

Meat & Wool New Zealand renamed

At their AGM, held in Te Kuiti on 24th March and which Bruce Wills attended, Meat & Wool announced their new name as "Beef and Lamb New Zealand Ltd". The name change was driven by their exiting the wool levy area as of 19th April.



The new name strengthens the alignment with the Beef + Lamb New Zealand Inc (a body that has responsibility for promoting beef and lamb in the domestic market and for which Beef and Lamb New Zealand Ltd is the principal funder).

Noteworthy also was the presence of their two recently elected Directors (Kirsten Bryant and Anne Munro) who formally joined the Beef and Lamb New Zealand Limited Board at the conclusion of the meeting. Kirsten is the Federation's Meat & Fibre chairperson for the Ruapehu province.

**David Burt - Federated Farmers of NZ,
Meat & Fibre Policy Advisor**

Contracts, agreements and leases

Remember Federated Farmers has Contracts, Agreements and Leases available. These include land, stock, contractor, sales and purchase, agreement to grow, log books, access pads, Over Dimension Certificates and employment.

Remember, it's a legal requirement to have an employment contract for EVERY employee so if you don't have a current employment agreement, then order one now.

Contracts, agreements and leases are available in both electronic and hard copy formats for your convenience.

To purchase, call **0800 FARMING** (0800 327 646) or visit www.fedfarm.org.nz/n1112.html

Dairy Grazing

Apparently the Waikato District is becoming very dry and there have been reports that dairy farmers are starting to look for quality grazing.



If you require dairy cows to graze on your property it has been suggested that an advertisement in the Waikato Times may be 'rewarding'.



The Totalspan Undercover Kids Bus Shelter Programme is about to give away more bus shelters to schools with rural bus routes.

This year there will be one round of applications with the aim of approving 100 shelters. Applications close on **Friday 30 April 2010**, with successful applicants being announced in mid-June.

For more information or to download an application form please go to www.totalspan.co.nz. If you would prefer a printed application form please contact Jaimee Cumberpatch by email: jcumberpatch@spanbild.co.nz.

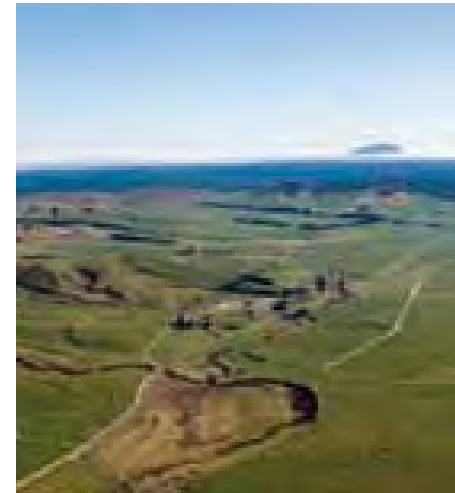
This is our way of thanking the communities in which we do business.



HAWKE'S BAY

Taharua River catchment update

A lot of media attention has been given to the pollution of our waterways by the farming community. Let me state from the outset that farming does and always will have an impact on the environment. But farmers are judged by the way we mitigate that impact by working with regional councils and other stakeholders. The area currently garnering the most attention is the Taharua River, which is a tributary of the Mohaka River, making up about 10 percent of its catchment.



The Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) has been monitoring this catchment since 1999 but it wasn't until 2006 that high levels of nitrogen were found in the Taharua River. This affected stream ecology, which led to algal growth, discoloured water, smaller invertebrates and less trout. The loss of phosphorus into waterways is also being investigated.

Although it is thought the nutrients are leaching from the dairy farms, HBRC needs the science to prove it. A majority of the farmed area in the catchment was developed in the early eighties for sheep and beef grazing and it wasn't until the late nineties that conversion to dairy began. The area's pumice based soils are obviously prone to leaching nutrients because they are so porous, which is why the HBRC has been gathering scientific data to put a case for limiting the effects of land use. The HBRC has put six wells of varying depths down to find out where the nutrients originated.

It is questionable whether the nutrients come from overland flow or from subterranean

sources. Has it all come from the dairy farms or is some of it from the original land development phase of the eighties? These questions linger as we know from work done around the Taupo catchment that the lag effect for nutrients entering the lake can be up to 80 years.

