

NZ Grassland Association

Fuelled by science, tempered by experience

In partnership with

TE ARAWA ARATAUA

Te Arawa Primary Sector, Inc.



‘The land, the water, the people’

Welcome

Tēnā koutou

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all attendees of the 84th edition of the NZ Grasslands Conference, in Rotorua. This year's conference is co-hosted by Te Arawa Arataua (TAPS) and the NZ Grassland Association (NZGA) with the NZ Society of Animal Production (NZSAP) and the Agronomy Society of NZ (ASNZ). Our conference theme, 'The Land, The Water, The People' encompasses many of the driving influences behind this region and subsequently how we have looked to shape this conference.

Rich in culture and history, the region also demonstrates strong agricultural diversity. The unique environment, including recent (and current) volcanic activity and water bodies that are significant taonga for the community, creates challenges that have strongly shaped the development of agricultural enterprises. Whenua Māori also plays a significant role in the region's agricultural landscape - showing the way with innovative land use, being exemplars in farm business performance and demonstrating leadership in agriculture's response to reducing its environmental impact. You will hear more about these challenges throughout the conference - and see some of the realised opportunities first-hand on the scheduled farm visits on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Thank you for travelling to Rotorua to join us. A big thank you to the properties who will host us – for making their time, their staff and their resources available, in sharing their experiences and for informing and adding colour to the local story. I'd also like to thank and acknowledge the effort and significant time invested by my fellow members of the LOC. Lastly to our all our invited speakers your insight, context and time committed is hugely appreciated.

Ngā mihi

Mark Brown

Chair, Rotorua organising committee

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Gold sponsors



Silver sponsors



DELEGATE INFORMATION

MOBILE PHONES

As a courtesy to speakers and other delegates please ensure that mobile phones are switched to silent during conference sessions, including the workshop session. In addition we ask that attendees not photograph presentations due to copyright.

NAME BADGES

Name badges should be worn at all times during the conference as they are required for entry to all conference sessions and social functions.

VALUABLES

Please keep your valuables safe at all times. The organisers of the conference cannot be held responsible for any loss or

damage of personal items while attending.

SPECIAL DIETS

Delegates with special dietary requirements should confirm their requirements with the registration desk.

DISCLAIMER

All information provided is correct at the time of printing. The conference organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme as necessary.

LIABILITY

In the event of circumstances beyond the control of the conference organisers no responsibility will be accepted for any losses incurred.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

All attendees

Your safety and well-being during this conference is important to us. As a visitor you have a legal duty to care for the Health & Safety of yourself and others.

- Follow venue procedures whilst on the premises.
- Emergency Fire Evacuation Procedures are clearly displayed around the venue. If the Fire Alarm sounds, leave the building by the nearest exit and proceed to the designated Assembly Point. Do not re-enter the building until you are told it is safe to do so.
- Earthquake Procedures - During an earthquake
 1. If you are inside a building, move no more than a few steps, drop, cover and hold. Stay indoors till the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit.
 2. If you are outdoors when the shaking starts, quickly move away from buildings, trees, streetlights, and power lines, then drop, cover and hold.

On Farm

The person in control of the workplace (usually the farmer or landowner) must take all practicable steps to make sure people working in and visiting the workplace are safe from workplace hazards.

Visitors should take care of themselves by not:

- interfering with plant or equipment, including electrical installations or fences
- entering unauthorised areas or farm buildings
- disturbing or unnecessarily approaching farm animals or work activities
- ignoring instructions or warnings
- leaving gates open or damaging fences.

