

Inside Dairy

June 2018

Your levy in action



Animal care beyond compliance

Benefiting cows, farm performance and economic sustainability

CalvingSmart
Wellbeing for calves, cows and people

Farmers' Forum
What's shaping the future of farming?

DairyNZ 



over the fence...

Welcome to the June issue of *Inside Dairy*.

May was dominated by several large farmer events discussing, promoting and generally celebrating dairy. While it often feels like our sector moves from one challenge to the next, we have plenty of reasons to celebrate and it's nice to spend time doing that.

The New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards (NZDIA), hosted in Southland last month, recognised a wide range of dairy farmers doing stellar work. Thank you to all entrants for your passion and hard work in applying, and well done to the winners (see page 22).

Meanwhile, the Ballance Farm Environment Awards featured six dairy winners for the 11 regions, which really showcases some of the top-notch work on our farms. Congratulations to all entrants and winners.

We also recently held our Farmers' Forum event, with more than 600 attendees hearing from a range of leaders who provided insights into the future of food production.

This week starts the 2018/19 dairy season and on June 1, moving day, many of you have made big decisions and life changes. This year has been a little different, as the focus on biosecurity measures has dominated much of the conversation. Avoiding the spread of *Mycoplasma bovis* remains a priority for DairyNZ and all farmers, irrespective of where in the country you farm. Page nine of this *Inside Dairy* includes some tips on those measures and you can find more on our website.

Throughout May there was ongoing media coverage about the future of *M. bovis* in New Zealand – with the government and sector bodies working closely together to identify the best long-term solution for you and the country. By the time you read this, we will all have more clarity on how we plan to manage *M. bovis*. Please check out our website for the latest information.

This issue is all about animal care and how small changes on-farm can make big differences. We hear from Mid Canterbury farmer Sameer Nimbalkar about how documenting herd details can really help you to track improvements and spot issues early. Some great tips, thanks Sameer.

I'm looking forward to catching up with many of you at DairyNZ's main stand at the National Agricultural Fieldays this month. In the meantime, please contact me with any issues – tim.mackle@ceo.dairynz.co.nz

Tim Mackle
Chief executive
DairyNZ



Contents

FEATURES...

- 4 Heart and mind approach to cow care**
Find out how going beyond animal care compliance is improving calf-rearing results and reducing antibiotic use, lameness, down cows and cow-culling for Sameer and Radha Nimbalkar.
- 10 Get CalvingSmart at our upcoming events**
Upskill your people, give calves a good start, and look after the wellbeing of you and your team.
- 14 Forum faces future head-on**
A lineup of thought-provoking speakers explored the future of dairy farming at DairyNZ's Farmers' Forum last month.

Inside Dairy is the official magazine of DairyNZ Ltd. It is circulated among all New Zealand dairy farmers and industry organisations and professionals.

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On the cover: Mid Canterbury farmer Sameer Nimbalkar feeds a treat to his pet cow Saguna, who is living proof that great animal care pays off. Read the full story on page 4.

TAKE 5... TIPS FOR FARMERS

1. Have your say
The Zero Carbon Bill opened for public consultation on May 31. With a bold new emissions reduction target proposed, it's part of the government's plan for New Zealand to become a climate change world-leader. Engaging with farmers early will ensure the best legislative outcome for the dairy sector. Learn more at mfe.govt.nz/have-your-say-zero-carbon

2. Register for CalvingSmart



Come along to a CalvingSmart event to ensure your team is prepared for calving. Walk away with practical tips and learn how to ensure wellbeing for calves, cows and people. The sessions are tailored to experience levels, so bring the whole team. Register at dairynz.co.nz/calvingsmart

3. Climate change workshops

Regional climate change workshops start this month. This is your chance to hear about the need to address biological emissions on farms, mitigation options available, the scientific research underway, and the development of the Zero Carbon Bill. Registrations essential. Visit dairynz.co.nz/roadshow

4. Bobby calf loading
Reduce the risk of disease by having your bobby calf loading facility in the green zone. Mapping out the farm's red, orange and green zones is a great way of thinking about biosecurity. Check out real life examples at dairynz.co.nz/loading-facilities

5. Keep it cool
New milk cooling standards are coming into effect on June 1. This is part of the Ministry for Primary Industries' New Zealand Code of Practice for the design and operation of farm dairies. It will bring New Zealand into line with our global trading partners. See all the details at dairynz.co.nz/milk-cooling



IN THIS ISSUE...

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 Take 5 | 17 Meet our animal care team |
| 2 Animal care and customer expectation | 18 Education update |
| 9 <i>M. bovis</i> : precautions for calf rearing | 19 Science snapshot |
| 12 Early response to welfare concerns | 20 Farm biz |
| 13 New research on cow transitioning | 21 Feed matters |
| 16 Taking stock: sharing skills with the next generation | 22 Just quickly |
| | 23 Regional update |



We appreciate your feedback

Email insidedairy@dairynz.co.nz or call us on 0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969). Alternatively, post to: Inside Dairy, Private Bag 3221, Hamilton 3240. For information on DairyNZ visit dairynz.co.nz

Back cover image: Paul Sutherland Photography

Animal care and customer expectation

DairyNZ's strategy and investment leader farm performance, Jenny Jago, outlines why focusing on animal care is important and what we're doing to support dairy farmers to strive to be world-leading in this aspect of their business. She also talks to two key players about animal welfare, the customer and economic sustainability.



It's crucial New Zealand's dairy sector and its farmers achieve and/or exceed animal care best practice: here, cow grooming brushes support cow health, wellbeing and socialisation.



The refreshed dairy sector strategy, *Dairy Tomorrow*, signals a commitment to move beyond minimum standards in animal care. Instead, our sector's future goal is to become world-leading in animal welfare.

People's expectations around the management of animals have changed as our understanding of the science behind good animal welfare outcomes has grown. While there is a strong customer focus behind our ambition to be world-leading – there is an equally compelling productivity argument, as farmers know that well-cared-for animals are healthy and productive and underpin a high-performing farming business. At DairyNZ, we know the dairy sector and most of its farmers are already committed to high standards of animal care. Many go way beyond compliance. Others need more encouragement around this issue.

Our support aims to ensure all farmers meet, and where possible, exceed animal care requirements. We invest in research or the latest technology to create animal care solutions, resources and tools which farmers can use to manage their

animals responsibly (for example SmartsAMM, Healthy Hoof and InCalf programmes, CalvingSmart, StockSense and the Body Condition Score (BCS) and Healthy Hoof apps). We contribute to and respond to policy and regulation around animal welfare requirements. We provide an animal care Early Response Service (ERS) which helps farmers get back on track (see *article on page 12*). Our regional consulting officers are also a supportive resource.

It's vital that we get animal care right, for many reasons:

“It's vital that we get animal care right, for many reasons: personally, professionally, environmentally and economically.”

personally, professionally, environmentally and economically. That's not only good for animals' wellbeing: it's also essential if we're to promote, maintain and improve dairy's reputation in New Zealand and worldwide. Two people at the

forefront of the dairy sector's efforts around this challenge are Dr Lindsay Burton and Andrew Hoggard. Lindsay is Fonterra's general manager, veterinary technical and risk management (also deputy chair of the Veterinary Council of New Zealand and chair of the New Zealand 'Farm to Processor' Animal Welfare Forum). Dairy farmer Andrew is the national vice president of Federated Farmers and a member of the International Dairy Federation Science and



Dr Lindsay Burton spends plenty of time out in the field, seeing animal care firsthand.



Andrew Hoggard has been farming 260 hectares in Kiwitea (north of Palmerston North) for more than 20 years, including herding daughters Payton (6) and Michaela (8).

