



Growth and Development Grant Application Form 2009

Name:

Phone number:

Mobile phone number:

Email address:

Postal address:

What level are you currently farming at (e.g. Sharemilker, Manager)?

Are you a member of Federated Farmers? Yes or No

Please accompany application with your agribusiness plan

Please note applications close at 5pm Friday 13 June.

Please return this nomination form to:

Business Development Manager
Abacus Group Ltd
P O Box 22
New Plymouth 4340



LOCAL VOICE

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER



TARANAKI

APRIL/MAY 2009

Changes to AGM format

My first year as your President has come to a close.

This year we are making changes to our Provincial AGM/Conference lay out. Like your own businesses, Taranaki Federated Farmers needs to look at ways to reduce costs. Therefore the Dairy and Meat & Fibre Section AGM's and the Provincial AGM have been combined to form one event. In previous years these events have been held on two separate dates, but the change this year will in no way effect our great selection of industry speakers throughout the day.

In the morning we will hold the Dairy and Meat & Fibre Section AGM's, then move on to our Provincial AGM and Conference. I can not stress enough the importance of attending the AGM and Conference. This is our major event of the year and it is your opportunity to have an input into decisions that affect your industry.

It has been mentioned to me that the Taranaki Federated Farmers Executive Committee is a closed shop. I stress that this is far from the truth. I would more than welcome any new faces around the executive table, so if you would like to be more involved with Federated Farmers, please give me a call on 06 751 4217 or call our office 06 757 3423. A couple of positions may be coming available over the next couple of years, such positions require enthusiastic and knowledgeable people who are keen to add value to the business of farming.

If there are any issues that you would like to raise with Taranaki Federated Farmers, please feel free to call me so that I am able to take your concerns to our executive meetings. After all, you are the members and we are here to represent you the farmers.

Peter Adamski -
Taranaki President



Succession planning

Do you know of someone who could be the voice for farmers in Taranaki?

Taranaki Federated Farmers is being proactive about ensuring that we continue to be the voice for farmers in our province. An action plan has been put in place to make certain that we continue to have the right people representing you and your rights as farmers. To guarantee that we remain an effective organisation, succession planning of our representatives must be considered.

Do you as a loyal member of the Federation know of someone you think may enjoy the challenge of being involved with our organisation?

Maybe you have a son, daughter, son/daughter in law who you think could make a difference or would represent the industry well. We do appreciate farmers' lives are incredibly busy, what with running a business, family and other commitments but, by spending just a few hours a month a person can make a difference and assist in lobbying for an industry that is the backbone of the country.

How to get involved?

Federated Farmers offers an introduction course called "Getting Your Feet Wet". Members are introduced to the Federation's structure and resources. Members listen to presentations by industry experts and



politicians at a two day workshop held in Wellington. The programme is highly interactive and delivered workshop style to suit hands-on types. Participants learn about agricultural politics, advocacy and lobbying. Feed back on this course has been extremely positive and all people who attend thoroughly enjoy themselves and leave feeling inspired.

If you are interested or know of someone that may be, give us a call and we can send you out some information on the "Getting your feet wet course", or alternatively we can give you the phone number of someone from our Executive Committee in your area to have a chat with. They are a friendly bunch who enjoy talking with like minded people.

Peter Adamski - Taranaki President

Trying to keep your rates down!

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, it is now the dreaded Long Term Council Community Plan time. This is when council's are planning what to do over the next 10 years. Tentative budgets and programmes are set for the 10 year period, with the coming year's budget being set in stone. I can assure you that Federated Farmers is trying really hard to keep your rate increases to a minimum. Although it may seem at times like we achieve very little in terms of lobbying council to reduce rates, just imagine what your rates bill would be if it wasn't for Federated Farmers!

In our submission to the Taranaki Regional Council, we asked them to consider a differential system which will be applied to the rates for funding passenger transport. This means that residential ratepayers will pay

more than rural ratepayers for the service as the recipients of such a service will be much more prevalent in the urban sector than the rural sector (for obvious reasons). Federated Farmers also asked that developers pay some sort of development contribution for building within hazard prone areas such as flood zones. This is because it is later up to the ratepayer to fund council's hazard control programmes, which obviously need to be enhanced if development has happened in such areas. This is in light of ratepayers funding increased flood protection of the Waiwakaiho to reduce the chance of a one in 50 year flood to a one in 100 year flood due to the development which has since occurred in this area.

Nicola Ekdahl - Federated Farmers of NZ,
Policy Advisor

Profiles of this year's conference speakers

STUART TRUNDLE



Stuart Trundle is the chief executive of Venture Taranaki Trust, the regional development agency for Taranaki regarded as one of the premier models for economic development in New Zealand. He is also currently Chairman of the Economic Development Association of New Zealand and a member of the board for the Economic Development Centre at AUT.

He is a trustee to the Bashford and Nicholls Trusts that sponsor agricultural scholarships in Taranaki, and lives on a lifestyle block on the slopes of Mt Taranaki with a few sheep surrounded by dairy herds.

Stuart's work in the formation of regional economic development agencies in Poland and Romania were supported by the British Government and European Commission.

PROFESSOR JACQUELINE ROWARTH



'Production, Protection and People'

New Zealand farmers are facing ever greater challenges in terms of maintaining and improving their standard of living, while maintaining and improving their productive environment. Global changes in regulations, subsidies, employment conditions, employee demands and climatic variability exacerbate the challenges, and, as always, it is those who are prepared who will achieve their goals. This talk will consider some of the difficulties ahead, and the ways to work within or around what might appear as barriers.