First Aider Contact details - LOC: Lee Matheson - 029 395 5312

Mark Brown - 027 220 4110

BIOSECURITY

We ask that all attendees wear clean boots or shoes on farmer field tours

Programme: New Zealand Grassland Association Conference
Hosting the New Zealand Society of Animal Production and Agronomy NZ
Day One: Tuesday 14th

8:00am Registration Rotorua Energy Events Centre

Sponsor: AgResearch

Chair: Warren King

8:45 Delegates assemble at venue

9:00 *Whakatau*

Te Arawa Arataua

9:15 Welcome from NZGA

Laurie Copland, President NZGA

9:20 The Future of Pastoral Science

Sue Bidrose, AgResearch

9:40 Kainga - Tangata, Whenua, Taonga

Paul Tapsell

10:00 Regional overview

Doug Leeder, Chair BoPRC

10:20 FACILITATED DISCUSSION

10:30 Morning Tea

10:50 Sponsor: Beef+Lamb NZ

Chair: Chris Koroheke

10:55 Te Arawa - land use challenges and opportunities

Tanira Kingi

11:15 Perspective from Tairāwhiti

Hilton Collier

11:35 Perspective from Taranaki

Aisha Ross

11:55 Panel Discussion

12:35 Introduction to Onuku

Angela Wharekura

12:40 Board buses for Field trip

13:00 ONUKU FIELD TRIP

Sponsor: Ballance Agri-nutrients

Chair: Fraser Harrison

17:00 Return to Rotorua

Delegates are free to make their own dinner arrangements (Eat Street is a good place to start...)

Day Two: Wednesday 15th

8:00am Registration Rotorua Energy Events Centre

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

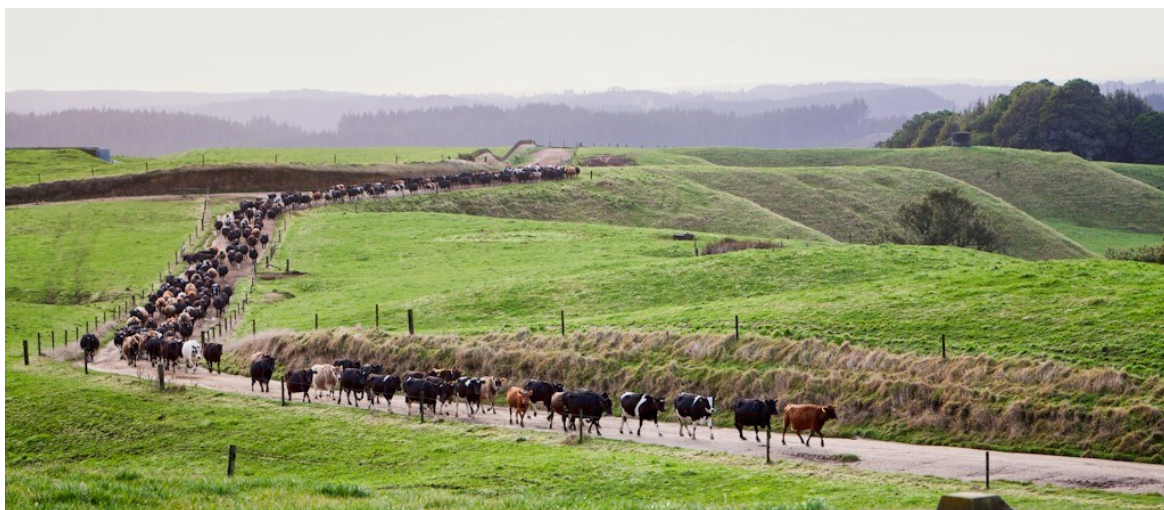
Sponsor: MPI

Chair: Laurie Copland (President)

8:30 NZGA Levy Oration

9:00 How science informs government policy

John Roche, MPI



Session 1: NZGA, NZSAP and Agronomy Sessions (WEDNESDAY 15TH)

Please note the following sessions are concurrent - check correct rooms

ROOMS	SESSIONS	
BayTrust Forum	Session A	Grassland themes
Skellerup Room	Session B	Animal production themes
WSP Room	Session C	Agronomy themes

