

Dairy worker shortage

Federated Farmers is continuing its work to bring to the Immigration Departments attention the size of the problem with respect to the dairy worker shortage.

Every dairy conversion requires around three to four more workers for that particular farm and, with the rate at which conversions are happening and New Zealand's tight labour market, the shortage is going to get worse before it gets better.



Federated Farmers is therefore making ongoing representations to the immigration department in order to get them to allow "farm employees" in under the skill's shortage list.

To date this has been difficult owing to the immigration departments focus on "skilled" workers. They do not consider "farm employee" a skilled position, at this stage.

*William McGimpsey -
Federated Farmers of NZ, Policy Advisor*

Rates Guide

The 10th edition of the Federated Farmers guide to rates on farms, "Getting Rid of Ridiculous Rates", publication was released early March.

The rates guide is available to all members and is packed with information on council rating methods and ways to get the true picture of the cost of rates to farmers in your district. Included are examples of approaches to rating that are transparent and fairer to farms and a step by step guide to submitting to try and get these approaches adopted.

The rates guide is fundamental to Federated Farmers' Annual Plan campaign, where submissions are put to as many as 70 of New Zealand's 85 councils. Almost every council with farms within its boundaries gets the message. This annual effort has resulted in many improvements to the transparency and proportion of rates allocated to farms.

Under the property value system, however, rates are almost impossible to contain and they continue to be among the highest farm working expenses. Federated Farmers stays vigilant, updating the rates guide every year to incorporate new developments and achievements.

To order your copy of 'Getting Rid of Ridiculous Rates' phone: 0800 327 646.

Call for leaders

Federated Farmers runs two leadership courses for up-and-coming farming leaders. The programme is important to the Federation's succession planning. Programmes are highly interactive, delivering information using practical methods and workshops to suit hands-on types. The two courses promote both leadership and team building.

If you think that you can make a difference with some polished leadership skills give Kim Cawte in the Bay of Plenty office a call, 07 578 5039, and she will send you a flier concerning the Leadership Courses.

2008 course dates

Getting your feet wet
21-22 May or 26-27 November 2008

Advanced Leadership Skills
28-29 May or 3-4 December 2008.

Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers' Contractors on board

Aiden Tierney and Elaine Hart are now working in the Bay of Plenty.

If know anyone that may wish to discuss FFNZ membership, please do not hesitate to contact either Aiden or Elaine by phoning 0800 327 646.

Bay of Plenty

MARCH 2008

Bay of Plenty farmers win awards

On behalf of the Province, I would take this opportunity to congratulate all the contestants who entered the Bay of Plenty Provincial Dairy Industry Awards. The Sharemilkers of the Year are Richard and Louise Hamilton from Te Puke. The Farm Managers Award went to Scott and Chantal Hindrup from Te Puke. I am sure that you all will join me in wishing them all the best for the National Dairy Industry Awards finals in May. I would also like to thank Peter and Jenny Sinclair and their committee for their organisational skills, which resulted in a very enjoyable prize giving evening.



Bay of Plenty branch AGMs began on the 18th March. It is very important for members to become involved and attend their branch meeting. There are some critical issues facing the rural sector that will impact on the way you farm.



Congratulations also go to the Ballance Environment Supreme Award winners, Chris and Antioinette Mountfort from Manawahe (photo above).

The Province requires nominations for Vice-President(s), so I would ask members to seriously consider being nominated. I would like to thank retiring branch and management committee members for their input during the past year.

New Zealand Federated Farmers runs four Leadership courses during the year, which the Province strongly supports. It is pleasing to see that for the "Getting Your Feet Wet" course in May, there are two members attending and one is booked in for November. One member will be attending the "Advanced Course" at the end of May. These courses are free for members, but you need to apply through Kim at the office.

There are two important meetings coming up, the details are included in this newsletter. Both are covering the scenarios of climate change and will be of special interest to members. I request that you make every effort to attend and hear differing views to what has been published.

*Derek Spratt - Bay of Plenty
President*



CLIMATE CHANGE

**Egdecumbe Memorial Hall
Kauri Street, Egdecumbe**

**7:30pm
Tuesday 8 April 2008**

Professor Bob Carter
New Zealander from James Cook University, Townsville, Australia.