Policy Co-ordinating Committee (SPCC).

Lindsay says retailer statements and positioning around marketing their products is just one major influence. That's coming from retailers and in some cases the large-producing, food processing and marketing companies, locally and overseas (particularly North America).

"Meanwhile in Europe, a significantly-changing legislative environment is sitting alongside that as well. Another key influencer is the OIE – the World Organisation for Animal Health, based in France. Its guidelines aren't mandatory, but it sets international animal welfare standards and it's also influencing the views of the world's producers and legislators. New Zealand's consultation group, through Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and the industries, provides information to the OIE for its international standard-setting, so we're certainly having an influence there."

Andrew Hoggard notes that the USA in particular is going big on training, including record-keeping, robust procedures and training manuals.

"This is being predominantly led by the dairy sector there, which is responding well to concerns from the market and customers. The mainstream animal welfare groups in the States also support this approach and have really good things to say about the US dairy sector."

Technological advances mean now anyone can quickly communicate animal welfare issues (or perceived issues) instantly online, using phones and social media. Andrew says he's seen people put up photos of a dairy factory where milk is processed, saying 'look at how the poor cows are being housed' – but of course the cows are back on the farm.

"Or they post a photo of cows on a rotary platform, saying the animals are on there 24/7, when in fact it's for eight minutes two times a day."

Both Andrew and Lindsay agree that the ongoing development of alternative proteins and synthesised milk is another technological change creating competition and confusion, with these being marketed as having little or no negative impact on animal welfare and the environment.

Nevertheless, Lindsay emphasises that existing New Zealand animal-producer surveys show we're doing very well as far as animal care is concerned, "and we're continuing to gather more evidence of our performance and compliance with minimum standards."

Andrew also thinks more information is needed.

"As producers, we've got to be able to show we are doing what we say we are doing by having the evidence to back it up," says Andrew. "It's more than just having a nice photo of a farmer scratching a calf under the chin."

So overall, while the picture is looking positive in terms of what we've gained, there are still challenging times ahead. Most of our farmers are stepping up to the plate and focusing on continuous improvement around animal care – a small group of others are not. Excellent animal care practices are important and DairyNZ is here to help when farmers need us. Our animals' welfare, as well as the reputation and success of our sector and contribution to New Zealand's economy, depend on getting this right.

Read more about the 1999 Animal Welfare Act's requirements and where MPI fits in – visit legislation.govt.nz

To find out more about DairyNZ's online animal welfare and animal care information, resources, publications and tools – visit dairynz.co.nz/animal

Heart and mind approach to cow care



Farm facts

**Sameer, Radha &
Nandini (2) Nimbalkar**

LOCATION: Rakaia, Mid Canterbury

FARM SIZE: 230ha (effective)

HERD SIZE: 830 cows

PRODUCTION: 380,000kg MS

A passion for animal welfare, combined with attention to detail and clear systems, has seen Mid Canterbury farmer Sameer Nimbalkar make dramatic improvements to the health of his herd. Find out how simple changes can make all the difference.

It's clear watching Sameer interact with his pet cow Saguna that he has a strong affinity for animals.

"She was the last calf born in the 2015 season and the bobby truck had already been, so we decided to keep her," he says.

Her name, of Indian origin, translates to 'all good qualities', and while she suits her name now, it wasn't always the case.

"She was small and timid. Now, she's bigger than some of the cows in the herd. She's proof good care pays off," says Sameer, giving her a scratch behind the ear.

Sameer has always had a passion for animal welfare and trained as a vet in Mumbai, India, where he grew up. But it was a fascination with New Zealand's pasture-based approach to dairy, along with its world-leading animal welfare reputation, that saw him and his wife Radha, who is also a vet, move halfway across the world in 2010.

Sameer has spent the past seven years working for Tom Mason on an 830-cow farm in Rakaia owned by Terracostosa Ltd. This season Sameer is taking on a variable order sharemilking position on a 600-cow farm in Oamaru.

"When I joined Tom's team in 2011 I'd never been close to a cow, let alone milked one," says Sameer. "As a vet in Mumbai, I typically treated small animals like dogs and cats. The only interaction I had with cows was artificial insemination. But I've always loved animals and had a passion for livestock management, so I instantly felt at home on the farm."

When he became farm manager in 2015 he identified three key areas he wanted to improve: mastitis/somatic cell count (SCC), down cows and lameness.

Improving SCC

Sameer and Radha came up with a strategy to target mastitis first because that was the farm's biggest problem at the time. The pair take a proactive rather than reactive approach to animal care.

When it comes to managing mastitis, they use antibiotics only to treat cows that display signs of the disease. This approach helps them to avoid antibiotic resistance in the herd, says Sameer.



Sameer plans the day with assistant manager Chin Gurang (left) and herd manager Simran Bajwa (right).



Sameer on managing mastitis: "We believe in preventing the disease through good management and practice, rather than having to cure it."

Fodder beet electric-fence checking: Sameer's cows get the right mix of feed for each season.



“Over the last two seasons, we’ve had zero cows go down from the milking herd. For us that’s a big achievement. We’re extremely proud of that.”

“At dry off, I identified those cows with a high SCC in one or more quarters and treated them with dry cow antibiotic therapy and internal teat sealants. I used to draft these cows out every fortnight and kept checking them.”

His perseverance paid off.

“At the beginning we had 130 cows with a high SCC or infected quarters. We managed to get this down to 20 to 25 by December that season. We never culled any infected cows,” says Sameer.

“The SCC went from 200 down to 120 to 125 in the next season. That season the farm won an award from Synlait for Most Improved Milk Quality. For the last two years it’s been in the 120 range.

“We believe in preventing the disease through good management and practice, rather than having to cure it,” he says.

Down cow/milk fever management

Sameer and Radha then turned their attention to reducing the number of down cows each season.

In the 2015/2016 calving season they had about 100 down cows with milk fever, or roughly five a day. This season, they’ve had only about 20 (none from the milking herd).

Sameer took a simple approach to tackling the issue: pen and paper. He and his staff began recording every cow that went down. They noted the day, time, body condition score (BCS) and weather conditions to see if any trends appeared.

“We monitored body condition scores closely because if the cows are too fat or too skinny they’re more susceptible,” says Sameer. “We also soil-tested the paddocks to check which minerals were deficient.

“Next, we made sure the cows were getting the required minerals – such as phosphorus, magnesium and calcium – in their feed. I focused on training my staff to make sure they were mixing the minerals properly to ensure every cow gets the right amount every day.

“Over the last two seasons, we’ve had zero cows go down from the milking herd. For us that’s a big achievement. We’re extremely proud of that.”

Focus on record-keeping

Sameer strongly recommends record-keeping when it comes to any issues around animal care, such as lame cows, and says this practice has helped him make dramatic improvements to his herd health.

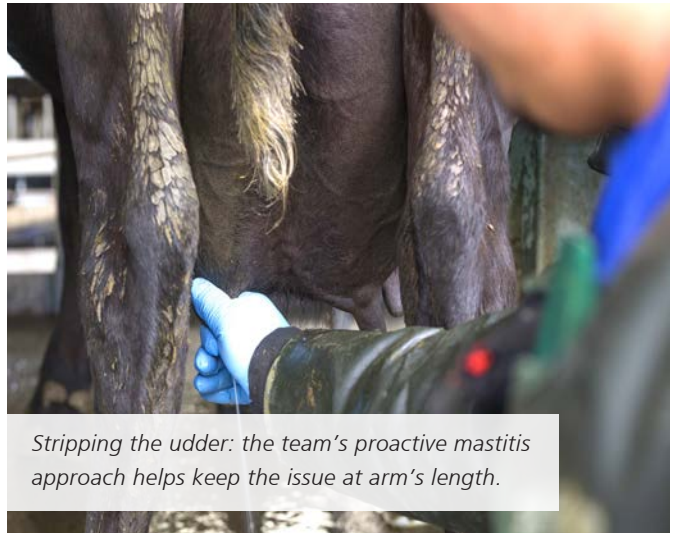
“I like to keep a small diary in my pocket at all times. I find records can help identify if a small problem is escalating.”