9:30	SESSION 1A: Farming Futures I	Sponsor: Barenbrug	Chair: Chris Smith
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9:35	Implications of changing birth and slaughter dates of sheep and beef cattle on greenhouse gas emissions	<i>David Stevens</i>
9:45	Are observed rates of productivity compared to model predictions indicating negative climate impacts in perennial plants?	<i>Alec Mackay</i>
9:55	Farm-level cost-effectiveness analysis of the In-paddock feeding of methane inhibitors in pasture-based dairy	<i>Ben Marmont</i>
10:05	Hill country futures - resilient farmers and resilient forages for the future	<i>Suzi Keeling</i>
10:15	Obstacles and opportunities for automation in sheep and beef farming	<i>David Stevens</i>

10:25 FACILITATED DISCUSSION

10:40 Morning Tea

9:30	SESSION 1B: Genetics	Sponsor: NZSAP	Chair: Lorna McNaughton
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9:35	Developing breeding values for shedding using commercial data from New Zealand sheep	<i>Tricia Johnson</i>
9:45	Recessive and dominant genes that cause synonymous differences in wool fibre curvature and medullation	<i>David Scobie</i>
9:55	Wool shedding and fleece eights: A comparative analysis of lamb, hogget, and two-tooth Wiltshire-Romney cross sheep	<i>Nick Sneddon</i>
10:05	Breeding heat tolerant dairy cattle	<i>Esther Donkersloot</i>
10:15	Effects of the "slick" gene on heat tolerance in grazing dairy cattle	<i>Gemma Worth</i>
10:25	Anogenital distance as a predictor of fertility in ewes	<i>Tianna Boyce</i>

10:30 FACILITATED DISCUSSION

10:40 Morning Tea

	SESSION 1C: Agronomy	Sponsor: Corteva	Chair: Nicole Morris
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9:35	Reducing the risk of sediment loss with catch crops in winter-grazed hill country	<i>Brendon Malcolm</i>
9:45		
9:55	Nitrogen management in crop rotations	<i>Edith Khaembah</i>
10:05		
10:15	The effect of different liming strategies after maize cropping on soil properties to 600 mm depth over time on a deep raw peat	<i>Paddy Shannon</i>

10:30 FACILITATED DISCUSSION

10:40 Morning Tea

Session 2: NZGA, NZSAP and Agronomy Sessions (WEDNESDAY 15TH)

Please note the following sessions are concurrent - check correct rooms

11:05	SESSION 2A: Farming Futures II	Sponsor: Ellett Trust	Chair: Jane Chrystal
11:10	Predicting facial eczema risks under a changing climate		<i>Tricia Johnson</i>
11:20	An assessment of the agronomic effectiveness of N-(n-butyl) thiophosphoric triamide (nBTPT) – treated urea on the production of clover-based pastures, pastures, grasses and crops		<i>Doug Edmeades</i>
11:30	Condition of natural capital and range of ecosystem services from integrated crop-livestock-forest systems on a Brazilian Ferralsol		<i>Gustavo Valani</i>
11:40	Genetic modification – benefits and risks for New Zealand grassland production systems		<i>John Caradus</i>
11:50	Future sustainable dairy systems		<i>Jacobus Kok</i>
12:00	Differences between regeneratively and conventionally farmed pastures		<i>Katherine Tozer</i>
12:10	Drought impacts African black beetle feeding on perennial ryegrass		<i>Katrin Hewitt</i>
12:15	FACILITATED DISCUSSION		
12:35	Board Buses for Field Trip- Paterson's Dairy farm		
11:05	SESSION 2B: Young members	Sponsor: AbacusBio	Chair: Nick Sneddon
11:10	Effect of breed and stage of lactation on the solid fat content of milk from cows milked once a day or twice a day		<i>I. Sanjayananj</i>
11:20	A new fertility trait for seasonal calving dairy systems		<i>J Jayawardana</i>
11:30	Udder and teat morphology traits associated with milk production and somatic cell score in dairy sheep in a New Zealand flock		<i>Ana Carolina Marshall</i>
11:40	Prevalence and incidence rate of clinical lameness in New Zealand dairy goat		<i>Natasha Jaques</i>
11:50	Residual methane emissions trait in grazing lactating dairy cows		<i>K Starsmore</i>
12:00	The effect of prepartum synthetic zeolite: a supplementation on the eating, lying and activity behaviours of grazing dairy cows		<i>J Dalton</i>
12:15	FACILITATED DISCUSSION		
12:35	Board Buses for Field Trip—Paterson's Dairy farm		
11:05	SESSION 2C: Agronomy	Sponsor: Ravensdown	Chair: Mariana Andreucci
11:10	Avipel use with Broadcast cropping		<i>Murray Lane</i>
11:20			
11:30	Vigorous, weed competitive wheat as an integrated weed management tool		<i>Pieter-Willem Hendriks</i>
11:40			
11:50	Uniformity of ground spreading of New Zealand fertiliser blends		<i>Allister Holmes</i>
12:15	FACILITATED DISCUSSION		
12:35	Field Trip Options - Paterson's Dairy farm / Agronomy Field trip - FibreFresh		
17:00	Arrive back at Venue		
18:00	NZGA AGM - Rydges Hotel		
	Pre - dinner drinks		
19:00	Conference Dinner and Awards (NZGT and NZSAP)		Sponsor: DairyNZ