That's why Hawke's Bay Federated Farmers has been involved with the HBRC's work along with other stakeholders such as local Fish and Game representatives, Fonterra, land owners, Local Government and affected Iwi. At a recent meeting at Poronui Lodge, it was heartening to see all the affected parties around the table seeking a solution to a very complex issue. There are also plenty of ongoing initiatives which aim to address the problem. The HBRC's land management staff are working with land owners to instigate "best practice" on the dairy farms, while a vast majority of farmers are fencing off riparian zones around waterways, keeping stock out of streams and rivers, altering winter stock management practices and implementing the latest effluent systems.

Recently David Hunt and I had the opportunity to drift dive the Mohaka River above and below the confluence of the Taharua River. The proliferation of algal growth immediately below where the Taharua River enters the Mohaka is a sure sign of nutrient loss into the water system. As part of the stakeholder group we must now work to identify solutions to this problem while protecting our right to farm.

By July 2010, HBRC scientists should have reliable data to make further recommendations on controlling land use effects in this fragile catchment. But until then I have to ask urban readers out there, who sometimes blame polluting farmers, are you from the 'flush and forget' brigade? Do you question the impact on the environment of everything you do? Farmers have to make a living from the land. Our families and our country depend on what we produce from that land. Farmers genuinely care about their environment and will constantly change the way they do things to limit their impact.

Kevin Mitchell - President, Hawke's Bay

APRIL 2010

New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards - Hawke's Bay/Wairarapa

Congratulations to the New Zealand Dairy Industry (NZDIA) Hawke's Bay/Wairarapa regional winners.

We are proud supporters of these awards and see this as a great way to encourage leadership in the industry and for the entrants to develop their skills.

The 2010 Hawke's Bay/Wairarapa Sharemilker of the Year has been awarded to Clarence and Elise Stolte, who also take home the Federated Farmers of New Zealand Leadership Award.

The 2010 Hawke's Bay/Wairarapa Farm Manager of the Year winner is Monty Monteith and the 2010 Hawke's Bay/Wairarapa Dairy Trainee of the Year award has gone to Darrell Rose.



Are you complying with employment law?

Does your farm worker have a written employment agreement?

Have you ever hired someone, only to find out that they misrepresented their abilities and couldn't do the job? Have you had a worker that is taking stock they aren't entitled to? What about the worker that just walks off the farm one day and takes your expensive farm equipment? If nothing like this has happened, you have been lucky. The risk is will that luck continue?



To minimise your risk (and potentially increase your luck) you need to comply with the law. The first thing you must do to comply is have written employment agreements for all your farm employees.

All it takes is one employment law savvy worker who may be disgruntled about how they have been treated and you could be facing legal action. Your potential exposure is huge, in terms of defending a claim but also as the failure to provide a written employment agreement can result in fines up to \$10,000.

On your side is a recent law change which says that if you employ less than 20 people you can dismiss an employee within the first 90 days of their employment and they can not take legal action. The catch is that you must have this trial period spelt out in their employment agreement.

To order your employment agreement contact Federated Farmers' Customer Services on 0800 327 646.

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Federated Farmers feed list

The Federated Farmers feed lists, which include both feed wanted and feed available, can be accessed via the **0800 DROUGHT** line (0800 376 844) or by visiting <http://www.fedfarm.org.nz/n536.html>

The drought line and feed lists are available to both members and non-members of Federated Farmers.



Hawke's Bay dairy farmers doing well



The latest results (2008/09 season) for the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord present a challenge for New Zealand's entire dairy industry. The rise in serious non-compliance with effluent consent conditions or plan

rules from 12 to 15 percent nationally is disappointing.

However, the Hawke's Bay region's dairy farmers can hold their heads high. Over 80 percent of the region's 75 Fonterra-supplier dairy farms are now fully compliant, up from 74 percent in the 2007/08 season, with just five percent being significantly non-compliant.

These improvements are also a reflection of a proactive partnership approach taken by Federated Farmers, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, DairyNZ and Fonterra to work together to address the environmental impacts of dairying. Well done!

Farm Day full of wonder and fun

It was a wonderful day (Sunday 28 March) at Phillip and Robyn Holt's farm as we celebrated Federated Farmers Farm Day.



There was a great one hour farm walk that took visitors up a hill to overlook both the Holt farm and the Ahuriri Estuary. This allowed visitors to view two generations of tree planting and get an understanding of farming on summer dry hills. On the way back visitors could see the water storage dams the Holt family have built to ensure they have sufficient water for their animals.