His staff also carry a notebook to jot down any observations throughout the day.

“Having good records is extremely important; it provides a lot



Great herd management relies on accurate record-keeping: here, Radha records body condition scores.



Stripping the udder: the team's proactive mastitis approach helps keep the issue at arm's length.

of valuable information. I like to think of it as research," he says.

Healthy hoof

In the 2015 season, the farm also had a number of lame cows.

Determined to come up with a strategy, Sameer researched the DairyNZ website and came across the Healthy Hoof programme, *Lameness field guide* and *Preventing and managing lameness* booklet.

He used these as a foundation for his plan, which involved training staff to identify a sick hoof.

"During the quieter times of the year (March, April and May) we'd pull out five or six cows during the morning milking every day and check their hooves. Staff would trim them if required, treat them, or simply send them back on their way. We found this a good way for staff to learn what a healthy hoof looks like compared to a sick hoof."

Sameer says he also regularly reminds his staff not to push cows when they're walking on the race, nor push the backing gate to rush cows into milking shed, which could cause injury.

"It's often the small things that make all the difference," says Sameer.

Hands-on approach

When it comes to caring for his cows, Sameer takes no shortcuts. He's in the milking shed most mornings and afternoons to check the cows, and if he can't, he delegates to his second-in-command Chin Gurang.

"We don't do anything extraordinary. We just religiously stick to the systems and plans we've put in place to ensure good practice."





Excellent animal care practices by Sameer's team are dramatically reducing antibiotic use, lameness, down cows and cow-culling rates.

"In the afternoon, I like to take the cups off every cow. By doing that I get to observe the cows every day. I can draft out any skinny cows and put them in the appropriate herd. It also gives me a chance to make sure they're milking well, there are no lame cows, and thoroughly teat-spray to prevent mastitis.

"We don't do anything extraordinary. We just religiously stick to the systems and plans we've put in place to ensure good practice."

Given Sameer's vet background (his and Radha's qualifications aren't recognised in New Zealand) he seldom calls a vet.

"Our vets prepare an annual plan for us which outlines what time of year we should be vaccinating the cows and when to check their BCS. Aside from that the only time we get them out is to do pregnancy scans and check blood samples."

Calf rearing

Sameer, Radha and the team have also seen fantastic calf-rearing results this season – they haven't lost a single replacement calf.

"This season we aimed to rear 200 replacements and ended up with 244," says Sameer.

He credits this success to collecting the calves three times a day, ensuring they're fed within six hours of being born, warming the milk prior to feeding, and regularly cleaning and disinfecting the calf sheds and feeding equipment. His staff also carry out extra checks in bad weather to ensure calves aren't left in very wet or windy conditions for an extended period.

In 2015 Sameer and Radha developed a comprehensive calf rearing guide to train their staff. Their boss Tom Mason was so impressed with the guide that he rolled it out across the other four farms he oversees for Terracostosa Ltd.

"It's a really comprehensive guide, full of helpful information," says Tom. "Sameer and Radha are great employees who are extremely diligent and have a genuine love of animals."

Winning awards

The calf rearing guide was also praised by Dairy Industry Award (DIA) judges in March, who recommended it be

published and distributed to all farms in New Zealand.

In March this year, Sameer won the New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards (NZDIA) DeLaval Livestock Management Award for his outstanding animal care.

But Sameer is modest about the achievement, saying many other farmers are doing a great job caring for their cows.

"We should be proud of our dairy sector. We've come across some really great people in the sector and they've inspired us to do what we do now."

Words: Caroline King Photos: Johnny Houston

Sameer's top tips for animal care

- 1

Keep records – this allows you to look for trends and track progress.


- 2

Have a strategy – this helps keep everyone on the same page.


- 3

Monitor animals – be vigilant in checking your animals to quickly pick up any signs that something isn't right.



M. bovis: precautions for calf rearing

If you're buying or selling calves or milk over the coming months, here are some simple steps to take now to reduce the risk of spreading *Mycoplasma bovis* and other diseases.

As you'll be aware, New Zealand has been dealing with an outbreak of the cattle disease *Mycoplasma bovis* (*M. bovis*) over the past year. *M. bovis* is a bacterial disease that causes pneumonia, arthritis and conjunctivitis in calves, and mastitis and arthritis in adult cattle. Calves can contract the disease through direct contact with infected cattle, or consuming milk from cows that have *M. bovis*.

Testing herds for *M. bovis* is complex, which means negative results are a good sign – but not definitive proof that a herd is completely free of the disease. Furthermore, *M. bovis* can lay dormant for years and then show itself in times of stress.

That's why it's vital that we, as a sector, take every precaution possible to prevent it from spreading. This includes buying calves or milk, when it's vital to take biosecurity practices and animal health history into account.

When buying calves

1. Purchase from as few sources as possible.
2. Deal directly with the source farm or via an agent.
 - a. Ask about any *M. bovis* test results available for the farm.
 - b. Ask about cow and calf health on the farm for the past two seasons, and use the pre-purchase checklist available at dairynz.co.nz/mbovis
3. Avoid buying from saleyards because of the cattle mixing that occurs there.
4. Purchase only calves with NAIT tags and promptly record all movements.
5. Insist your transporter avoids mixing calves with other cattle in holding yards or on the truck.
6. Keep purchased calves isolated from your main group for seven days and monitor them for signs of disease.
7. Find a buyer now for your future weaned calves, if possible, and tell the buyer about your efforts to reduce risk of *M. bovis* exposure.

When buying feeding milk

1. Milk that has the lowest risk of containing *M. bovis* bacteria comes in three forms: calf milk replacer powder, pasteurised milk, or acidified milk.
2. If you're using milk replacer powder, order now to avoid problems with supply.

3. If you're feeding whole milk, consider the following:

- a. If the milk you're feeding is discard milk from cows under treatment for illness, remember these cows are more likely to shed *M. bovis* into their milk than healthy cows.
- b. *M. bovis* is not killed by the addition of potassium sorbate preservative (colostrum keeper) or yoghurt.
- c. Pasteurisation will kill *M. bovis* if the machine is working well and the proper procedures are followed.
- d. Acidification with citric acid or propionic acid to a pH below 4.3 will kill *M. bovis* but below a pH of 4 the milk will be unpalatable and calves will refuse to drink it. If you are interested in this option, it's best to discuss acidification with your vet.

For more information including:

- our *Biosecurity WOF*
 - our *Protecting your farm* checklist
 - the latest news on *M. bovis*
- see dairynz.co.nz/mbovis





Get CalvingSmart at our upcoming events

Keen to get practical tips for pre- and post-calving, develop hands-on skills and find out how to ensure the best wellbeing for calves, cows and people? Head along to one of DairyNZ's 22 CalvingSmart events in May, June and July.

These interactive and engaging one-day events are split into sessions for different experience levels, from owners to employees. The sessions will deliver tips and techniques to help you and your team prepare for calving and set you up for a successful season. The events are free to levy-paying farmers and their staff.

New skills sessions

People who are new on-farm, or within their first couple of seasons, can learn how to identify the signs of calving, stages of labour and normal and abnormal calf presentation. You'll find out how to handle newborn calves safely, why it's important to

feed colostrum and why and how to record births. You'll also get tips to ensure safe transport of calves from the paddock to the pen.

