

The single biggest issue to affect your future farming practice and New Zealand's sustainability since the removal of subsidies:

THE EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

There is one thing you need to understand:

THIS WILL EFFECT YOU

Federated Farmers is holding the first in a series of workshops to help get this message out and as a result:

- (i) Gauge your response to aid in our defence
- (ii) Keep you informed and aware of the impact it will have on you and your farming practice.

Thursday 3rd July 2008

10am, Clifton Rugby Club (Tikorangi) and 2pm, Hawera Bowling Club

Speakers:

Gary Bedford, Taranaki Regional Council
Frank Benmuhl, Federated Farmers of New Zealand Board

These are member only workshops, but we urge everyone who is associated with agriculture to become a member now so together we can tackle the biggest issue to face our farming future.

RSVP:

06 7573423 or taranaki@fedfarm.org.nz

A pair of silver glasses were left at the Taranaki Federated Farmers Conference on the 23rd May at the Devon Hotel. We have them here at the office, so if they sound like yours please collect at 15 Young St, New Plymouth.

HAVE WE GOT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Let us know if you do not receive Federated Farmers information via email and would like to.

Email us at taranaki@fedfarm.org.nz to have your email address added to our database.

COUNCIL NOTICE OF MEETING

11:00am Tuesday 8 July 2008

TET Multisports Centre, Stratford

The Council meeting has been called to discuss and approve expenditure on the Taranaki Federated Farmers building.

ALL WELCOME

RSVP for catering purposes to:
Shelley Porteous | Phone: 06 757 3423

A big thank you to Riverlands who kindly supplied the meat for our Conference. Your donation was greatly appreciated.

RIVERLANDS

Employment Seminars Mark your diary now!!

14 October 2008, 2:00pm
Services & Citizens Club
1 Princess Street, Dannivirke

15 October 2008, 2:30pm
RSA, 200 Broadway Ave,
Palmerston North

16 October 2008, 10:00am
RSA, 170 St Hill Street, Wanganui

16 October 2008, 2:30pm
TET Multisport Centre, Portia Street,
Stratford

17 October 2008, 10:00am
(Optional)
TET Multisport Centre, Portia Street,
Stratford

**For more information or to register
phone: 0800 327 646**

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Taranaki Federated Farmers of New Zealand publishes regular newsletters to keep our members informed

Provincial President: Peter Adamski, 06 751 4217

Meat & Fibre: Graham Fergus, 06 762 7967

Sharemilkers' Section: Frances Cooper, 06 765 8025

Vice President:

Dairy Chairperson: Caroline Gilbert, 06 762 2992

Sharemilkers' Employers: Bill Laurence, 06 764 8826

Executive:

Aaron Boddington, 06 756 8254; Neville Hagenson, 06 752 3952;
Neville Wallace, 06 278 6005; Graeme Hight, 06 754 4404; Alastair Keech, 06 278 4867;
Jim Duff, 06 752 7100; Derek Gibson, 06 752 7642; Charles Bayly, 06 762 2857

Taranaki Office:

Shelley Porteous, Phone: 06 757 3423 | Fax: 06 757 3424 | Email: taranaki@fedfarm.org.nz

For comments on this newsletter or if you wish to join Federated Farmers please contact

TARANAKI

JUNE 2008

New face at the helm

I look forward to working with the new executive. Firstly I would like to thank Bryan for his efforts over the past three years at the helm of Taranaki Federated Farmers. He brought his own personality to the role as President of Taranaki Federated Farmers of New Zealand. At the provincial AGM we also lost long serving South representative, Alastair Keech.

We welcome onto the executive two new members; Derek Gibson, Vice Chairman for the Federated Farmers Dairy and Charles Bayly representative for the Central region. Frances Cooper is the new Chairperson for the Sharemilkers' section. Other executive members remain the same or move into new positions.

Fonterra's announcement of a \$7.90 forecasted payout, with a starting rate of \$7.00 for next season is wonderful news for dairy farmers and the rest of the wider community. It will give those entering the industry a good start for the future.

During the AGM Aaron Boddington

announced plans for changes to the Taranaki Federated Farmers building. Plans and costings (as well expected returns) were put to those present. The proposal was unanimously supported by those members at the AGM.

