

Ballance Farm Environment Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to Derek and Marion Kloeten of PioPio for being the winners of the prestigious 2008 Ballance Farm Environment Awards for the Waikato region.



They also won the LIC Dairy Farm Award and the Gallagher Innovation Award. A large number of farmers and rural professionals attended the field day on their award winning property.

The overall objective of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme is to promote sustainable land management on New Zealand farms believing that role models and education are effective tools to improving farming practices.

This objective is achieved by:

- The judging process, which we aim to keep mutually enjoyable and informative.
- Our commitment to practical solutions, which benefit people as well as the land.
- Our support for diversity – there's never one right answer, it's about what works.
- Our deed requires us to use objectives criteria to determine sustainable management where practical.

Entries for the 2009 Awards programme close on 14 November 2008. You can obtain entry information by visiting the official website for the Awards programme at www.bfea.org.nz or by contacting the Regional Coordinator for the Waikato region, Phillipa Crequer on 07 855 5179.



Employment Seminars Mark your diary now!!

- 11 November 2008, 9:00am
Cosmopolitan Club, 78 Nelson St, Pukekohe
- 11 November 2008, 1:00pm
War Memorial Hall, Orchard Rd, Ngatea
- 12 November 2008, 10:00am
RSA, Studholme St, Morrinsville
- 12 November 2008, 2:00pm
Performing Arts Centre, 59 Kensington St, Putaruru
- 13 November 2008, 10:00am
Waitomo Club Inc, King St, Te Kuiti
- 13 November 2008, 2:30pm
Taumarunui Hotel, 4 Marae St, Taumarunui

For more information or to register phone: 0800 327 646

THE BREEZE FARMING HOUR

on 99.3 Waikato's Easy Listening Breeze 5am-6am, Weekday Mornings. Everything you need for the farm and more...



Rural News - Waikato Rural Weather - The Rural Job Finder - The Rural Events Calendar plus regular contributors to the show include Stew Wadey of Waikato Federated farmers, Don Fraser of Fraser Farm Finance discusses farming issues, Peter Moorby of The ASB Bank with Money Talk, Mike Roach of Roaches Garden Centre on planting and maintaining trees and other plants for the farm, and MP's David Bennett and Martin Gallagher plus much more.

The Breeze Waikato Farming Hour with Dave Grove, weekday mornings from 5am on Waikato's Easy Listening Breeze - 99.3FM



LOCAL VOICE

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER



WAIKATO

JULY/AUGUST 2008

Introducing the 2008-09 team

The Annual General Meetings of Waikato Federated Farmer's Grain & Seed, Dairy and Meat & Fibre industry groups, held on Tuesday 6th May, were well supported and the Provincial AGM convened that afternoon. I am very proud of the calibre of the 2008-09 Waikato Executive team this year and look forward to working with you all.

New Zealand's Special Agricultural Trade Envoy, Alistair Polsen, was the key note speaker at this year's AGM. A special presentation was given to Mr George Armstrong for his long service to the Te Aroha District FFNZ. The support role of his wife, Ruth, was also acknowledged. It is very special when fellow peers nominate worthy people to be recognised for their hard work and dedication to the organisation

The Waikato Regional team are committed to the core fundamentals of why Federated Farmers is so important to your farming businesses. This year's District Chairs are:

- Cambridge.....Julian Stone
- Hamilton.....Tony Armstrong
- Matamata.....Ivan Knyvett
- Morrinsville.....Dave Fish
- North Waikato.....Sue Saunders
- Otorohanga.....Roy Johnson
- Te Aroha.....Stuart King
- Te Awamutu.....Kees Rombouts
- Tokoroa.....Mary-Ann Mathis
- Waitomo.....Charles Digby
- Young Farmers.....Chris Irons
- Rural Women.....Ann Rawson

Two of the current issues that Waikato Federated Farmers are addressing:

Warrant of Fitness (WOF) on Septic Tanks

The Ministry for the Environment has started a consultation process on a proposal to have owners of properties with on-site wastewater systems in specific locations required to hold a current warrant of fitness. Submissions are due by 5pm Friday 26th September 2008 on their "National Environment Standard for On-Site Wastewater Systems (Septic Tanks)".