Team sessions

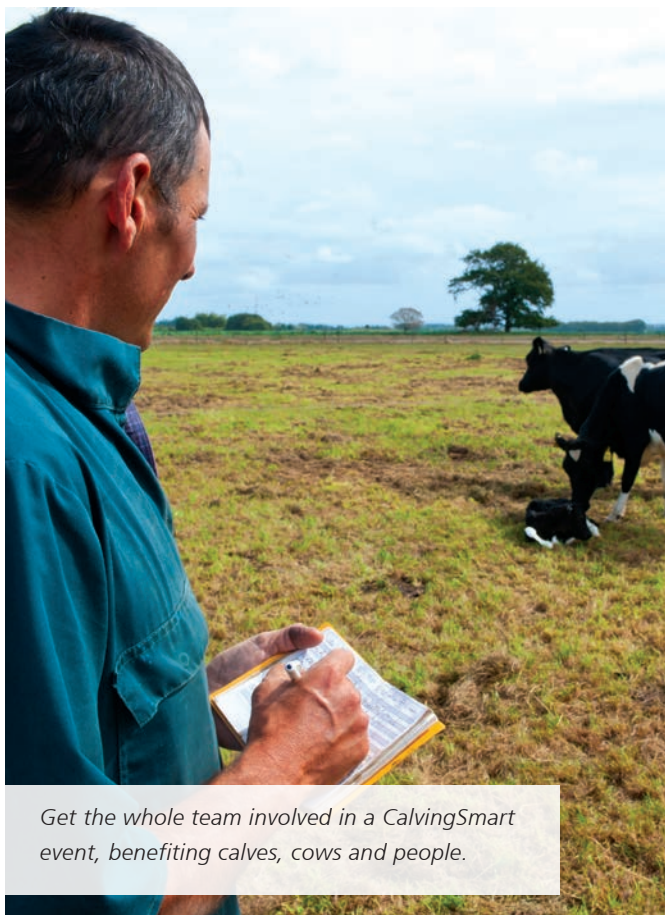
You'll get the most benefit if you and your workmates can attend as a team. Find out how you and your team can work best together to ensure you can all have a laugh even on the busiest days. The down cow care session provides your team with a process you can put in place to quickly have cows back on their feet and in the milking herd. Cows that are down for more than 24 hours are nine times more likely to recover if they receive quality nursing care.

Decision-maker sessions

For on-farm decision-makers, we will explore what it would take to be world-leading in on-farm animal care, one of the new commitments in the dairy sector strategy, *Dairy Tomorrow*. We will also take a fresh look at calf rearing and designing systems that work for both the calves and you. For example, we know that feeding gold colostrum to newborn calves is crucial for their development, however, only 9.7 percent of colostrum samples taken from 298 New Zealand farms in 2015 met recommended quality levels. How can we set up systems for success?

DairyNZ developer and CalvingSmart coordinator Jacqueline McGowan says, "As we all know, calving is a key event in the farming calendar. Planning and preparation will help ensure a successful calving season. Having the right knowledge and skills for the job will ensure all calves receive the best start to life.

"Everyone on-farm has a part to play to ensure that all animals are treated with respect and cared for in a healthy and safe environment. Ensuring that we have high standards of animal care on our farms is good for us, our farm teams, our animals, our industry and New Zealand's reputation."



Get the whole team involved in a CalvingSmart event, benefiting calves, cows and people.

Register now for CalvingSmart at dairynz.co.nz/calvingsmart and view our range of calving resources and videos at dairynz.co.nz/calves

CalvingSmart helps you to:

APPROACH THE CALVING SEASON WITH CONFIDENCE



**UPSKILL YOUR
TEAM AND
WORK BETTER
TOGETHER**



**GIVE CALVES A
GOOD START**



**LOOK AFTER YOURSELF
AND YOUR PEOPLE**

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DairyNZ

Register now at
dairynz.co.nz/calvingsmart
for a CalvingSmart event near you.



DATE	LOCATION
Wednesday, 23 May 2018	WHANGAREI
Thursday, 24 May 2018	KERIKERI
Tuesday, 5 June 2018	WAERANGA
Wednesday, 6 June 2018	MORRINSVILLE
Thursday, 7 June 2018	TE AWAMUTU
Tuesday, 19 June 2018	PUTARURU
Wednesday, 20 June 2018	EDGE CUMBE
Thursday, 21 June 2018	REPOROA
Tuesday, 26 June 2018	PALMERSTON NORTH
Wednesday, 27 June 2018	MASTERTON
Thursday, 28 June 2018	WAVERLEY
Friday, 29 June 2018	STRATFORD
Tuesday, 3 July 2018	MARLBOROUGH
Wednesday, 4 July 2018	MURCHISON
Thursday, 5 July 2018	CULVERDEN
Tuesday, 10 July 2018	HARIHARI
Wednesday, 11 July 2018	GREYMOUTH
Thursday, 12 July 2018	DUNSANDEL
Friday, 13 July 2018	HINDS
Tuesday, 17 July 2018	WAIMATE
Wednesday, 18 July 2018	TAPANUI
Thursday, 19 July 2018	WINTON

CalvingSmart helps you to:

UPSKILL YOUR TEAM AND WORK BETTER TOGETHER



GIVE CALVES A GOOD START



LOOK AFTER YOURSELF AND YOUR PEOPLE



REGISTER NOW

for a CalvingSmart event near you at dairynz.co.nz/calvingsmart

DairyNZ

Early response to welfare concerns

DairyNZ's Early Response Service springs into action to support farmers whenever concerns are raised about the wellbeing of livestock. We spoke to DairyNZ's animal care extension specialist Bruce Evers about how the service works.



Bruce Evers: "Some calls are misjudgements but we always visit the farm, and check the welfare of the animals as well as the wellbeing of the farmer."

The confidential Early Response Service (ERS) has been successful in helping farmers manage their animals when the going gets tough. It operates nationwide with regionally-based animal care specialists supported by the dairy companies.

People contact the service for different reasons. For example, someone driving by may think cows don't have enough to eat or notice the break fence hasn't been moved, or rural professionals such as vets and neighbours may have concerns about animal welfare.

"One of our advantages in these circumstances is that DairyNZ has a reputation as an unbiased intermediary with farming experience," says Bruce.

"Spring can be a particularly busy time of year for our ERS team. It's a challenging time when people are under stress anyway, and last spring in my region, the Upper North Island, some farmers were simply overwhelmed when the weather conditions raised animal welfare risks on-farm.

"All calls to our freephone remain confidential," says Bruce. "When we receive one, we go through a detailed process with a dairy company colleague to assess the situation across the board and to offer realistic solutions. Of course, some calls are misjudgements, but we always visit the farm, and check the welfare of the animals as well as the wellbeing of the farmer.

"If there is a genuine issue, we then assess risks and write an action plan for the farmer to follow. This outlines practical steps showing what can be done today, this week and next week. We

return to make sure the actions are being followed up, and we advise the dairy company when the case can be closed. Only in rare cases, where there has been deliberate mistreatment of animals (and all those involved feel the case needs escalating), does the relevant dairy company make the decision to contact the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)."

Bruce believes there is now an appreciation among farmers that inappropriate behaviour around animal welfare puts the entire dairy sector at reputational risk.

"There is plenty of support available. For example, if someone only has four or five days of feed left, if they let us know, we can get in touch with Federated Farmers to see if they can rustle some up. We also work with the Rural Support Trust and vets to help us.

"Being part of the ERS team is a challenging job, but very rewarding because in most cases you are supporting farmers in difficult circumstances and it's great to see them getting back on track," says Bruce.