The final decision will be made at a council meeting to be held on 8 July, 11am at the TET Multi Sports Centre, Stratford. We welcome your feed back.



A remit was passed at the AGM requesting that Federated Farmers should demand that the Emissions Trading Scheme be abandoned until such time as the science can be proved.

We will be holding workshops on the 3rd July to keep you informed and to gauge your response on the ETS (please see the advert on the back page for details).

There were three more remits that came forward including one around mental health in the community, this will be tabled at the National Federated Farmers Conference in Christchurch. Another is for the executive to work with Powerco regarding electricity supply to the rural community when affected by climatic events. Finally, a remit was put forward for the eradication of possums in Taranaki and this being paid for by the Taranaki Regional Council.

I am looking forward to the coming year. Your executive will be working hard on your behalf at hearings with the council, as well as understanding and dealing with the Emissions Trading Scheme and how these affect agriculture.



**Peter Adamski - President
Taranaki Federated Farmers**

Prices improving slowly

As I write this report we are getting some much needed rain, which will hopefully kick the grass into gear, although this will be very difficult considering the cold weather we have had.

Many farmers are finding themselves in a situation with very little feed as we head into the winter months. This is going to cause further pressure on farmers and stock as many farmers still have too many mouths to feed due to the tough summer/autumn we have had.

On the positive side we are seeing increases in the beef and lamb schedules at the moment due to a lack of supply. The lamb schedule

is now back up over \$4.00 and there is talk of it heading upward. Good store lambs are making around \$1.60kg LWT, while smaller types are proving harder to sell. A 300kg steer is fetching \$3.60kg carcass weight. Good short-term cattle, i.e. quick traders, are selling well, but any longer-term stock have proved more difficult to sell.

Wool prices have been steadily improving due to the increase in demand and lack of supply. \$3kg was achieved for a line of wool from Taranaki for the first time in a few years. Whilst this may still be short of where it should be, it is still a positive improvement and could be a sign of better things to come.

At the end of April we held our Meat & Fibre AGM at the TET Stadium in Stratford. This was very successful with a great turn-out and it is pleasing to see many new faces with an interest in their industry.

The elected officers are: Chairman, Graham Fergus; Vice Chairman, Neville Wallace; Junior Vice Chairman, Trevor Hepburn; Northern Area Rep, Clive Gaustard; Central Area Rep, Bruce Cleland; Southern Area

Rep, William Brewer; and Eastern Area Rep, Marie Masters. It is good to see new blood coming through and I look forward to working with you all.

During the evening Mike Petersen from Meat and Wool NZ spoke about the current situation and looking into the future for both meat and wool. The outlook for beef and lamb is very positive.

A highlight of the evening was our guest speaker, Sarah von Dodelsen, who spoke on the positiveness of China and its growing population and wealth and its effect on New Zealand.

Our annual AGM/conference was held at the Devon Hotel in New Plymouth and it was, once again, great to see a good turn out. This was Bryan Hocken's last conference as President and it was a great evening. It was sad to see Bryan go, but we look forward to working with Peter Adamski who has taken over the 'hot seat'.

**Graham Fergus, Taranaki Meat & Fibre
Chairman**



Farewell to Bryan

As you will all know by now Bryan Hocken stood down at the provincial AGM after being the Taranaki Federated Farmers Provincial President for the past three years. Bryan has been a member of Federated Farmers for 33 years and on the Taranaki Executive committee for the past 12.



We said farewell to Bryan, as President, at the AGM/conference last month. Graham Fergus said in his speech that Bryan had been a charismatic, energetic, spontaneous, quick witted leader for Taranaki Federated Farmers. He said that Bryan is always quick to rise to any controversial situation and the more contentious the better. Protesting is nothing to the man who will fight tooth and nail for the rights of farmers.

Although Bryan is no longer the Provincial President he will still be involved with the executive and Taranaki Federated Farmers in his new role as Immediate Past President (we thank him for his efforts).

On the road

I have enjoyed my first few months as Recruitment Contractor for Taranaki Federated Farmers. My goal is to continue to grow an active membership for Federated Farmers and I look forward to meeting present and prospective members.

