HAMILTON PREMISES

| Jan   | No scheduled meetings    |  |
|-------|--------------------------|--|
| Feb   | Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>   | Dairy                                    |
|       | Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> | Meat & Fibre                             |
|       | Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> | Regional Executive                       |
| March | Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> | Dairy                                    |
|       | Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> | Regional Executive                       |
| April | Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Meat & Fibre                             |
|       | Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>  | Dairy                                    |
|       | Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> | Regional Executive                       |
| May   | Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>  | AGM – Hamilton Airport Conference Centre |
|       | Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> | Dairy                                    |
| June  | Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Meat & Fibre                             |
| July  | Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> | Regional Executive                       |
| Aug   | Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Meat & Fibre                             |
|       | Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> | Regional Executive                       |
| Sept  | Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Dairy                                    |
|       | Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Regional Executive                       |
| Oct   | Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>  | Dairy                                    |
|       | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> | Regional Executive                       |
| Nov   | Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>   | Dairy                                    |
|       | Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> | Meat & Fibre                             |
|       | Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> | Regional Executive                       |
| Dec   | No scheduled meetings    |  |