If you have concerns and wish to access DairyNZ's Early Response Service, phone our free, confidential number: 0800 4 324 7969.

New research on cow transitioning

The three weeks either side of calving are an important and vulnerable period for the dairy cow. Metabolic needs increase dramatically and how animals cope during this period affects their health, welfare and performance.

A successful transition from late pregnancy into lactation is vital to prevent the onset of metabolic and infectious diseases, and to optimise seasonal production, reproduction and health. As such, transition cow health is an important factor affecting cow fertility, longevity and lifetime productivity. Sub-optimal performance in cow fertility and lifetime productivity cost New Zealand farmers more than \$1.5 billion annually. Research indicates that at least \$550 million of this annual loss could be recovered through the development of innovative practical solutions to improve cow fertility and lifetime productivity.

As part of a seven-year programme led by DairyNZ, called 'Pillars of a New Dairy System', transition cow disorders are under the microscope. Results so far indicate that improving animal health during the first four weeks after calving is a major requirement to improve cow welfare, fertility and longevity. The risk of on-farm death is significantly greater at this time of the year, particularly for cows aged five years and older.

Many culls originate from issues experienced at or following calving, such as mastitis and uterine infection/inflammation. For example, cows with calving difficulty or treatment for calving-related issues have a significantly increased risk of both culling and on-farm death, whereas those with one or more cases of clinical mastitis are at a greater risk of culling.

Uterine infections and metabolic disease are also associated with greater culling and on-farm death in mature cows (i.e. those aged three years or older). Even if affected animals are not removed from the herd, the negative effects of these health disorders on welfare, milk production and reproduction, and the cost of treatment, contribute significantly to lower lifetime productivity and farm profit.

DairyNZ's Dr Claire Phyn, who's leading the teams, says researchers are looking at options for alleviating the problems that cows commonly experience during the transition period, including practical strategies that prevent new infection, better



Ongoing research is providing a firm base for improving cow fertility and lifetime productivity while ensuring cows' wellbeing.

manage at-risk animals, or treat sick animals.

Key areas of research include:

- improving immune function and reducing chronic inflammation
- managing cows with high blood ketones (*hyperketonaemia*)
- improving recovery of reproductive function post-calving
- reducing the risk of clinical and sub-clinical milk fever (*hypocalcaemia*).



The Pillars programme is levy-funded with matched co-funding from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and aligned core funding for fertility from AgResearch. Additional funding and resources are provided by Fonterra, LIC and CRV Ambreed.



DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel opened the 2018 forum.

Forum faces future head-on

What does the future hold for New Zealand’s dairy sector? That question was front and centre at Farmers’ Forum, which tackled everything from climate change to synthetic food products.



Last month Dairy NZ chairman Jim van der Poel welcomed 600 delegates to the fifth biennial DairyNZ Farmers’ Forum at Mystery Creek, Hamilton.

A lineup of thought-provoking speakers explored where the New Zealand dairy sector is heading, the challenges and opportunities farmers face, and how we can prepare and adapt for the future.

“As dairy farmers, I know we can get caught up in the day-to-day routine on-farm – I know I do – but it’s often what’s happening off-farm that can have a big effect on how our farm businesses operate, who we employ and how we farm,” said Jim.

“We are great producers of high quality milk and milk products. We are one of the world’s best at it. But keeping our production and meeting our goals as a sustainable, responsible sector takes skill as we implement farm systems which are more complex, scientific and technology-driven than ever.”

In his address to the Forum, Hon. Damien O’Connor, Minister for Agriculture, Rural Communities, and Biosecurity, said the Government knows how important the primary sector, and in particular dairy, is to New Zealand’s economy.

“It’s our single biggest earner alongside tourism. My vision is that we produce the finest food and protein for the world’s most discerning customers, because those customers will have to be able to afford to pay a little bit more for food that takes a little bit more to produce because we’re going to run the best systems in the world.”

A lively panel discussion chaired by DairyNZ director Ben Allomes included Stephen Allen, Tatua; Steve Koekemoer, Open Country Dairy; John Wilson, Fonterra; and Richard Wyeth, Miraka. They discussed what the new strategy means for them and the future of dairy.

Other stimulating and engaging speakers included economist Cameron Bagrie, futurist Roger Dennis, author and science communicator Julian Cribb, Climate Change Minister Hon. James Shaw, Air New Zealand chief executive Christopher Luxon, and mental health educator Mike King. Some of their presentations can be viewed on dairynz.co.nz/farmersforum



Julian Cribb, author and science communicator, discussed the challenges in producing food for the world.



Minister for Climate Change Hon. James Shaw: “I want you to hear it from me – dairy farmers are doing a great job.”

Farmer feedback



"Farmers' Forum has been interesting and valuable. I really enjoyed the futurist Roger Dennis. I heard Julian Cribb talk about the future of food last year at the Dairy Environment Leaders' Forum and I have to say it was less frightening the second time round. It was great to see such a good turnout."

Anne-Marie Wells, farm owner, Outram (Dunedin)

"There was a lot to take in and plenty of food for thought. It was good to hear from speakers who viewed some costs as long-term investments."

Neil Goodin, farm owner, Te Kauwhata

"The workshops were very helpful, showing us how to apply for jobs, prepare honest CVs and get some tips about face-to-face communication."

Daman Singh, farm assistant, Taupiri

"Bringing the team to events like this helps them to upskill and improve their thought processes. It's inspiring for staff to hear from a group of interesting speakers, and not just from me."

John Assen, sharemilker, Taupiri

"I particularly enjoyed listening to Roger Dennis and Julian Cribb. It makes you think that if food is being grown on skyscrapers in some parts of the world, we might have to consider diversifying in the future."

Troy Hughes, sharemilker, Taranaki

Miraka chief executive Richard Wyeth, Fonterra chair John Wilson, Tatua chair Stephen Allen, and Open Country Dairy chief executive Steve Koekemoer: each presented their view of the refreshed Dairy Tomorrow strategy, chaired by DairyNZ director Ben Allomes (second from left).



DairyNZ chair Jim van der Poel facilitates question time with Minister for Agriculture, Rural Communities, and Biosecurity Hon. Damien O'Connor.



Former stand-up comedian Mike King shared his story and tips for mental wellbeing.



Air NZ chief executive Christopher Luxon ended the first day with his presentation on sustainability and leadership.



Economist Cameron Bagrie shared his insights and predictions for dairying.



Farmers (left to right) Sam Howard, Rachael Foy and Carlos Delos Santos discussed future opportunities in a panel hosted by MC Richard Loe.



Willie McKnight (seen here with wife Jo and children Lachlan, Freya and Elliott) enjoys delivering stockmanship workshops for Dairy Training Ltd.

Taking stock: sharing skills with the next generation



Cambridge farmer Willie McKnight delivers stockmanship workshops for Dairy Training Limited, the DairyNZ company that provides vocational training for staff working on dairy farms. By sharing his knowledge and skills, he's also helping others learn how good animal welfare practices can benefit cows, farm production and dairy's reputation.

Every so often, Cambridge farmer Willie McKnight gets off the tractor, throws his gumboots in the ute and heads off to share his stockmanship skills with young farmers.

In 2010, Willie was the New Zealand Dairy Industry Association (NZDIA) Waikato Farm Manager of the Year. Since then he and his wife Jo have made some lifestyle changes and given up sharemilking. They now manage a 200ha dairy grazing block as well as raising nursing cows and rearing calves. In his spare time, Willie works as a contractor, re-grassing, direct drilling and cultivating in the Waikato area.

