

CALL FOR PAPERS

Hill Country Symposium

*Setting up a profitable & resilient future
for NZ hill country farming.*

Rotorua 12 & 13 April 2016

Papers are now being sought for a special symposium next April which aims to set the future direction of New Zealand's iconic hill country.

The Hill Country Symposium (HCS) is a joint effort by the NZ Grassland Association (NZGA), the NZ Society of Animal Production (NZSAP) and the NZ Grassland Trust (NZGT), to review existing knowledge and practise; present new research and development findings; and learn from leading farmers and practitioners.

Hill country is fast becoming the key production platform for the sheep and beef industries as flat land is lost to other enterprises, but over the last 25 years there has been dwindling support for this farming sector.

HCS seeks to raise the profile of New Zealand's hill country and set the direction for changes that are required to ensure profitable and resilient farming continues.

We seek review, research, farmer, innovation and other papers on the following topics::

Session Topics

Hill country soils & nutrients – the management of soil fertility and health to meet the production, environmental and economic demands of future farming

Plants for hill country – the establishment of pastures and crops, species, their fit to temperature, climate and management, and seed supply issues

Feedings & impacts on animal – feed supply, demand and feed quality

Animals for hill country – animal breeding and health, hogget mating, lamb survival, and cattle for the hill country environment

Farming & the environment - environmental issues in the hill country, including nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment

Tools for hill country – new technology, tools and the use of precision agriculture to improve effectiveness and efficiency

Farm systems for hill country – the matching of plants and animals, stocking rate, mixes of stock types, profit vs labour/SU, and the need for resilience.

People and change – Including creating change both on hill country farms, in the industry, and in policy.

Given the wide scope of information to be covered at the symposium, a number of papers will be a short 'thumbnail' presentation to allow time for discussion. These papers will still be a full paper in the Symposium Proceedings.

Instructions for submission

- The Hill Country Symposium Organising Committee requires that offers should be submitted only on the official form.
- This, and the Guidelines for Authors, may be downloaded from <http://grassland.org.nz/information.php> (use the Information tab), or may be obtained from the NZGA Executive Officer at eo@grassland.org.nz. The editor reserves the right to return manuscripts that do not follow the Guidelines.
- The Hill Country Symposium will use the electronic system for uploading and editing papers.

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to the editor, Errol Thom: eandlthom@gmail.com. The closing date for abstracts is **Friday, 19 June**. Authors will be notified in late July whether or not their paper has been accepted. Papers in final form will be due **4 October 2015**.