The rationale is to improve the management and environmental performance of septic tanks, as well as promoting sustainable management of resources and help safeguard the life supporting capacity of water and soil.

Most farm domestic dwellings are of the previous (and presently legal) septic tank and soak hole system, where today's construction minimum standard is now the septic tank and trench system. I will be in contact with Federated Farmers policy advisors to get feedback to members on this issue. Of course

the question is; which standard will this warrant of fitness be based on? The proposal also indicates a WOF inspection every three years.

To view this information, please log onto: www.mfe.govt.nz

Long Term Council Community Plans

Federated Farmers put in a submission regarding the 'baseline animal pest budget'. Part of this stated that the risk to biosecurity is outweighed by the "savings" in the view of these farmers, who urge that (like the AHB arrangement) the existing programme, as agreed in the LTCCP, be maintained.

An example given in the submission was the Mokauiti possum control programme (this may be saved from deferral). Below is for Environment Waikato's statement in the final annual plan. We are due to meet with Environment Waikato in due course to discuss this issue.

"Through the annual planning process, the council considered three options to make further cuts to the pest management budget. Council received 257 submissions on the proposals. Of these, 36 per cent indicated that they did not support any of the options and would like to see spending kept as close as possible to LTCCP projected levels. Following thorough deliberation, council decided there would be no further reduction to the pest control budget in 2008/09."

Stew Wadey - Waikato President



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This special interest rate is only available on Business Interest Accounts opened by Federated Farmers' members. Terms and conditions apply. Interest is calculated daily, and paid on the last business day of each month (less resident withholding tax). Transactions and service fees apply. The interest rate shown is current at 28 February 2008 and is subject to change at Westpac's discretion. You can get a copy of Westpac's general terms and conditions, a copy of the current disclosure statement for Westpac New Zealand Limited and a copy of the investment statement for any securities for which an investment statement is required from any Westpac branch in New Zealand free of charge. Westpac New Zealand Limited.



WAIKATO

Federated Farmers Waikato publishes regular newsletters to keep our members informed

- Provincial President: Stewart Wadey, 07 888 1808
- Vice President: Walter Scott, 07 889 7144
- Meat & Fibre Chairman: Andre de Hann, 07 873 8631
- Grain & Seed Chairman: Syd Fraser-Jones, 07 887 5780
- Dairy Chairman: John Bluett, 07 825 9709
- Sharemilkers Section Chairman: Jeff Bolstad, 07 884 4127
- Sharemilkers' Section Executive: Malcolm Piggott, 07 888 0000
- Sharemilkers Employers' Section Chairman: Tony Wilding, 07 883 4802
- Rural Women of NZ: Anne Rawson, 07 878 1070
- Waikato/BOP Young Farmers' Chairman: Chris Irons, 07 878 5227
- Waikato Hauraki/Coromandel Rural Support Trust: 0800 787 254

Regional Assistant: Gaylene Bamford, 07 858 0820

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



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Guide well designed for on farm use

Release of DairyNZ Farm Enviro Walk Toolkit

This is a tool that is available to analyse your farm nutrient performance, particularly with regard to effluent management. Staff can use this well designed guide on a regular basis to check to make sure the effluent system is working, analyse whether systems are up to standard, and use as a resource on how to fix problems.

Dairy industry guidelines for developing RMA policy

Federated Farmers of New Zealand, DairyNZ and Fonterra have released these guidelines as a tool that farmers and policy makers can use to analyse where the RMA is involved on farm. By following these guidelines, you can cover all bases with resource consents. This tool is available on both the DairyNZ and



Federated Farmers New Zealand websites.