Despite this hectic schedule, Willie still has time to pass on his farming skills to others who are relatively new to farming, delivering stockmanship workshops for Dairy Training Limited. These education programmes were developed by the 'Transforming the Dairy Value Chain (TDVC) Primary Growth Partnership' programme, a seven-year, \$170 million innovation investment led by commercial partners, including DairyNZ and Fonterra, partnered by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

The TDVC investment was directed at innovative solutions that grow the New Zealand economy. For example, the Cow Skills programme uses a training approach that focuses on practical skills that extend beyond cow skills to other training applications. Following a pilot, to succeed it will need to be cost-effective and meet the needs of trainees and managers. The plan is to scale up

delivery of this new training approach across the country, and integrate it into existing industry training systems.

The Dairy Training modules (see dairynz.co.nz/dairytraininglimited) include workshops on moving cattle, training heifers, best practice in the dairy shed and caring for calves.

"I enjoy the hands-on nature of this teaching," says Willie. "It's great to see those lightbulb moments, when trainees 'get it'. I think the practical aspects of this training appeal to farm assistants because it focuses on giving them skills they can use immediately. Good stockmanship not only improves animal welfare, it helps ensure a safe and efficient working environment for the whole farm team, and upskilling farm staff is integral to this."

Meanwhile, Dairy Training's operations manager Cath Blake says vocational training has benefits for employers as well as staff.

"Vocational training has a positive impact on the motivation, attitude and self-esteem of employees. This in turn boosts on-the-job productivity. These workshops give young farmers the opportunity to acquire new skills and extend their options for career development."

Later this year, Primary ITO is using the framework of the Cow Skills programme as part of the New Zealand Certificate of Primary Industry Skills, Level 2.

Meet our animal care team

Sharing knowledge, developing tools and resources and providing practical on-farm training and assistance. These are just some of the ways DairyNZ helps dairy farmers ensure their stock are well-cared for, as our animal care team manager Helen Thoday explains.



What do you do and why?

DairyNZ's animal care team is spread across the country and our messages for the wellbeing of stock start at birth and continue behind and beyond the farm gate. Providing the best care for our animals is a win-win for everyone involved on a farm level, a sector level and the New Zealand public.

We're a passionate group of people. We bring a lot of energy to our work and we love going the extra mile to help farmers care for their stock.

Our team has a broad range of skills and expertise, from veterinarians to current and previous dairy farmers. We use the latest thinking by partnering with research groups and experts. Most people in the field of animal care are happy to share their knowledge.

Our extension activities and resources help raise farmers' and industry partners' understanding of good animal care practices and build their animal care skills.

Other activities include monitoring consumer and market expectations and policy work, looking at future changes that might affect farmers. We ensure these are sensible on a farm

level and we develop practical low-cost solutions where possible. We often contribute to topical issues that gain public interest and assist in any adverse events that put animal care at risk, such as a natural disaster.

What are some recent examples of your work?

Our popular CalvingSmart roadshow (see story on pages 10 to 11), and visit dairynz.co.nz/calvingsmart provides a full-day programme for the whole farm team. Catering for different experience levels, it focuses on practical skills, the latest developments in animal care and management and welfare regulations and how to keep healthy and motivated during calving season.

We've been developing the Healthy Hoof app, which is being

"We bring a lot of energy to our work and we love going the extra mile to help farmers care for their stock."

launched this month. Developed with lameness experts and farmers, the app allows farmers to record types of lameness with one touch, and spot risks using the app's 'smart reports'. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page or website for the launch!

Our information for farmers is available online at dairynz.co.nz and dairynz.co.nz/animal

What do people think about what you're doing?

While our Kiwi dairy farming systems are often cited for our competitive advantage, continuous improvement is an ongoing goal. As animal welfare continues to be front of mind for the public and the consumer, the opportunities for our team and the sector to close the gap between people's perceptions and a more positive reality and lead the way with animal care are huge.

How can farmers get in touch with your team?

DairyNZ's animal care team is always available through our 0800 4 DAIRYNZ number. Just ask for your regional animal care extension specialist. Please share DairyNZ's resources with your team members and mention them to neighbouring farmers.



DairyNZ's animal care team (left to right): Jacqueline McGowan, Marloes Levelink, Tony Dench, Ashleigh Dobson, Katherine DeWitt, Helen Thoday, Katie Saunders and Bruce Eyers.



Right behind you: DairyNZ's GoDairy careers website – and Sam Kirk's cows.



Growing the future of dairy

DairyNZ's new dairy careers website, GoDairy, aims to attract motivated and passionate people into the dairy sector: people like 24-year-old Sam Kirk. Find out more about Sam's story and GoDairy's world of opportunities.

Sam's journey

Sam's first job in dairying was working on a farm part-time, while studying for a degree in commerce and agriculture. Since then, he's worked his way up to manager of a dairy unit for Rakaia Island (near Oxford in Canterbury). He's really pleased he chose a career path in dairy and, based on his own experiences, he'd love others to consider a career in the sector too.

Sam was inspired by meeting farmers who were running successful dairy businesses and loving it. "At university we had the opportunity to visit farms and I got a lot out of those field trips and listening to the farmers we visited," Sam says.

He's driven by the opportunity to succeed and to own his own farm. "I love seeing healthy cows eating grass and producing quality milk, as well as working in a team to put all the factors of farming together and achieve great results."

With the GoDairy website now up and running, getting into the sector (and achieving career goals like Sam's) is even easier for others considering dairying as a vocation.

New careers website

Dairying's world of opportunities offers varied and exciting roles ranging across dairy farming, agri-business and agri-science. The GoDairy website provides information on these and

aims to help people identify why a dairy sector career may be ideal for them and what pathways they can take to get to where they want to go.

The website aims to attract people of any age and from both rural and urban backgrounds – from high school students, people in their 20s and people seeking a career change, to parents and teachers who might encourage people into the sector. It has information on the required school subjects, tertiary study and recommended training, plus links to job search sites and information on DairyNZ's awards and scholarships.

As part of GoDairy's information on the different job opportunities, there's a fun quiz to help people pin down which career path would best suit them. The quiz ranks role types in order – selecting one job doesn't mean doing it for a lifetime and skills are transferrable to other roles as a person progresses through their career.

If someone you know is considering a career in dairying, get them to check out the website – they can also read the profiles on young people like Sam who are achieving success in their dairy career. You'll get an insight into growing your own future in dairy too.

Visit godairy.co.nz



NZ dairy herds to benefit from solving genetic jigsaw

In a world-leading study, New Zealand researchers are working with the US Department of Agriculture to piece together a 15-million-piece genetic jigsaw. Improving the genetic reference sequence will provide multiple benefits for our cows and environment, plus financial gains for farmers and the New Zealand economy.

Researchers from New Zealand's herd improvement and agri-technology cooperative, Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC), are working in collaboration with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), using LIC Jersey and Holstein-Friesian bulls to build a genetic map of New Zealand dairy cattle.

Back in 2009 after a six-year effort, the USDA and a consortium of 300 scientists from 25 countries published the first cattle genome sequence of a female Hereford cow called Dominette. Since then, research laboratories around the world have been using her DNA sequence to make an array of genetic discoveries, and now it's getting an overhaul to improve accuracy.

"Identifying the potential benefits of genetic gains for New Zealand's dairy herd will deliver more accuracy around bull selection, increasing the national rate of genetic gain."

The LIC work is part of an overall project to chart the DNA differences between beef and dairy cattle. This will help scientists understand what role different genes play in traits like milk production, fertility, and body condition, and the potential these genetic markers might have for the country's dairy herd. Each DNA sequence makes up a piece of this complicated jigsaw puzzle.

Dr Bevin Harris, LIC's acting chief scientist, says the collaboration with the USDA brings benefits for the New Zealand dairy herd. Those range from identifying disease genes to increasing the speed of delivery for breeding-worth traits, leading to more efficient cows and thus environmental benefits. Some diseases could be bred out of the herd population and a greater genetic gain will have substantial financial impacts for farmers and the New Zealand economy.