Session 3: NZGA, NZSAP and Agronomy Sessions (THURSDAY 16TH)

Please note the following sessions are concurrent - check correct rooms

9:00 Presidential Addresses: NZGA, NZSAP and Agronomy

9:20 **SESSION 3A: Farm Systems** **Sponsor: Hill Laboratories Chair: Dawn Dalley**

9:25	The impact of a forage plant breeder – the story of Herrick Sydney Easton	<i>John Caradus</i>
9:35	Stacking N leaching mitigations in a Canterbury dairy farm system whilst minimising effects on profitability.	<i>Taisekwa Chikazhe</i>
9:45	Exploring farm level response to multiple drivers of change	<i>Taisekwa Chikazhe</i>
9:55	Conducting field experiments in agronomy: review and new directions	<i>Graeme Doole</i>
10:05	Pasture growth curve impacts the economic merit of extended lactation	<i>Lydia Farrell</i>
10:15	Plantain dominated in mown mixed swards but produced less than the original ryegrass-dominant sward	<i>Anna Taylor</i>
10:20	Deep injection of lime into Waikato peat soils to reduce acidity	<i>Jeff Morton</i>

10:25 **FACILITATED DISCUSSION**

10:40 **Morning tea**

9:20 **SESSION 3B: Nutrition** **Sponsor: Dominion Salt Chair: Tricia Johnson**

9:25	Simulating spot-sampling numbers to estimate methane to carbon dioxide ratio in lambs and its relationship with methane yield	<i>Maria Della-Rosa</i>
9:35	Relationships between dietary factors and urinary nitrogen excretion of grazing dairy cattle	<i>David Pacheco</i>
9:45	The evaluation of methane emissions from grazing dairy cattle fed graded levels of concentrates during peak lactation	<i>Maria Della-Rosa</i>
9:55	Effect of weaning system on lamb growth, mammary gland development and ewe milk production in dairy sheep managed in an outdoor pasture-based commercial farming system	<i>Sue McCoard</i>
10:05	Rumen protected glutamine supplemented during gestation improves twin lamb performance from birth	<i>Leesa Flanagan</i>
10:15	Efficacy of food grade substances to protect dietary glutamine from ruminal degradation	<i>L Carlyon</i>
10:20	5-year old diversified species pasture delivers greater lamb liveweight gain	<i>Tom Maxwell</i>

10:25 **FACILITATED DISCUSSION**

10:40 **Morning tea**

9:20 **SESSION 3C: Farming and People** **Sponsor: PGG Wrightson Chair: Mike Dodd**

