



put out by DairyNZ. It is an excellent read and every dairy farmer should read it and take note of the good things which can help us all with a lot of our problems, such as on-farm environmental health, and the Emissions Trading Scheme. These are two things which farmers can help with by recording and supplying accurate information on how we do things. Good information can assist Federated Farmers when they are talking to regional authorities and the Ministry for the Environment.

Now for some good news. Tb control is on target for eradication, however, please be very careful when moving stock. Suppliers of service bulls can now get a free Tb test before moving bulls to dairy farms, ask your supplier if they have been tested.

I will finish by wishing all dairy farmers a happy Christmas and great New Year, remember to take some time out for a good holiday.

**Jim Stevenson - South Canterbury Dairy
Chairman**



CURRENT DRY CONDITIONS

The current dry is widespread throughout South Canterbury. Rainfall lately has been below average and patchy with some areas missing out altogether.

The South Canterbury Rural Assistance Trust has been keeping an eye on this situation. We are here to aid the rural community in difficult times and facilitate support when necessary.

MAF is also monitoring this dry situation closely.

Please feel free to contact me on 03 6126367 or 0508 327646

David Hewson

FARM DAY OUT SUNDAY, 1 MARCH 2009



At Federated Farmers of New Zealand's National Council, meeting held in Wellington 18-19 November, all presidents unanimously endorsed a remit put forward by Wairarapa Province to simultaneously host a farm open day in all 24 provinces across New Zealand. This initiative was seen as a great way to encourage non-farming people to reconnect with their country friends. The 'Big Farm Day Out' will be held on the 1 March 2009; I would appreciate your support in helping to organise our event up here.

We will need to find a host farm and put together a small organising committee to help organise the event.

If you would be willing to host this event on your farm please let me know. I have been encouraged to ask someone else to host so that I can be free to help with the organising.

It would be great if all members can help out a bit. It should be a fun day out for everyone, town and country folk alike.

If you want to be involved in planning this event, please ring either Ali Undorf-lay, provincial support co-ordinator on 0800 327 646 or myself.

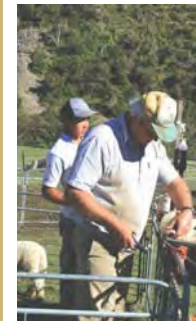
**David Williams
South Canterbury
Provincial President
Phone: 03 685 4818**



CHRISTMAS 2008 NEWSLETTER



SOUTH CANTERBURY



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

END OF YEAR ROUND-UP

We have seen a very changeable year with the autumn drought, mild winter, a wet August and a very dry cold spring. We now appear to be staring down the barrel of yet another drought in our area. This could result in pressure being put on reasonable winter feed supplies for the ensuing year and decisions need to be made accordingly.



Our markets seem to be suffering somewhat from the world financial crisis, but I'm quite sure, and forever hopeful, that it will be exporters that pull the country through this crisis.

This doesn't let the exporting companies off the hook though, we live in changing times and they must become more finely tuned operators to return the maximum returns to the producers.

Hopefully with a change of government we will see a more farmer-friendly legislation to give some encouragement to the rural sector. Also some of the red tape may fall by the wayside with a realisation that good practice both on and off the farm may win out in the long term.

It's building good long term relationships with these organisations that give better outcomes for everybody.

AN ACCOLADE WELL DESERVED

I wish to congratulate our local team on their award for the Opuha Dam and its infrastructure. Because of their foresight our district is bearing the fruits of their work. For those people in the area working on further projects, don't give up. At times we wonder where we are going to finish up, but eventually you'll get there. For those projects eventually will cut through the red tape.



It is a big undertaking and investment both on and off farm for these projects, which gives the local community a good capital injection for the benefit of future generations. The regulators need to spare a thought about this and not charge us out of existence just because we, as farmers, have made the investment and not rate us unreasonably in the future.

My thanks to all the members and staff for the calendar year of 2008 and look forward to a prosperous 2009 and working with you all once again.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

David Williams - South Canterbury President



MEAT & FIBRE ROUND-UP

The Meat & Fibre national council meeting, for provincial chairmen, was held on 12-13 November. Bruce Wills (National Chairman) had organised some very good and timely speakers looking at both the meat and wool industries, along with talks about the world economic crisis and the Emissions Trading Scheme.

All presented mostly bad news but for Theresa Gattung, Wool Partners International (the company that has been formed as a result of Meat and Wools attempt to pick the wool industry out of the doldrums) Chairwoman, gave a very impressive and passionate presentation. I for one think it is refreshing to see someone, other than an old sheep farmer, being used to breath fresh life into a struggling industry. In short the new initiative is about consolidation of New Zealand's woolclip and moving away from

the auction system to work more directly with the end user. It will only work if farmers support this new initiative and I whole heartedly encourage all farmers to do just that, "if you do what you have always done you will get what you have always got".



The meat industry has had all sorts of talk and near changes in the recent 12 months, but ultimately nothing has changed. Good pricing may come about due to good luck rather than good management. If the weather is kind next year it may be the year of the farmer, because this year certainly seems to have been the year for the companies. As long as the industry keeps taking the us and them attitude we will continue to cannibalise ourselves "United we stand divided we fall" was never more appropriate.

John Gregan - South Canterbury Meat & Fibre Chairman



DAIRY ROUND-UP

Most dairy farmers will be far enough into the season to be able to predict what their final production should be, especially with good reliable irrigation.

Mating should be far enough advanced to be able to get an indication on how successful it has been. Now we can start planing for next season.

One thing we cannot be sure of is the end of season payment. Is \$6 as low as we can expect? I hope it is, but from what I can glean the world market supply is exceeding demand, therefore we are running the risk of over supply in New Zealand. I don't think any dairy farmer should be expecting any more than \$6 for this season and possibly less next season.

I have just finished reading the DairyNewz, which is