"The genome map is the foundation," says Dr Harris. "We need to know where all the genes are located and how they are used.

"We'll provide our results to the USDA and the sequencing

map of the dairy cow will be made available to the international scientific community. When other scientists use it, they'll add further information. This will contribute to wider knowledge valuable to New Zealand dairy farmers.

"Identifying the potential benefits of genetic gains for New Zealand's dairy herd will deliver more accuracy around bull selection, increasing the national rate of genetic gain."

Dr Jeremy Bryant, who is DairyNZ's New Zealand Animal Evaluation manager, estimates improvements in genetic merit are currently worth \$300 million in profit per year to the dairy sector.

"This figure is likely to increase with improvements in genetic gain," says Jeremy.



Genetic scientists at LIC are using Jersey and Holstein-Friesian bulls to build a genetic map of New Zealand dairy cattle.

Funding

This research was funded by the 'Transforming the Dairy Value Chain (TDVC) Primary Growth Partnership' programme, a seven-year, \$170 million innovation investment led by commercial partners, including DairyNZ, Fonterra and LIC, partnered by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Gauge your business and grow

DairyNZ has created a tool to help farmers take the first step in making their farm business more profitable, productive, efficient and enjoyable.

DairyNZ's newly-launched Farm Gauge allows dairy farmers to self-assess their business quickly and easily. It takes less than 30 minutes and looks at eight key areas of the farm system: strategy, feed, finance, health/safety and wellbeing, herd management, people, environment and infrastructure.

In April we asked a group of Bay of Plenty dairy farmers for their feedback. You can read their responses below.

TOM & THERESE EARLS Sharemilkers, Reporoa



"The Farm Gauge tool really got us thinking about succession planning. At our stage of life and business, we hadn't thought about succession planning, but we should – this isn't something we can start addressing in 15 years' time, it'll be too late.

"We can see real benefits for sharemilkers doing this and getting their farm owners to also do it. It will be a great communication tool to make sure we're all on the same page."

LARRY WETTING Farm owner, Murupara



"Beginning the Farm Gauge tool, I thought it was going to identify the weaknesses I already knew existed. Instead, it helped identify a weakness in our business we thought had been our strength. When we set up our business we had played to our strengths, but the tool helped us understand that if one of us was unable to work, this would soon become a big weakness."

"The Farm Gauge tool has given us a sense of direction on what to work towards, and the colour-coding of the results helped make it really clear where to focus."

MICHAELA & ALAN PATERSON Sharemilkers, Rotorua



"This has really put some things into perspective; things that had been in the back of our minds are now in our face and we can put plans in place to address them. The Farm Gauge tool has given us a sense of direction on what to work towards, and the colour-coding of the results helped make it really clear where to focus."

MARC JONES Farm manager, Tokoroa



"I can really see the benefit of doing this. The way you show the score for each area has prompted me to think about how things all connect in our farm business. How am I doing? What could I be monitoring and measuring to see how I am progressing?"

DONNA MCKINLEY Farm manager, Mangakino



"At my stage, some of this isn't as applicable yet, but it really got me thinking about what I should get prepared for as I continue to progress.

I'm not managing people or working in a team yet, but doing this has highlighted some key performance indicators I should remain aware of and start thinking about when I do form a team."



Use the tool today: visit dairynz.co.nz/farm-gauge

Waikato research reveals benefits of using catch crops

Using a catch crop can reduce a farm's nutrient footprint and increase homegrown feed yield. DairyNZ developer Maitland Manning outlines the latest research findings from Canterbury and Waikato.



Feeding crops in autumn and winter increases the risk of nitrate (N) leached from farms. That's because N deposited in cows' urine at this time of year has no opportunity to be taken up by a growing plant.

The Forages for Reduced Nitrate Leaching (FRNL) research programme has shown how this problem can be addressed with catch crops in Canterbury (as reported in *Inside Dairy* November 2016).

Now the Waikato FRNL research has shown that, at Scott Farm, N leaching from autumn-grazed fodder beet crops can also be reduced by using a catch crop. For this trial, the effectiveness of two catch crops (Italian ryegrass and oats) were compared when following the fodder beet crop.

In the Waikato, growing Italian ryegrass or returning the paddock to permanent pasture are standard approaches after harvesting maize or other autumn feed crops.

- By August, oats reduced the amount of soil mineral N at depth (30cm to 90cm) where leaching occurs by up to 47 percent, compared to the fallow and Italian ryegrass treatments.
- Oats were faster than Italian ryegrass at establishing and accumulating biomass (8.2 to 13.1 tonne DM/ha versus (2.5 to 3.3 tonne DM/ha) over the winter/spring period.
- Oats in general took up more N than Italian ryegrass (particularly by the June and July samplings) because of the oats greater biomass.
- Oats didn't require grazing during winter, unlike Italian ryegrass which has to be grazed to maintain its quality (which adds additional urine N into the system).

An observed benefit of oats during the Waikato trial was its ability to handle cold and wet conditions. Rainfall in Waikato during the winter and spring 2017 trial period was notably higher than longer-term averages, however the oats still put on good biomass.

An oat catch crop in Waikato gives farmers several options. It can be grazed in spring, cut as green chop or whole crop silage, or held for grain. To maximise biomass and feed quality while reducing N leaching, it is recommended to cut as a green chop.

Waikato FRNL trial

Catch crops reduced deep soil N (30cm to 90cm) by 22% (Italian ryegrass) and 47% (oats). Most of that reduction can be explained by plant uptake.



The FRNL small plot field study in Waikato indicated that oats take up more N than Italian ryegrass does following an autumn-grazed crop.

Funding

This research was completed as part of the FRNL programme, with principal funding from the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and DairyNZ. The programme is a partnership between DairyNZ, AgResearch, Plant & Food Research, Lincoln University, the Foundation for Arable Research and Landcare Research. Learn more at dairynz.co.nz/FRNL

Ice cream kit winners



Anna Gallien and her daughters (pictured below) in Te Awamutu, and Paula Cairns and her sons in Winton are (ice) screaming for joy after each winning an ice cream-making kit from DairyNZ's education programme. These kits were distributed to 350 schools as part of a science lesson to investigate an element's change in state (from liquid to solid) and the science behind what determines a mixture.

The twist of the lesson came with the challenge to make a breakfast-flavoured ice cream, with the kit including flavours like baked beans, marmite, honey, rolled oats and fruit.

The families are thrilled and can't wait to have a churn with their kits.

Visit dairynz.co.nz/education



NZDIA winners announced

DairyNZ congratulates all the national New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards (NZDIA) winners for 2018. Announced on May 12 at ILT Stadium Southland, Invercargill, this year's winners are:

- Share Farmers of the Year – Daniel & Gina Duncan
- Dairy Manager of the Year – Gerard Boerjan
- Dairy Trainee of the Year – Simone Smail
- Responsible Dairying Award – Wynn and Tracy Brown.

Learn more and see photos from the event at dairyindustryawards.co.nz



Tracy and Wynn Brown.



Left to right: Simone Smail, Gina and Dan Duncan, and Gerard Boerjan.

Trim tails – don't shorten

DairyNZ reminds farmers that a new regulation restricting the shortening or removal of tails comes into force on October 1, 2018.

Under the Ministry for Primary Industries regulation, docking cattle tails will be prohibited, except by a veterinarian as a treatment for disease or injury. Tail shortening or docking causes pain and makes a cow less effective at keeping flies away.

Trimming tails is a pain-free alternative, which can improve udder health and keep cows' udders and milkers' faces clean, while still allowing cows to deter flies.