Professor Carter will be coming to the Bay of Plenty to talk on

**"Why the Science of
Climate Change isn't
Settled".**

Bob is being bought over to New Zealand by the Climate Science Coalition and is speaking in regions throughout the Country.

**Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers of NZ
publishes regular newsletters to keep our members informed.**

Management Committee:

Provincial President: Derek Spratt, 07 533 3764
Treasurer: Kaye Graham, 07 308 4915
Dairy Farmers of NZ: Robin Barkla, 07 323 6958
Gerard Van Beek, 07 308 6474
John Scrimgeour, 07 533 3681

Branch Chairmen:

Kaikati/Tauranga: Barry Roberts, 07 543 1025
Manawahe: Paul Furniss, 07 322 2391
Opotiki: Bob Redpath, 07 315 7761

Vice President: Alan Law, 07 304 9536
Meat & Fibre: Tim Mackintosh, 07 322 1039
Dennis McFertridge, 07 543 1072
Matthew Gow, 07 304 9929
Paul Burt, 07 322 2329

Te Puke: John Scrimgeour, 07 533 3681
Whakatane/Galatea: Gerard Van Beek, 07 308 6474

Grains: Colin MacKinnon, 07 308 0616
Sharemilkers Section: Colin Grainger-Allen, 07 533 4394
Sharemilkers Employers: Scottie McLeod, 07 308 7731

Office Manager: Kim Cawte, Phone: 07 578 5039 Email: kcawte@fedfarm.org.nz

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

2007 Scholarship results

Scholarship presentations were completed in February. It was encouraging to have \$2000 donated towards this scholarship by the Katikati/Tauranga Vet Services. Awards went to: Joel Hughes (the overall winner), Victoria Magazinovic, Charles Wilson, Peter Klaassen and Kirsty Hammond. Congratulations to all these people and we will look forward to receiving updated reports on their progress.

The next scholarship round will be advertised in September and October with applications closing on 30th November. Any student from the Bay of Plenty region who has been in an agriculture and/or veterinary course for at least one year, either full or part time can apply. No age limit or specific NZ Polytech/University required. This scholarship is to assist in the payment of tutorial fees in the enrolled course.



*From left: Victoria Magazinovic,
Joel Hughes and Peter Klaasen.*

Federated Farmers Dairy Industry Group gathered in Christchurch

The Dairy Industry Group Conference revolved around issues of: environment, water and climate change. To kick all this off, the first presentation was about the "One Plan", Horizons intended RMA Management Plan. The idea behind this is to address issues of water quality caused by sediment, algae and faecal contamination. Unfortunately, the detail of the plan is all based on an assessment of one small catchment, (four farms) in the Tararua area and then applied right across the council's area. Issues of concern are:

1. Intensive farmers will require resource consents to farm.
2. Taking water for stock will require consent and possible limits in spite of animal welfare issues and current rights. (Recommendation is flat amount per property.)
3. Time taken to complete forms (estimate three days).
4. Accuracy of information on which calculations are made. (Nutrient level in river was half what Overseer predicted.)
5. Based on "feel good" analysis, but no economic analysis has been undertaken.

Following this, Sally Millar made a presentation of the draft Dairy Industry Guidelines for developing RMA Policy. This should prove to be very helpful when used as a template and should help to keep people focussed on the issues, while not overlooking areas of importance. Sally intends presenting this to all regional councils from CEO's down.

Terry Heiler, CEO of Irrigation, spoke about irrigation issues and showed he has gained an immense knowledge over the years. Water runoff from New Zealand is only slightly less than that of Australia, even though Australia is more than twenty times larger. Currently, 7 percent of the flow of Canterbury rivers is used for irrigation. If



all current applications (150,000ha) were approved, this could rise as high as 11 percent. This compares to 72 percent of the Murray-Darling network or 0.6 percent of the Waikato. Terry Heiler says the major issue for irrigation is water storage. Previously, we were informed by Ian Mackenzie (a cropping farmer from Eifelton), that Environment Canterbury (ECan) has made a ruling that tampering with natural waterways is not allowed before rivers leave the foothills and enter the plains, thereby ruling storage out. Ian is working hard to change this mindset and ruling. Unlike other countries, our irrigation infrastructure is dominated by private interests. There are currently 640 consents in the Selwyn District where ECan wants to change consent conditions.

