

LOCAL VOICE

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER



HAURAKI-COROMANDEL

DECEMBER 2009

Another year of highs and lows

We are seeing some good lamb prices, but wool is a disaster. Beef and bull prices are well down on last year. Dairying is starting low, but now most farmers should be showing positive budgets for the season, although many OD's are still high.



Bank attitudes appear to be softening. Six months ago farmers were ringing me concerned at the pressure they were being put under. It is amazing how two dairy payout rises changes perceptions. Budget honestly, talk regularly with your bank - with no surprises they will work with you. Costs of production continue to rise and farmers will need to adapt to a future of bigger highs and lows in product prices. A strong dollar compounds farmer's woes but is symptomatic of the size of the New Zealand economy.

The Emotion Trading Scheme (ETS) has been passed through Parliament. Federated Farmers has strongly opposed the ETS. We questioned the science involved, the cost estimates put out by different political parties and government officials, and the burden which will be charged to farmers and the New Zealand public. The only consolation so far is National's scheme is projected to charge New Zealand farmers \$3,000pa by 2030 against Labour's \$30,000. Farmers will get a breathing space till 2015 to pursue research to reduce methane emissions. A hard ask to adapt centuries of animal breeding and plant feeding. Federated Farmers will continue to press to protect our industries from hefty tax burdens.

Federated Farmers of NZ Council Meeting

Federated Farmers held their council meeting in November. Key speakers were John Key PM, Phil Goff and Nick Smith. All

reaffirmed their commitment to supporting agriculture as the mainstay and key earner in the New Zealand economy. They all considered that our clean green products would be keenly sourced throughout the world, but especially in Asia where Free Trade Deals look imminent. All three then used this to justify the ETS, saying if we were not in the ETS we would be attacked by environmental groups and consumers and our products black listed.

Let us hope that negotiations at Copenhagen go well for New Zealand, the only country in the world to include animal emissions.

Property rights

The right to farm our farms is constantly under threat from government, regional and local councils and those with many ulterior motives. Heritage sites, indemnifying outstanding and amenity landscapes, significant natural areas, natural hazard rules and identifying natural character areas will all impact on some farmers.

Nationally government continues to regulate and push through think good projects. National water quality standards will cost Hauraki Council and ultimately its ratepayers \$13million.

The work load of Federated Farmers is ever increasing.

Farm Day will take place again next year on Sunday 28 March. Funding from the Sustainable Farming Fund has been approved for three years to help publicise and run the event in March. Only good can come from town people understanding rural issues. Hauraki-Coromandel need a host farm not too far from our major towns.

Last year Neil & Glenda Gray's farm was a great venue, but unfortunately not so well attended. Federated Farmers have great ideas and a great support team and we would also love to hear your suggestions.

Hoping to see many of you at our Christmas outing and that all enjoy a Happy Christmas and a more prosperous New Year.

John Sanford - Hauraki-Coromandel President



Meat & Fibre Report

It has been a difficult season so far for our sheep and beef sector with beef and wool prices very disappointing. Lamb is starting to decline in value, affected by our high dollar.



We need some good rain to boast pastures before the summer heat sets in.

The recent vote on sheep, beef, goat and wool levies showed that farmers have given up on wool. It is also disappointing that so many farmers did not even vote on the levy proposals.

Protestors of 1080 poison have been very active around the Peninsula. The situation at Boat Harbour, whereby a standoff by Police and protestors on private farmland was of real concern for landowners. The peaceful result and the completion of the 1080 project was a good outcome.

All the best for the festive season.

Mike Morrison - Meat & Fibre Chairperson



Federated Farmers FARM DAY 2010

is set for
SUNDAY, 28 MARCH

Please mark this date in your diaries as we would appreciate members' support.

Federated Farmers keeps a weather eye

Federated Farmers Regional Policy Advisors work on Local Government issues in your region. We deal with: the Resource Management Act, which directs regional and district policies and rules; the Local Government Act and council budgets in their Annual Plans and Long Term Council Community Plans (LTCCP's); and Bylaws. We are always keeping watch of what councils are doing and how their decisions may affect farmers. Here are some examples of what your regional policy advisor is doing for the Hauraki-Coromandel Province of Federated Farmers ...

Coromandel Peninsular Blueprint

The Coromandel Peninsular Blueprint project, which is being run by the Thames Coromandel District Council, will be entering a new phase next year. The Blueprint project is a strategy looking at growth and development in the Thames Coromandel District and ways to encourage it in some areas, and control it so that services can keep up. So far the "Preferred Futures" report has been completed for the whole peninsular and the next step will be local consultation for local area Blueprints early next year.



The Blueprint strategy is a non-statutory document; meaning that it is not required by the Resource Management Act 1991. However, strategies can then be used by planners to guide policies and rules in the District Plan. Federated Farmers will be involved as the local area Blueprint documents are being developed, by meeting with the Council and preparing submissions.

