

2021 Resilient Pasture Symposium

Call for Papers

May 11-12, 2021 - Hamilton
The due date for offers is 31 July 2020

The NZ Grassland Association is planning a two-day symposium on pasture resilience. Pasture underpins our agricultural economy, earning 40% of export revenue. However, pastures are not performing to their potential, and must evolve to support changing sector expectations.

This event, 10 years on from the 2011 Pasture Persistence Symposium, will have a strong focus on where our pasture-based future needs to be.

The Resilient Pasture Symposium (RPS) invites paper offers from researchers and practitioners. The aims of the symposium are to:

- **develop a sector-wide quantitative understanding of the value proposition of pasture-based systems**
- **provide a robust analysis of the issues that hinder the achievement of resilience in a changing world**
- **identify scientifically sound solutions to those issues that can be applied on farm**

We will prioritise papers that address the following themes but will also consider innovative perspectives.

1. **The value proposition for resilient pastures.** What are the quantifiable benefits of pasture resilience? What does persistence failure cost us? Various dimensions include:
 - productivity, economic, social and environmental benefits
 - across scales: paddock, farm, sector, national and global (via value chains)
2. **Current vs. future context.** What do current and future challenges look like and how can we prepare for them? Consider the outlook for climate, markets, biosecurity and competitiveness. On the other hand, what opportunity does the future hold in terms of these and other drivers, such as technological development?
3. **Up-to date knowledge.** We already understand much about key plant processes and environmental drivers through pasture plant agronomy, physiology and ecology. How can we use that knowledge better? Are there critical gaps in our knowledge? How important are environmental factors such as climate, soils, pests, diseases where we have limited control?
4. **Management solutions to resilience challenges.** How do our decisions around management factors affect pasture outcomes? How have decisions in these areas been shown to hinder or enhance resilience?
 - plant genetics
 - endophytes and rhizobia
 - species choice
 - establishment methods
 - soil fertility
 - grazing management
5. **Systems configuration, beyond component solutions.** What interactions between genetics, environment and management are important in ensuring resilience? How might whole systems need to change to realise our goal for home-grown forages that deliver to financial, environmental and social expectations?

Authors of paper offers that are accepted will be allocated time for presentation at the Symposium and invited to prepare a peer-reviewed paper for inclusion in the NZGA Research and Practise Series #17. Please prepare your paper offer using the attached template and forward to the [Editor](#).

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