Jacqueline Rowarth, Director of Massey Agriculture, Massey University, has spent her working life in agriculture. She moved from a degree in Agricultural Science at Massey University into a PhD in Soil Science, and then worked for six years in Plant Improvement with AgResearch, before moving to Lincoln University to teach Plant Science. In 2007 she returned to Massey University from The University of Melbourne (where she was Director of the Office for Environmental Programs), to take up the Foundation Chair

in Pastoral Agriculture. She has always been involved in technology transfer with farmers, and extension with schoolchildren. In 2001 she was elected as a Companion of the Royal Society of NZ, recognising 'pre-eminence in the promotion of science and technology'. In 2003 she was elected as a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural Science in recognition of her contribution to agricultural science. She was also made an honorary member in acknowledgement of her contribution to the profession. In 2008 she was awarded Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Agricultural Science.

JAMES PARSONS



In his early years James grew up in the Waikato, then while still a child, his family shifted north in the 80's, to take up a Lands and Survey Ballot Farm. After leaving school James spent several years as a professional shearer, shepherd, University student and traveller.

In 2001 James formed a company and purchased the family farm off his father. Then in 2002 things got even better when he and Janine married. Now settled down and farming in their own right; James's passion for agriculture started drawing him into many industry good roles. As a big picture, strategic thinker, James found these leadership roles very stimulating. Looking to develop this area he applied for and successfully won a 2008 Nuffield Farming Scholarship. Arguably the most prestigious, life changing leadership award in New Zealand agriculture.

The Nuffield Scholarship involved nearly half a year of funded international travel and study. Over this time James built up a robust knowledge of supply chain principles and in particular how New Zealand's products move along the chain to the consumer. He discovered an incredible amount of potential value is destroyed rather than created simply because the typical supply chain is designed so badly. What's more the value New Zealand meat and wool producers created was not being captured.

Applications Open for 2nd Annual Growth & Development Grant

Abacus Group Limited's Directors provide advice and insurance brokerage in the areas of health, income protection, trauma and life insurance and are specialists when it comes to risk assessment for farm and business owners and farmers of all levels.

Abacus Group is delighted to be a major regional sponsor of Federated Farmers Taranaki Provincial District. This partnership began in March 2006 and arose from our desire to financially contribute to the benefit of the farming community in Taranaki.

Every day the team at Abacus Group works alongside passionate, committed people who are driven by vision and a hunger for success. Failure is not an option to any of our clients.

Abacus Group wishes to continuously and actively contribute to the success of the farming community in Taranaki. Therefore, in conjunction with Federated Farmers Taranaki, we are again pleased to offer the Abacus Group Growth and Development Grant for 2009.

Members and prospective members of the Taranaki Provincial District of Federated Farmers are invited to enter the competition for the grant. \$4,000 will be awarded to the winner.

In 2009, the grant will be offered for the best agribusiness plan (5,000 word limit) put forward by anyone actively farming. This will be judged independently, using the SMART goal criteria. That is, goals must be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely.

Applicants can be farming at any level and there is no age limit.

Application Forms can be obtained from the back of this newsletter, from the Abacus Group office (337 Devon Street East, New Plymouth) or online at www.abacusgroup.co.nz. Your application form must be posted to us along with your agribusiness plan by **5pm Friday 13 June**.

Your contact details and plan will be treated confidentially. The winner will be announced as soon as possible after judging has been completed. All applicants will be notified of the outcome by mail.

If you have any queries about the grant please call Rob at Abacus Group on 759 0111.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS & CONFERENCE



TARANAKI

9am, 22 May 2009

The Courtenay Room, Devon Hotel

390 Devon Street, New Plymouth

- 9.00am** **FEDERATED FARMERS DAIRY TARANAKI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** (concluding 11am)
- 9.00am** **FEDERATED FARMERS MEAT & FIBRE TARANAKI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
- 10.00am** **MEAT & WOOL NEW ZEALAND CONSULTATION MEETING**
Meat & Wool New Zealand is holding a referendum of sheep, goat and cattle farmers in August 2009 to obtain a mandate for industry good activities, funded by a compulsory levy on sheep, beef, goats and wool. Anyone owning sheep, cattle or goats is eligible to vote. Mike Petersen (Chairman) or Scott Champion (CEO), as well as members of the Meat & Wool New Zealand Senior Executive team and Ron Frew (Director) will be attending.
- 11.00am** **Morning Tea**
- 11.05am** **PROVINCIAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
Opening Address:
Don Nicolson - President Federated Farmers of New Zealand
- 1.00pm** **Lunch**
- 2.00pm** **CONFERENCE**
Guest Speakers:
Conor English - Chief Executive, Federated Farmers of New Zealand
James Parsons - 2008 Nuffield Scholar and Meat & Wool New Zealand Director
Stuart Trundle - Chief Executive, Venture Taranaki Trust
Professor Jacqueline Rowarth - Massey University, Director of Massey Agriculture
- 3.30pm** **Afternoon tea**
- 5.30pm** **DRINKS AND DINNER** - \$35.00 per person (includes drinks)
Then join us for a **ROCK 'N' ROLL EXTRAVAGANZA**

RSVP by Friday 8 May 2009 (with payment if attending dinner) to:

Shelley Porteous, Taranaki Federated Farmers, PO Box 422, New Plymouth 4340
Phone: 06 757 3423 | Fax: 06 757 3424 | Email: taranaki@fedfarm.org.nz

Congratulations

Congratulations to Neville Wallace, member of Taranaki Federated Farmers, for winning the Federated Farmers Farm Day photo competition.

Neville supplies many of the fantastic photos we use in our newsletters. Here is Neville's winning entry.

