

Meat & Wool New Zealand show value for money

"Meat & Wool New Zealand (MWNZ) needs to convince farmers that increasing its levy is both justified and warranted," says Bruce Wills, Federated Farmers meat and fibre spokesperson.

"The consultation document released by MWNZ on proposed levy increases represents the first phase of a detailed consultation process with farmers. Federated Farmers believes the most important issue to address during this process is the quality of the spend, rather than the quantity.

"Although the scale of these levy increases may have surprised some, it cannot be denied that farmers and the meat and wool industry are in desperate need of investment beyond the farm gate. It is here that we have the most potential to improve meat and fibre returns.

"Federated Farmers is mindful of MWNZ's large expenditure on market development. This is an area where we believe meat processing companies are ultimately best placed to invest.

As exporters deal directly with customers on a daily basis, it is these organisations that should be undertaking market development work. Not the levy funded organisation as it has difficulty assessing the value of its investment.



"Innovation and uptake is another large spend for MWNZ. Money spent on science and innovation is vitally important for the future of meat and wool farmers. But here, MWNZ has a real challenge to ensure that new science is readily and easily available to levy payers.

"Too many farmers are telling me they are unaware of what MWNZ does in this area. As a result, they do not believe they are benefiting from their levy spend. I look forward to these concerns being answered during levy consultations.

"Meanwhile, we strongly encourage all farmers to participate in the upcoming consultation process to make sure MWNZ industry investment meets farmers' needs," concluded Mr Wills.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Federated Farmers Meat & Fibre spokesperson, Bruce Wills,
06 834 9704 or 027 234 1516

LOCAL VOICE

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER



GOLDEN BAY

APRIL 2009

A season of highs and lows

As this season comes to an end, we can reflect on a period of unprecedented swings in commodity prices, making business decisions somewhat of a crystal ball gazing effect.



The global financial collapse was long overdue and has caused a lot of unsuspecting casualties.

I would hope that the free market will not be one of these, but financial investment markets will need better regulation around them.

The uncertainty of the global trading scene will hopefully enlighten our Government policy makers of the folly of including animals in an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

On the local scene I would like to thank all members who have involved themselves in river enhancement projects, it sends a clear message that farmers care about water quality and are prepared to take a proactive approach to it. Well done.

Federated Farmers Farm Day was a good initiative to bridge the growing urban disconnection. This went off really well and I would like to thank the Harwood Family and their staff for hosting the day and also thanks to all members who helped on the day.

Come along to our AGM on the 1 May and add your thoughts and voice to the future of farming.

Graham Ball - Golden Bay President



Cultural heritage review

The Tasman District Council is reviewing cultural heritage (archaeological sites) management in its Tasman Resource Management Plan.

The project is the result of an Environment Court appeal by three local iwi. Their appeal sought the reinstatement of cultural heritage protection rules (which were withdrawn from the plan by the Council in 1996). Through mediation that involved Federated Farmers we agreed that a plan change would be a better way to resolve the appeal, rather than going to court.

A key task in the plan change process has been for the Council to update its cultural site database to ensure that it is accurate (this is still an issue with some sites). This was a big job, as there are nearly 1000 recorded sites.

Now the Council has to decide how best to protect these sites.

In law, under the Historic Places Act, any modification, damage or destruction of an archaeological site must have prior approval from the Historic Places Trust. This is in addition to the district plan rules. This does not always happen, particularly if landowners are not aware of their responsibilities.



The Council has said that it is committed to using a mix of protection methods (rules and incentives). They have begun discussing their ideas with Federated Farmers and others, and will soon be releasing a draft plan change and register of cultural heritage sites (with maps), for public input.

The Council wants to encourage people to get involved in figuring out the best way to go about achieving protection of these sites. As part of this process, Council staff, iwi representatives, and local archaeologists will meet with landowner groups. The 'protection' detail has yet to be determined.



If you have one of these sites on your farm we advise you to get involved in this process. You are welcome to become part of the Federated Farmers team.

The draft plan change is due to be released in May. For more information about this process please contact Graham Ball on 03 525 9473 or Celia Sowman on 03 525 8085 or Sonya Leusink-Sladen at the Tasman District Council on 03 543 8409, or email sonya.leusink-sladen@tdc.govt.nz.

Sonya Voldseth - Federated Farmers of NZ, Senior Policy Advisor

Golden Bay Federated Farmers ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10.30am, 1 May 2009
(see page 3 for more information)

ALL WELCOME

BMTT
BRIAN MILLER TRUCK & TRACTOR 2008

YOUR
Case IH
DEALER

FOR ALL YOUR FARMING NEEDS

PH: (03) 544 5723 FAX: (03) 544 5140



CASE IH
AGRICULTURE



Golden Bay's inaugural Federated Farmers FarmDay was hosted by Nigel Harwood on Sunday 1st March.

A great day was had by all and we thank all those who made it such an eventful day.