Having attended several meetings, including the Provincial AGM/conference I feel there is a real urgency for farmers to become involved in their industry. Congratulations to the amazing team who organised the AGM/conference. The media is a great way of highlighting farming issues; congratulations Bryan. A huge amount of work is done behind the scenes by the President, Executive and in particular Nicola Ekdahl and Shelley Porteous.

A huge issue at present is carbon credits; what are they? Where do they go? Where are the policy makers taking the rural community? Federated Farmers has a great network and the farmers voice. People can no longer afford to be passive observers.

I look forward to having an input into the growth of the membership as farmers need a say in their destiny not just politicians.

Lynne Payne - Taranaki Membership Recruitment Contractor

Payout increase welcome

Most farmers are finally starting to feel some relief from this year's drought. There are still some dairy farms in southern and eastern Taranaki who need more rain, but Fonterra's final payout announcement for 2007/08 will make managing the situation easier as some of the financial pressures associated with the natural disaster will be reduced. Fonterra announced a further 60cent increase to the \$7.30 payout last week. This windfall, however, comes with a pre-condition that 30 cents of this may be retained. There are many farmers out there who will be applauding the Board's decision and feel that the strength of the New Zealand dairy industry was built on retained earnings. Retained earnings will also raise concerns for some others in the industry who wish to access this part of the payout. Your Taranaki Federated Farmers Dairy executive team has been looking into this issue for you and is in the process of writing to the Board and the Shareholders Council expressing our concern at the lack of information on how retained earnings would work. It is difficult for farmers to make informed financial and strategic decisions without access to detailed information on the issues in front of them.

A lack of relevant and timely information coming down from the Fonterra Board has been an ongoing theme since the Capital Structure announcement in November last year. Your executive has also drafted a letter to the Board expressing our concern in regards to the lack of relevant and useful information being given to farmers around the milk price vote anticipated at the next Fonterra AGM. Although there was a good amount of introductory information on how the milk price could be arrived at (should GlobalDairyTrade.com be used to supersede the independent auditor) further information has been slow coming. We are concerned, in particular, on the lack of information around what constitutional changes would be



required and how those changes would affect things such as accountability, transparency, independence and reliability of the new milk price.

Another area we are currently investigating is how intellectual property developed using DairyNZ funding is managed off-shore. We are concerned that new technologies developed using DairyNZ levy money is being sold to ex-pat farmers setting up New Zealand-like farms overseas to give them a competitive advantage in their new countries. Although there is no issue with this happening, we would like to know what measures DairyNZ has put in place to ensure New Zealand farmers see an ongoing return for the use of these technologies in competitor markets, beyond the price paid at point of sale. If these new technologies were introduced on to a farm in New Zealand, the assumption would be that an increase in MS would follow, therefore an increase in payments to DairyNZ from this farm through the MS levy. It is not clear how DairyNZ is currently receiving royalties for the off-shore use of New Zealand technologies and this is the question we are asking of their board.

We are working hard to address issues that are important to us locally, both with national Federated Farmers Dairy and with the relevant industry bodies. If there is a local issue that you would like us to investigate or pass on to Federated Farmers of NZ, please feel free to email me at cgilbert@orcon.net.nz.

Caroline Gilbert - Taranaki Dairy Chairwoman

New face for the Sharemilkers' Section

I am Frances Cooper, your the new Chairwoman of the sharemilkers section.

I am currently 50 percent sharemilking at Ngaere with my husband Peter and two young children. We held our Sharemilkers' Section AGM on 9th April and from this we now have a committee of 13 keen and enthusiastic sharemilkers.

We will be holding a meeting every two months and are planning on inviting guest speakers on issues that interest us as sharemilkers.

I am hoping that our committee will be there as a sounding base for sharemilkers who have issues and that we will be able to point them in the right direction of who they can seek advice from.

I would like to invite any Variable Order sharemilkers and Herd Owing sharemilkers who wish to attend our meetings to contact me on: 06 765 8025 or email: cooperfarms@farmside.co.nz

I wish everyone the best for the 2008/09 season.

Frances Cooper - Taranaki Sharemilker Chairwoman

Acknowledgements

Federated Farmers of New Zealand (Inc) Taranaki Provincial District thanks the following organisations for their generous support of the Provincial Conference.



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