Regional Policy Statement

Environment Waikato (EW) is currently reviewing their Regional Policy Statement document. A Regional Policy Statement is required under the Resource Management Act and it outlines the management of natural resources such as water, air and soil. A Regional Policy Statement establishes the policy framework for council planning documents, district plans and rules. The statement also outlines what responsibilities

the regional council will take on and what the district councils should be doing.



So far EW released a discussion document in May 2009. Draft chapters will be released for stakeholder consultation at the end of 2009 and the final step is the officially notified Statement, which is scheduled to be out mid 2010. Federated Farmers has been actively engaged with EW throughout the process and we have also been collaborating with DairyNZ on issues that effect dairy farmers.

There is a risk that EW wants to increase regulation of all farmers and their normal farming activities, even if these farmers are already following good practice. In order to see realised improvement in water quality, Federated Farmers believes that all land uses and industries must be included in a holistic and integrated approach. To focus on one industry only would be inequitable and will not produce the water quality result desired.

Regional Stock Truck Effluent Strategy

Federated Farmers has also been involved with EW developing a Regional Stock Truck Effluent Strategy. Federated Farmers has been part of the working group discussing issues and have submitted comments on the draft chapters. The officially notified Strategy will be out for public submissions around the end of this year.

Federated Farmers has been advocating for three basic principles of minimising stock truck effluent discharges to be in the Regional Strategy. The first principle requires that livestock are stood before transport by farmers. The second principle is that simple and appropriate methods to collect and dispose of effluent from trucks delivering stock are used, perhaps disposal sites could be located at saleyards, or private truck companies have their own disposal site. The third principle is that a co-ordinated approach is in place to control spillage onto roads by good communication between all those directly and indirectly involved with the handling and transportation of stock. This means that councils, farmers and truck companies should all work together.

EW had identified that image to tourists was Objective Number 1, but Federated Farmers believes that effective and efficient management of stock truck effluent should be the first priority. Federated Farmers is strongly supporting a voluntary and co-operative industry management of the issue, which will eliminate the need for compulsory legislation.

It is important for policy advisors and farmers to work together when dealing with local councils. Members' input is especially effective at hearings, because councillors can see how their decisions impact on real people who work and farm in their district. Together we have a strong voice. Your Regional Policy Advisor for Hauraki-Coromandel values members' input and is available if you have any questions about how council decisions affect your farm.

**Rhea Dasent - Regional
Policy Advisor for the
Hauraki-Coromandel Province
of Federated Farmers**



Hauraki District Plan

The Hauraki District Council is racing through their district plan review. The Council is looking to notify the plan for public submissions in February 2010. This haste could be to the District Council's detriment, as they may need to take into account changes in the Regional Policy Statement, which Environment Waikato is currently working on. Federated Farmers is currently looking through draft chapters of the district plan and will be preparing a submission.

Members are strongly advised to check the planning maps to see if their property is within a landscape overlay. Landscape overlays go over the top of zoning and mean that separate and more stringent rules will apply. The Hauraki District Plan will have Outstanding and Significant landscapes, as well as Amenity Protection Areas. These areas are not just confined to DoC estates and national parks, but are often located in rural farmed landscapes.

Federated Farmers opposes the protection of rural working landscapes for amenity purposes. This fails to recognise that working landscapes are subject to human activity and change, and has been shaped by agricultural activities over several generations, and will continue to be so.

Rhea Dasent will be preparing the Hauraki-Coromandel Federated Farmers submission to the Hauraki District Plan.

Hauraki-Coromandel Federated Farmers

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

ALL DAY TRIP

9.15am, Tuesday 15 December 2009

Leaving from Ngatea Sports Centre, Ngatea Domain

TOUR OF:

Aquaculture at Coromandel and the Firth of Thames

with Peter Vitasovich, Managing Director of Greenshell New Zealand Ltd and Chairman of Aquaculture New Zealand

Sugar Loaf, Te Kouma, Coromandel

(Weather permitting, which means we will be going by boat)

and

Lunch will be a BBQ including mussels and mussel fritters on the boat

COST: \$50 per person (Includes bus, boat trip, lunch and drinks)

RSVP no later than Thursday 10 December (*numbers are limited*) to:

Bev Sanford

Phone: 07 869 0080 | Email: jsanford@xtra.co.nz **OR**

Post with money to: PO Box 197, Thames 3540



Difficult last six months

Climate

The last six months in our province have again been very a difficult period for dairy farming, with changeable conditions impacting seriously on production. Currently it is becoming very dry, however, rain is forecast for the next few days and will be very welcome if we get it.



Payout

An increase in the forecast payout of .95 cents (to \$6.05kg/ms) was a surprise. This has eased an increasing financial burden for most dairy farmers.

Commodities continue to increase and we look forward to some stability in the payout.

Provincial Activities and Current Issues

Effluent

Effluent is still a challenging area for all concerned. Environment Waikato are continuing to put pressure on dairy farmers and introducing tighter controls around effluent management. This includes run-off from stand-off pads (concrete and sawdust), race run-off and sand trap solids etc.