Livestock was on display with a mob of 1,400 ewes in a small paddock, a mob of cows/heifers behind a hot wire, weaners in the cattle yards being orally drenched and ear tagged, lambs in the yards being drenched and drafted, whilst in the woolshed a vet with a microscope was doing faecal egg counts.

Various farm gear was also on display on the wool table and a wonderful photo display of farming throughout the decades was on display. A shearer contributed to the day by shearing a couple of sheep for each group of visitors and visitors got to feel the freshly shorn sheep and handle the wool.

Another display area was set up under the woolshed where two heading pups entertained the children. Last year's pet calf was nameless, but after a competition to name the calf she is now known as Toffee. She tolerated being patted, but best of all loved being fed by the children.

Down beside the sheep yards a Racewell

Auto-weighing and drafting machine was set-up. Farmers find this is a great tool to use, but again visitors were fascinated at the technology behind the equipment. The children loved being "clamped" weighed and drafted according to their live weight!

A small scale dog trials course was also in operation. Huntaway's and Heading dogs showed farm visitors just how we move sheep and how highly trained farm dogs are.

The day would not have gone so smoothly without the wonderful support of the Napier Boys High School and Napier Girls High School Farm Club, who distributed flyers and helped promote the event. They also ran a sausage sizzle.



The Rural Delivery TV team arrived early and started filming amongst much laughter. Hawke's Bay was the only Farm Day they covered so we look forward to 'being on TV'.

The Holt family had compiled a sheet of bullet points about the farm-history, management etc. - highlighting the environmental theme of a green farmer, much of which farmers do as second nature as we live at our place of work and many farms are inter-generational. The old adage 'leave it better than you got it' is a belief all farmers who have been part of Farm Day hold true.

A huge Thank You to everyone who contributed to make this a successful day.

Tania Kerr
Secretary - Hawke's Bay

Dairy Industry Restructuring Act (DIRA)

Federated Farmers continues to show an interest in the (DIRA). Another submission to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry was made on the future of the DIRA as the sunset clauses set out for it in 2001 are due to be triggered in the next year or two.

Federated Farmers submitted that the DIRA be allowed to expire as originally planned but advocated for the retention of the Raw Milk Regulations, as long as the pricing mechanism provided a fair, efficient price. (February 2010)

Ann Thompson - Federated Farmers of NZ,
Dairy Policy Advisor

Council establishes governance groups

Hawke's Bay Regional Council has established two groups to provide the Council with guidance on the Ruataniwha Plains water storage project.



The Project Leadership Group will focus on the critical market, economic and financial issues and provide oversight and direction to the Council's project management team.

Appointments to the Project Leadership Group have been made. Central Hawke's Bay farmer and current Chairman of AgResearch, Sam Robinson has been selected as Chair.

Council is still working on making appointments to the Stakeholder Liaison Group. It is likely that this group will include a landowner who is potentially affected by water storage, the Department of Conservation, non-governmental organisations such as Fish & Game and Forest and Bird, and a representative from the Tamatea Taiwhenua.

Brigid Buckley - Federated Farmers of NZ,
Policy Advisor

FARM INSURANCE

A significant rain event near Te Pohue earlier this year washed out many farm bridges. This then raised the issue of insurance and who pays. We recommend that farmers check with their own insurance companies and ask if their farm bridges are insured or whether they need to be identified and separately insured.

FEDERATED FARMERS HAWKE'S BAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



HAWKE'S BAY

1.00-2.30PM, WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2010

PARK ESTATE WINERY, PAKOWHAI ROAD

(BETWEEN HASTINGS AND NAPIER)

Members and non-members are all welcome to attend all or part of the days events.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear what your Provincial Executive team has been doing on your behalf.

PROGRAMME

12.00noon LUNCH

1.00pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2.30pm Afternoon tea

3.00pm GUEST SPEAKER:

Professor Jacqueline Rowarth - Massey University

Subject: Understanding Generation Y and how they (our future farmers) think

This topic is very relevant to those who employ staff or have 'young farmers' in their families. It is also applicable to those involved in education.

Jacqueline will also be speaking on how to attract young adults into our industry.

4.30pm DRINKS

We have nominations for all roles, but if you are interested in being part of the team please talk, in confidence, to Kevin Mitchell - President. Phone: 06 834 0301 or Email: kevr@xtra.co.nz

RSVPs would be appreciate, but please feel free to turn up on the day:

Contact: Tania Kerr

Email: hawkesbay@fedfarm.org.nz Phone: 06 834 9604