The Fonterra payout

It is good to see that the world prices for dairy commodities are holding up, which should result in a \$7 payout for this season. Unfortunately a lot of the gains in payout increase have already been lost with price increases. In the 2007/08 season the

'One Event' a success

Federated Farmers of New Zealand's 'One Event' (conference) in Christchurch was a success and a great environment to meet fellow farming leaders. The Federation elected new leaders on to the Meat & Fibre executive with Bruce Wills, from Hawkes Bay, replacing Keith Kelly as Chairman and Janette Maxwell was elected Vice-chairwoman, as well as two new members.



Wool Co is up and running and will open for business next week, so it will be interesting to see how they progress and hopefully all the criticism will be unfounded. It's great to note that wool is moving up in value and with a bit of promotion in the right places, wool can regain some of its former position in the marketplace. It is after all a unique, natural and very versatile product.

The biggie is, of course, the offer of PPG Wrightson to buy a half share in Silver Fern Farms Co-op for \$220 Million. Negotiations are for a mega merger with Alliance, three smaller freezing companies and Meat and Wool NZ.

Taskforces are working through a recommendation to improve our processing and marketing of lamb. Everything has

ground to a halt, to accommodate the Wrightson offer. I am quite annoyed that Eion Garden and co has let this offer take priority, and can not understand the great advantage to lamb producers about this offer. Wrightson offer money and procurement, what's new! We won't get \$220 million for nothing?

Wrightson will want interest plus dividend. In procurement, loyal suppliers could be disadvantaged because Wrightson already has procurement arrangements with other slaughter houses and a vested interest in stock auctions, which could take priority when killing space is tight and give Wrightson an extra six percent commission.

I strongly believe in direct negotiation between the farmer and processor, we need clear market signals so we can produce what sells best, not watered down signals and what suits Wrightson.

Farmers would be much better off if a food marketing agent or supermarket invested in Silver Fern Farms to improve marketing and presentation of lamb. Farmers should think carefully about the direction you want your industry to go, and make your thoughts heard. Don't be fooled into the idea that there is a solution to fluctuating product prices, there is no business in the world that doesn't have its ups and downs. Farmers are on the threshold of improving commodity prices; don't let someone in to cream it off!

André de Haan - Waikato Meat & Fibre Chairman



average dairy farm cost was \$4.90 p kg m/s, and with increasing fertiliser costs and feed costs this season, farmers will see farm costs increase even more.

It is up to us as dairy farmers to challenge suppliers who increase their prices greater to justify them. As with high payouts, we might not be better off if we don't control our on farm costs.

Hopefully at this stage calving is going well and after last summer and autumn we get a kind spring. Good luck for the coming season.

John Bluett - Waikato Dairy Chairman



Future Seminars Farm Security

In October 2008 we are again organising five seminars around the Waikato.

One of the topics will be securing your property and personal wellbeing.

Farm thefts are on the increase; one recent theft brought to our attention was a Landrover Defender with a red cab and aluminium deck, Reg Number: MA2808, which was taken from inside a shed. The vehicle was locked, as was the road gate, which was cut for access. We urge farmers to make sure their property is secure, and contact your local Community Constable if you believe you have seen this stolen vehicle.

Federated Farmers of NZ new leaders ...



New president Don Nicolson, a Southland sheep and beef farmer. Don has taken over the leadership role following the retirement of Charlie Pedersen.



Conor English to the position of chief executive officer. Prior to this appointment Mr English was Commercial Director and second-in-charge of The Property Group.

Feed crops in demand

The new cropping season is fast approaching and farmers' minds will be turning to a cropping regime for the 2008-09 storage of supplementary feed.

After the very severe drought all stored feeds have been used, and it is anticipated that extra feed stocks will be required this coming season to build up reserve stocks for future dry spells.



Maize silage will be foremost in farmers' minds and it is also anticipated that a much larger area will be planted this year. Maize grain farmers should do an in-depth budget before signing contracts for the coming season. Input costs are still rising, especially for energy requirements, fertiliser, seed, spray and where transport is needed the increased road user charges.