9:25	Pukekauri farm – snapshots from a sustainability journey	<i>Rick Burke</i>
9:35	Māori cultural values and soil fertility management – an exploratory study	<i>Xiaomeng Lucock</i>
9:45	Co-benefits and trade-offs of water quality mitigation measures on greenhouse gas emissions from New Zealand dairy systems	<i>Chris Smith</i>
9:55	The case for expanding the range of subject specialists in farm planning	<i>Alec Mackay</i>
10:05	Factors influencing pastoral farmers' land-use change decisions in response to environmental regulations in the Selwyn District, Canterbury	<i>Ashleigh van Uffelen</i>
10:15	Understanding the introduction of new technologies – a case study of virtual fencing	<i>Lisa Box</i>
10:20	Understanding pathways of digital technology to improve farm sustainability and resilience	<i>David Stevens</i>

10:25 **FACILITATED DISCUSSION**

10:40 **Morning tea**

Session 4: NZGA, NZSAP and Agronomy Sessions (THURSDAY 16TH)

Please note the following sessions are concurrent - check correct rooms

11:10	SESSION 4A: PASTURES AND FORAGES	Sponsor: Agricom	Chair: Alistair Black
11:15	Pasture production: a compilation of historical datasets from farms in Bay of Plenty		<i>Martin Hawke</i>
11:25	Grazing management practices on Waikato and Canterbury dairy farms diverging in bulk milk urea content		<i>Chris Glassey</i>
11:35	Herbage accumulation and botanical composition of diverse pastures complementary species defoliated by dairy cows according to the leaf regrowth stage		<i>Bia Anchão Oliveira</i>
11:45	Understanding yield and development of Red Clover		<i>Laura Keenan</i>
11:55	Comparison of the pasture production from improved and unimproved pastures at two hill country sites in Canterbury		<i>Derrick Moot</i>
12:05	Plantain content and persistence in plantain-perennial ryegrass pastures may be limited by treading damage		<i>Samuel Wilson</i>
12:15	Legume yield and persistence in South Island High Country I & II: monocultures and mixtures		<i>Sonya Olykan</i>
12:25	What are the best pasture improvement options for different South Island hill and high country environments?		<i>Jeff Morton</i>
12:35	FACILITATED DISCUSSION		
11:10	SESSION 4B: Farm Systems and welfare		Chair: Rene Corner-Thomas
11:15	The influence of the number of lambs on the suckling behaviour of triplet-rearing ewes at pasture		<i>Rene Corner-Thomas</i>
11:25	Ewe culling in New Zealand		<i>Rene Corner-Thomas</i>
11:35	An evaluation of the AgTech 360 Livestock Tracker for the automated recording of on-farm grazing events		<i>Wayne Hofmann</i>
11:45	Reimagining farm design to incorporate automatic milking technology in pastoral dairy systems		<i>Paul Edwards</i>
11:55	Mitigating the impacts of weather on lamb survival in Southern New Zealand		<i>David Stevens</i>
12:05	Incorporating plantain and ryegrass into white-clover mixed sward for an economically and environmentally sustainable farm system		<i>Gayani Herath</i>
12:15	Mānuka honey as rongoā for animals in agriculture		<i>Sue McCoard</i>
12:25	FACILITATED DISCUSSION		
11.10	SESSION 4C: Agronomy	Sponsor: PGG Wrightson Seeds	Chair: Mariana Andreucci
11:15	Irrigation management strategies to improve production and water use efficiency of fodder beet (<i>Beta vulgaris</i> L.) crops		<i>Edith Khaembah</i>
11:35	Winter forage crop soil protection techniques		<i>Murray Lane</i>
11:55	Variation in kale and fodder beet yield and quality over winter affects nutrient supply to non-lactating dairy cows		<i>Nicole Wheadon</i>
12:15	Fodder beet: know what you are feeding for a nutritionally balanced diet		<i>Roshean Woods</i>
12:50	BAY TRUST FORUM - Invitation to Oamaru		
13:00	Conference closing		
	AgYields Workshop - Prof D Moot		
13:10-14:00	AgYields is an open access database of pasture and crop yields and growth rates. This workshop outlines what AgYields currently contains, and how you can enter and retrieve data from it.		