Federated Farmers Dairy Council round up

Another stimulating and busy year in the dairy industry and on the local issues front for dairy farmers. The recent Federated Farmers Dairy Council meeting in Hamilton highlighted the way the Federation is working (often behind the scenes) in collaborative ways. The need to continue and enhance this was discussed as a way to pool common resources as, after all, dairy farmers are funding DairyNZ, Fonterra and Federated Farmers and by working together, we can better achieve outcomes for farmers. An example of this is in the policy work currently being done with regional councils around the country. Information sharing can greatly reduce doubling up of resources and a three way submission can add weight to the farmer voice regionally and nationally.



Discussions at the Council meeting included a number of topics:

1. The Federated Farmers Dairy Strategy: Through Federated Farmers Dairy representing our members in consultation and particularly in advocacy, the chairman, Lachlan McKenzie, reiterated the four goals of the strategy as:
 - 1) Sustainable dairy industry.
 - 2) Improve perception of dairy industry.
 - 3) Effectively represent members' goals and aspirations to industry and Government.
 - 4) Environment strategy.
 More detail will be available on the website soon.

2. The constitution, which is being tidied up and will go before Federated Farmers National AGM.
3. National Animal Identification and Traceability (NAIT):

Federated Farmers continues to advocate that a robust cost benefit analysis has not been done on NAIT and, if it is done, it will show the costs outweigh the benefits. A road show will tour the country soon with a farm meeting in Nelson to discuss the logistics of the scheme. We do need to keep up to date with proposals and engage in discussions.

4. Remit passed: That, as part of its submission to the Review Committee on the New Zealand National Herd Improvement Database Review, Federated Farmers Dairy asks that the ownership of the database goes to the industry good body (DairyNZ). Management of the database could be contracted out if so required.

It is essential that the data is credible, safe and the intellectual property is protected. Access to the data must be at a fair and reasonable cost. This is also relevant to the NAIT discussion/ concern over the ownership of the intellectual property of the database under the proposed NAIT guidelines. There seems to be some uncertainty over what the information in the database could be used for, e.g. compliance with other regulations such as the ETS.

5. The informal dairy survey done by Federated Farmers showed that the top issues facing dairy farmers in November 2008 were:

- Rising costs including animal feed, fuel and labour.
- Staff issues.
- Milk payout.

I am sure this summary has not changed, but would probably include Fonterra capital structure. This is back on the company radar and Golden Bay Federated Farmers Dairy is hosting Blue Read and Paul Todd of the Shareholders' Council, in Takaka in early June. We



promise a lively and frank discussion and look forward to a good attendance. I honestly believe that dairy farmers in the top of the south are among the most involved and informed in the country!

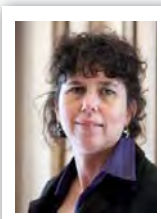
6. The role and structure of co-operatives (it is important for us to really come to grips with this).
7. DairyNZ CEO, Tim Mackle, spoke about key challenges in the future including the increasing pressures being placed on food producers by consumers and retailers, as well as the challenges farmers face when adopting new technology, innovation and opportunities for dairying.

As usual it was a stimulating forum, and on the second day we visited a farm incorporating innovative effluent systems and nutrient management with a covenanted peat lake and wetland.

It is inspirational to have the opportunity to experience and meet with passionate people in our industry. Thank you for your support.

Best wishes for a good strong finish to a very difficult season. Have a well deserved break from milking over the winter, and I hope we have a good start to the 2009/10 season, with a better outlook as the year rolls over.

Michelle Riley - Golden Bay Dairy Chair



A DOLLAR SAVED IS A DOLLAR EARNED

CRT EXISTS FOR ONE SIMPLE REASON - TO USE THE COLLECTIVE POWER OF ITS SHAREHOLDERS TO IMPROVE THEIR INDIVIDUAL PROFITABILITY

393 High St MOTUEKA 03 528 1100
41 McGlashen Ave RICHMOND 03 543 9450



0800 278 583 www.crt.co.nz

Golden Bay Federated Farmers ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



GOLDEN BAY

10.30am, Friday 1 May 2009

**Mussel Inn Bush Cafe
Onekaka, RD 2, Takaka**

AGENDA

- 10.30am** Pre meeting coffee
11.00 Official AGM business
12.00noon Lunch
1.00pm **GUEST SPEAKERS:**
 Don Nicolson, President Federated Farmers of New Zealand
1.30 Sue Brown to speak about Aqua-culture and introduce a speaker from the industry
2.15 John Taylor - John travelled to Victoria to help with fire fighting - **not to be missed**
3.00 Final word from sponsors

SPONSORS

This year our AGM is being sponsored by Brian Miller Truck & Tractor 2008 and CRT - Thank you.

RSVP by Wednesday 30 April 2009 to:

Celia Sowman - Phone: 03 525 8085 | Email: sowmanc@paradise.net.nz