There has been Australian interest shown with the enquiring for a likely tonnage of maize grain from New Zealand, so that gives

Culverts and crossings

Considering the current climatic events Waikato Federated Farmers would like to remind members of the requirements for farm crossings as inappropriate culverts over crossings can pose great danger and considerable cost. In some cases a resource consent may be required for both existing and new culverts.

Generally, culverts and crossings are a permitted activity (they do not need resource consent), but there are a number of requirements that must be met, including:

- The culvert is for a catchment that does not exceed 100 hectares or 1km².
- Fish passage is not restricted (both upstream and downstream).
- The culvert does not cause water depth upstream to exceed three metres.
- The lowest part of the culvert must be submerged when water is flowing.

Environment Waikato also requires that the owner of the structure informs the Council at least 10 working days prior to commencing construction of the location of the structure and whether that structure is located within a flood control or drainage scheme managed by Environment Waikato or a territorial authority.

New Zealand growers another avenue for their crop.

The storms and floods in America have destroyed a large area of corn and soya bean crops; this will have a bearing on the supply and price of these commodities on the world's market.

At the Federated Farmers of New Zealand Conference, held in Christchurch, the Grain and Seed Conference heard two very good speakers on their respective industries. The Chairman of the New Zealand Beekeepers Association gave a very in-depth view on the importance of bees to New Zealand agriculture.

The second speaker was the General Manager of Biodiesel New Zealand, a subsidy company of Solid Energy. Biodiesel is being produced from oil seed rape, i.e. canola. The company hope to produce some 70 million litres of diesel this coming season. This diesel is blended and all used in New Zealand.

The Annual General Meeting of Maize Growers was held on the 7th August 2008 at the Hamilton Airport Conference Centre. Representatives from all maize growing areas attended this meeting.

Syd Fraser-Jones - Waikato Grain & Seed Chairman



There are also a number of other requirements so if you have questions regarding your culverts or crossings, please contact Environment Waikato for information.

Please keep up with checks of your culverts for signs of blockages and erosion (especially during increased rainfalls) as you, the landowner, are legally responsible for their safe operation. If it is too dangerous to unblock the culvert yourself and you need to seek advice, contact the Council as soon as possible for assistance. Environment Waikato can be contacted 24 hours on 0800 800 401.

Farmers invest considerable amounts of effort and resources to maintain good drainage on farm land and it is in no one's interests when all that work goes to waste.

Federated Farmers of New Zealand Policy Advisor



CALLING ALL YOUNG FARMERS

What a season it was and what the coming season be like is any ones guess. We may be in for some long days this spring as cow and ewe conditions are not where we would like them to be. This will put stress on yourself and your workers.

One way to relieve stress is to get off farm and do something different. This is where Young Farmers comes in. Young Farmers are still operating strongly in the Waikato and is a default support group for younger people so they can get off farm one evening a week and forget about the troubles on farm. Playing squash, tenpin bowling or even attending a pot luck dinner at someone's place. There are numerous and varied planned nights within each club throughout the Waikato.

Having a break off the farm to socialise and talk to other people in a similar position can alleviate some of the stress.

To find out more about Young Farmers contact:

Chris Irons: 07 878 5227 or 0274 616 980

Jason Hoyle: 07 873 1582 or 0275 313 188

Thank you ...

A thank you to a valued Federated Farmers member -

George Armstrong joined the Manawaru Branch of Federated Farmers in 1957. George became Chairman of Manawaru Branch in 1962, a position he held until 1965.

From 1962 until 1975 he was the Manawaru Branch delegate to the Te Aroha District Federated Farmers, and he attended numerous provincial conferences as a branch delegate.

In 1974 George was elected as a representative onto the Piako County Council and was a County Councillor for 15 years, 8 of these as Deputy Chairman. He still continued to attend Manawaru Branch meetings, to ensure communications continued between the council and ratepayers.

As at 2008, George is still the branch Secretary for Manawaru, this making in total 51 years connection with this branch.