We continue to work with all parties concerned to get a better outcome for farmers.

Federated Farmers Farm Day

This will be held again nationally on Sunday 28 March 2010. To date our province has not confirmed a venue. We are asking for as much support as possible from members with ideas and help on the day.

Water

I have recently been involved with discussions on 'Smart Water Use' in the Hauraki/Coromandel area. This is a local government and dairy industry initiative involving rural and urban communities.

We are all becoming more concerned with water use issues and moving forward water will be a very important topic.

Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

Nationally Federated Farmers are consulting continually with the Government against the current proposed legislation. The ETS in its current form adds huge costs to the dairy industry and farmers.

Dairy Industry Awards

Any farmers thinking about entering are encouraged to do so. Anyone who knows someone that could enter please encourage them to do so. This can be a very rewarding experience both personally and business alike.

**Kevin Robinson -
Hauraki-Coromandel
Dairy Chairperson**



RURAL SUPPORT NETWORK

Do not forget the Waikato, Hauraki/Coromandel Rural Support help number:

0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)

For all rural people experiencing stress for whatever reason contact Rural Help. Rural Help is available 24/7 all calls are confidential and they are available to everyone not just Federated Farmers members.

New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards 2010

This year's convenors are Ciarán & Sarah Tully, phone: 07 867 5330.

Entries are now open for:

Sharemilker Section – 50/50, Variable-order and Equity Farming, 25%-50% equity can now enter the competition.

Farm Managers Section – Contract Milkers and Managers

Dairy Trainees – must be 18 years or over as at the 20 December 2009.

Entries Close: 24 December 2009

For more information and entry forms visit the website: www.dairyindustryawards.co.nz

If you know of anyone that should take part please encourage them to enter this fantastic competition. Some of the key reasons to being part of the competition include:

- Early bird prize of \$1,000.
- The chance to meet like minded people.
- The Regional and National prize pools including cash and sponsors products including fertiliser and motorbikes.
- The chance to improve and learn more about their business.
- This year's job market will be the toughest I have ever seen and this competition will definitely help give them an edge.
- The banking industry has changed dramatically; they are no longer throwing

money around. They will look favourably on businesses and people who are analysing and benchmarking their businesses. I personally have gained most from the financial scrutiny and advice I have received through this competition.

- The networks gained through contact with the committees, judges and sponsors are huge.



- This is an exciting time in terms of opportunities to grow our businesses, either buying young stock as a younger person, or going sharemilking or equity sharemilking. Entering the competition will give you the edge.

Other dates to remember

Judging starts on **9 February 2010** for Sharemilker and Farm Manager Section

Dairy Trainee of the Year – February 2010
Theme for 2010 - Farming Kiwiana

Dinner - Alexander Park on Thursday 11 March 2010

Fieldday Dates

SMOTY – 25 March 2010

FMOTY – 30 March 2010

Federated Farmers is a major sponsor of these awards.

In addition, Federated Farmers Sharemilker Section have organised a meeting with Fonterra Directors on **Thursday 17 December, The Distinction Hotel, Rotorua 6.30pm.**

This meeting will inform sharemilkers and farm owners of the way payments are to be made regarding milk price/ value add. This is an important topic for all parties, as it could well affect sharemilkers incomes.

For details contact: Chris Moore, Chairperson, Federated Farmers Rotorua/ Taupo Sharemilkers' Section:

Phone: 07 332 2800

Mobile: 027 288 0563 or

Email: chris.teresa@farmside.co.nz

Hauraki Coromandel Province will be holding a similar meeting in February, for further details contact: Jeff Alley Phone: 07 862 4827 or Ciarán Tully 07 867 5330.

Jeff Alley & Ciarán Tully - Hauraki-Coromandel Sharemilkers Section



The Eastern Waikato Police are looking at establishing a rural support e-mail scheme in the Hauraki and Thames Coromandel areas.

This has been operating in the Matamata Piako area for a number of years and has proven to be a positive means of communicating with the rural sector of the district.

This system involves Police updating rural residents on a regular basis with relevant information on offending within their area, as well as some means of prevention to help reduce the opportunity of becoming a victim.

Recipients are then encouraged to contact Police with any suspicious activity they may have seen. Information on its own may seem unimportant; however, with other information held by Police, this could result in offenders being apprehended.

This network is open to all rural residents and any personal details or information supplied to Police is treated in confidence. Any information that is received regarding any suspicious behaviour is treated in confidence.

If you are interested in receiving these updates and would like to be included in this

email, please complete the slip below and return by post or fax to the details below:

**O/C Rural Support Email
C/- Thames Police Station
P O Box 715
THAMES**

Fax: (07) 867 9601

However, we cannot stress enough, if there is anything at all that you are unsure about, or suspicious of, please contact the Police at the time, as this is our best opportunity to catch the offenders.

Name: _____

Address: _____

(please include rapid number)

Phone Home: _____

Phone Work: _____

Phone Mobile: _____

Other: How many dwellings located on property: _____

E-Mail Address: _____