Onuku Maori Lands Trust (OMLT)

BACKGROUND

- Located 30 minutes Southeast of Rotorua on SH 38/Rerewhakaaitu Roads.
- Six separate farm units running from the Western edge of Kaingaroa Forest to the shores of Lake Rotomahana and lower slopes of Maunga Tarawera in the North.
- Altitude 438m a.s.l. rising to over 500m a.s.l.
- Contour predominantly flat to rolling. Small area of “easy hill”.
- Soils predominantly Rerewhakaaitu Mud and an associated mud/ash intergrade on the 3 Eastern end farms (all soils derived from Tarawera Eruption in 1886). Mud has moderate drainage challenges in times of “on-going” wet weather. Intergrade is very free draining.
- Rainfall ranges from 1500 to 1750 mm / annum.
- Strong soil fertility status across all farms. Strong fertiliser history for 40 years plus.
- Winter cold / Summer moist climate.
- Boundary Road Dairy = winner of Ahuwhenua Trophy in 2018.
- Drystock Farm finalist in 2022 Ahuwhenua Trophy competition.

FARM UNITS

Dairy

- Four farms total 596 hectares effective. Milking around 1,600 cows (2.7 cows / ha)
- 65% of cows wintered “off farm”.
- System three dairy operations. Import up to 15% of feed as Meal/PKE blends or silage.
- Milk Production 650,000 kg MS at over 400 kg MS per cow and 1,100 kgMS / ha.
- Trust owns all four herds and engages Managers/Contract Milkers.
- Replacement young stock grazed on Trusts’ drystock farm. (return as in-calf R2yr heifers)
- Annual Pasture Growth range 11.5 to 13.5 t DM/ha. Limited areas of winter crops grown. Chicory grown on all four farms for summer use.

Drystock

- Farmed area of 873 hectares in two blocks. (Also has 135 hectares of production forestry in second rotation and 742 hectares fenced out riparian areas)

1/ Main Farm= 603 hectares

Mainly Rotomahana mud soil.
Good soil moisture retention in Summer but Winter-wet. Summer safe environment

- Grows up to 11 t DM/ha/annum.
- Finishes up to 16,000 lambs/annum.
- Grazes 600 dairy heifers plus weaners.
- Beef production (steers / heifers) of 500 to 550 head.
- “Sells” surplus feed to Trust’s Dairy Farms

2/ Stowells Block = 270 hectares

Pockets of mud soil but mainly light ash/scoria base

- Carries 500 to 550 bulls and steers. Finishes them at 2 to 2 1/2 years of age
- Grows 8 t DM/ha/annum and tends very summer dry in most years.
- Replacement bulls mainly purchased in Summer / Autumn

Productivity	kg Product / ha / annum = 320 to 340 kg Produced	
Bulls at	300-310	kg c/c
Steers at	310-320	kg c/c
Heifers at	240-245	kg c/c
Lambs at	17.75 to 18.5	kg carcasses

N.B: Main focus is margin trading for lambs and prime beef.

- Utilise a mix forage system.
 - grasses and clovers
 - plantain and clovers (red and white)
 - lucerne
- Over 220 paddocks and stock water reticulated to each. Central lane systems.
- 4 FTE Labour units.