Stewart Lidgard talked about nutrient management, especially in the sensitive areas like Rotorua and Taupo catchments. Not especially encouraging in my view, although he did highlight some opportunities such as better management and optimising inputs. Increased winter grazing offered reduction in nitrogen leakage of 5-30 percent, which he admitted was simply transference to other areas.

Further brief addresses from Caroline Saunders of Lincoln University, who addressed the issue of "Food Miles" and pointed out that lamb production is four times more energy efficient in New Zealand than the UK. Warren Mason (Dairy Australia), spoke about the situation there - one degree increase in temperature since 1950, as well as a trend to less wet days. 2001-2006 is the driest five-year period since 1950. However, if you go back to 1900, it is only the fourth driest. Talking to some of the Australians, they seem more accepting of the reality of climate change than New Zealanders.

Kimberly Crewther of Fonterra spoke on their view that long-term profitability should still be the main driver. She claimed that Infometrics' analysis indicates a 30 percent reduction in the dairy sector to meet the standard. This would cut New Zealand


emissions by seven million tonnes. However, worldwide emissions would only fall by 700,000 tonnes if you assume overseas production is 10 percent less efficient than New Zealand's. Mike Jobson, MAF, believes there will be market payback from being at the forefront of moves to reduce emissions.

These folk then all participated in a question and answer session.

John Scrimgeour - Bay of Plenty Executive Committee Member

Drought brochure

A brochure on the "Key Points for Getting through Droughts" has been written by MAF. It has contacts for information and advice is available at Bay of Plenty Federated Farmer's Office.



RURAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

Help support your local Federated Farmers province by nominating Federated Farmers as your agent. If you are a customer of FMG's and nominate Federated Farmers as your agent, you will get a 2.4% rebate on your premiums and FMG will pay your local province a 1.6% rebate.

If you are unsure who is your nominated agent please call FMG on:

0800 366 466

BLONDE JOKE FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER...

A Russian, an American, and a blonde were talking one day. The Russian said, "We were the first in space!" The American said, "We were the first on the moon!" The blonde said, "So what, we're going to be the first on the sun!" The Russian and the American looked at each other and shook their heads. "You can't land on the sun, you idiot, you'll burn up" said the Russian. To which the blonde replied, "We're not stupid, you know. We're going at night!"

2008 CONFERENCE



BAY OF PLENTY

Advance notice of Bay of Plenty's draft agenda, please pencil this date in your diary. Speakers still to be confirmed.

Edgecumbe Memorial Hall, Kauri Street, Edgecumbe

9am, Wednesday 7 May 2008

9am-10:30am
Section Annual General Meetings

Meat & Fibre Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker:

Keith Kelly

Chairman Federated Farmers Meat & Fibre Industry Group

Tom Mandeno
Meat & Wool New Zealand

Dairy Section Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker:

Frank Brenmuhl

Chairman Federated Farmers Dairy Industry Group

Morning Tea 10:30-10:45am

11:45am-12:30pm

Kimberley Crether, Fonterra

'Climate Change and Emissions Trading Scheme'

Lunch 12:30pm-1:15pm

The lunch menu will now include hot roast meat rolls.

Afternoon Session

1:15pm-2pm

Bay of Plenty Annual General Meeting

2pm-3pm

Hon David Carter, National Party

(to be confirmed)

'Cost effects for farmers on the Kyoto Agreement'

3pm-3:20pm - Afternoon Tea

3:20pm-4:00pm

Charlie Pedersen

President, Federated Farmers of New Zealand

Annabel Young

Chief Executive, Federated Farmers of New Zealand

4pm-5:15pm

Bay of Plenty Annual General Meeting resumes

5:25pm-6:00pm

Sharemilker Employer Section

Social Time 6:00pm-6:45pm

Dinner 7pm-8:15pm

Dinner will be at a very reasonable rate.

8:15pm-9:15pm

John Allen, CEO New Zealand Post

(to be confirmed)

RSVP: Kim Cawte, Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers, Phone: 07 578 5039 | Fax: 07 858 0848 | Email: kcawte@fedfarm.org.nz

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