Miraka Hipi

- Farmed Area of 106 hectares effective. Total of 112ha.
- Converted to Dairy Sheep in 2020 from Bovine Dairy (80%) and Drystock (20%). Now in season four. Has a 72 Bail internal rotary shed centrally located.
- Hybrid model with ewe barn and lambs rearing facilities. Can house up to 1,800 ewes.
- Pasture / Crop based on 78% plus imported feed (mainly maize grain and hi-protein) at 22%.
- Peak milked 1,850 ewes in 2022/23 season. (17.5 ewes/ha)
- Longer term 1,650 to 1,700 milkers targeted and lifting milk output from 57 kg MS / ewe (fat plus protein plus lactose) in 2022/23, to 65 kg MS / annum. (16 ewes / ha at 1,050 kgMS/ ha)
- Bulk of ewes / hoggets lamb in barns starting end of July. First lactation as ewe hoggets. Aim to graze pasture as early as possible in lactation through in/out with the barn system.
- All ewe lambs are reared (1,250 to 1,300) and some male lambs (500 to 600) which are transferred to the drystock farm at 18 to 20 kg LW for finishing there. Balance of male lambs given away to other rearers.

PASTURE 76 hectares → 12 hectares to chicory for summer

LUCERNE 30 hectares → 8 cuts / grass / annum

- Estimate of 12.0 t DM / ha / annum pasture grown
- Lucerne yield forecast at 14 to 16 t DM / ha / annum
- Utilise mob of beef cattle in November behind milkers for feed quality control support and help parasite management.

- Four FTE Labour units plus drive-in milkers and lamb rearers (three months).

TOPICS for DISCUSSION

Drystock	Sustainable farm finishing systems in summer moist environment. Feed quality /internal parasites / sourcing stock to finish reliably/other.
Miraka Hipi	Reduce reliance on imported feed to 12 to 15% and hit 1,100 kg MS / ha. Optimise genetic gain. Minimise sheep wastage rates.
Dairy	Managing the environmental footprint for the future. Maintaining high per cow / hectare performance.
Overall	Pushing harder to self-contained high-performance operation overall. Integrated!
Overall	Option for pastures /forages in the face of greater seasonal weather extremes.
Overall	Trust seeks on-going growth with strong environmental /animal welfare view

Thanks to Peter Livingstone; AgFirst Consultants Central Ltd



Fiber Fresh – the origin story

“The Great Hage Company” was started in 1984 at the Main Road site in Reporoa. Originally a 150 ha farm producing 10,000 bags of “HorseHage” then “ChaffHage” in a calendar year. The company originally sold products to deer, boer goats, horses, and calves locally in the Bay of Plenty region. After a couple of years, the business started growing rapidly and within 10 years we had leased another 500 ha of land and were producing around 600,000 bags per year.

With the local brand well known and export markets starting to open, The Great Hage company was rebranded to Fiber Fresh Feeds to future proof our brand internationally.

Today Fiber Fresh operates 2000 ha of land selling over 1 million bags of product and growing around 46,000 tonnes of forage per year. We have a team of 50 people in New Zealand growing, manufacturing, and selling our products across the entire country. Fiber Fresh now sells to over 15 countries around the globe including Australia, Japan, and the European Union.

Two of our biggest claims to fame are:

- Scientifically proving that our feed FiberProtect can cure gastric ulcers in horses. This has led to Fiber Fresh being the only animal feed in New Zealand registered by ACVM (agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines) as a cure for gastric ulcers.
- Stopping calves from having a weaning check by fully developing the rumen within 7 weeks. Making calves grass ready when weaned.

What is it that keeps us ahead of the competition? Continuous improvement!

Fiber Fresh has great products, but to continue to stay ahead of competitors we strive to always do things better. Be that improving our farming systems through innovation and collaboration with people like H&T or refining our production processes to minimise waste and create sustainability or developing quality assurance systems that have allowed us to certify as GMP (Good manufacturing processes) registered, it’s all about finding the 1% wins. To do all of this we have built an amazing team of experts and expert advisors to help us achieve our company goals.

Why do we do this? Three reasons:

- To help our customers find the 1% they are looking for. In the end their experience with our products is paramount.
- Because we thrive on improving our products and delivering premium products to the world!
- We love doing it!