Find out more about managing tails at dairynz.co.nz/tails

New partnership connects farm data

A DairyNZ and ASB partnership will provide dairy farmers with better access to benchmarking data and sector insights.

Using DairyNZ's DairyBase, ASB rural managers can now add value by analysing benchmarking data and trends for their dairy farming customers. If dairy farmers want to join DairyBase, data can also be automatically transferred from ASB into DairyBase.

DairyBase is a benchmarking tool which helps farmers track productivity and profitability, compare costs to other similar farms, and track progress towards long- and short-term goals. More than 5000 farmers are registered.

Learn more at dairynz.co.nz/dairybase or contact your ASB rural manager.



Celebrating 50 years of Fieldays

Now the largest agricultural event in the Southern Hemisphere, New Zealand Agricultural Fieldays celebrates its 50th event this year in June. We'll be there to mark the occasion, with a presence in three different areas.

Mystery Creek Pavilion – Stand PC 46

This year's Fieldays theme is *The future of farming* and, in line with that, DairyNZ's main stand will focus on the new *Dairy Tomorrow* strategy for the future of New Zealand dairying.

We look forward to welcoming you to our site for a chat and to share the tools, resources and expertise of DairyNZ specialists. We want to ensure that, together, we're informed and equipped to address the challenges ahead. Discuss where your levy money goes and give us your view on where our future spending priorities should be.

Careers and Education Hub

We're also part of the Careers and Education Hub with GrowingNZ and Primary ITO. Young people and their parents (and anyone thinking about changing their career) can find out more about exciting and rewarding career opportunities along with career progression and training options in the primary sector.

The Rosie Show

For younger Fieldays visitors, The Rosie Show provides an entertaining insight to life on a dairy farm. The show will be performed on the Village Green (outside the main pavilion) on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

In between the Rosie Show performances, children can come and meet Rosie, our cowbassador, in the Old School Classroom in the Heritage Village. They can pick up a free Rosie goody bag, try out the latest Rosie games on the iPads, enter the colouring-in competition and try out the latest in-school science experiment kits.



DairyNZ chief executive Tim Mackle discusses the future of farming with a young Fieldays visitor last year.

WHERE AND WHEN

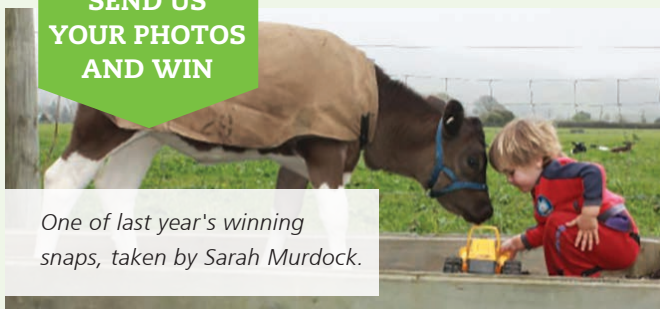
June
13-16

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL FIELDAYS

Mystery Creek, Hamilton

For more about Fieldays 2018 and to buy tickets, visit fieldays.co.nz

**SEND US
YOUR PHOTOS
AND WIN**



One of last year's winning snaps, taken by Sarah Murdock.

Be part of the DairyNZ site at the National Fieldays this month by sending us your photos of what the future of farming looks like for you. We'll display these on our big screen with plenty of prizes up for grabs for the best shots. Photos including you, your family or your farm team earn extra points.

Email your photos to fieldays@dairynz.co.nz by June 10.

For the full list of what's on near you, visit dairynz.co.nz/events

June events

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
				1	2	3	
4	5-7 SOUTHLAND/SOUTH OTAGO Mark and Measure in Queenstown: a two-day course about the concepts and skills required to achieve personal and business success.			8	9	10	
12 BAY OF PLENTY Mihi/Reporoa Discussion Group – chat about current issues and upcoming seasonal topics.		13-16 SOUTH WAIKATO National Agricultural Fielddays at Mystery Creek in Hamilton. Don't miss it!			15	16	17
18	19-20 LOWER NI Once-a-day milking national conference with excellent speakers and practical content.			22	23	24	
25	26	27 NORTH WAIKATO Morrinsville Climate Change Workshop: hear from some of New Zealand's top researchers about the challenges of climate change on-farm, and the Zero Carbon Bill.					

DAIRYNZ.CO.NZ/EVENTS

NORTHLAND

Get in touch with Dairy Connect to receive advice from one of our support farmers. Whether you're thinking of trying something new on-farm, or are facing challenges and would just like to talk to someone with experience, sign-up and we'll connect you with a support farmer who best suits your situation.

Email Northland Dairy Connect Coordinator Jacqui Porter at jacqui.porter@dairynz.co.nz or find out more at dairynz.co.nz/dairyconnect

BAY OF PLENTY

Approach the calving season with confidence with CalvingSmart. These full day programmes in Edgecumbe (June 20) and Reporoa (June 21) are for the whole farm team. Farmers can choose from a series of sessions for different experience levels.

Each event will look at a variety of calving topics including what does a normal calving look and feel like; and looking after newborn calves. There will also be a focus on ensuring a 'well-oiled team' and keeping team morale high during what can be a busy and stressful time on farm.

Register at dairynz.co.nz/calvingsmart

TARANAKI

Ensure your team is prepared for the busiest time of the year with CalvingSmart. Coming to Taranaki on June 28 (Waverley) and June 29 (Stratford). These events are a series of sessions for different experience levels over a full day's programme. There will be something for everyone in your farm team.

Calving topics will include care and recovery of down cows, calf rearing and general animal care, while there will also be a focus on people – keeping your team happy and motivated during what can be a busy and stressful few months.

Register at dairynz.co.nz/calvingsmart



LOWER NORTH ISLAND

This year's national once-a-day milking conference is being held in Palmerston North on June 19 and 20. The conference schedule is full of excellent guest speakers and practical content, including the latest once-a-day research. All meals throughout the two days will be included with your registration.

For more event details and to register, visit dairynz.co.nz/events

TOP OF SOUTH ISLAND/WEST COAST

Looking for some advice as we head into the busy winter months? Or seeking information about a specific dairying topic? Sign up with Dairy Connect to source credible advice from reputable dairy farmers. You can get in touch with Linnet Burns, Dairy Connect coordinator for the Top of the South and West Coast regions, at linnet.burns@dairynz.co.nz, or find out more at dairynz.co.nz/dairyconnect

CANTERBURY/NORTH OTAGO

DairyNZ, with support from AgResearch and Ministry for the Environment, is holding a series of regional climate change workshops for farmers this month, with Canterbury and South Canterbury workshops on June 11 and 12.

These half-day workshops will provide farmers with the opportunity to speak with some of New Zealand's top climate change researchers. The challenges of climate change for the dairy sector and what actions farmers can take right now to reduce on-farm emissions will be the focus, as the dairy sector works towards improving dairy farms' environmental footprint.

To register or to find out more, go to dairynz.co.nz/roadshow

SOUTHLAND/SOUTH OTAGO

Run by farmers for farmers, SIDE 2018 – the South Island Dairy Event – is being held on June 25 and 26 in Dunedin.

The two-day programme will feature industry experts delivering keynote addresses, networking sessions and practical workshops in a revitalised format. Speakers include former All Blacks coach Sir Graham Henry (*pictured*), Animations Research Limited founder Ian Taylor, journalist Shayne Currie and adventure racers Richard and Elina Ussher.

Book your spot now at side.org.nz



DairyNZ Consulting Officers

Upper North Island

Head of Upper North Island	Sharon Morrell	027 492 2907
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Northland

Regional Leader	Chris Neill	027 499 9021
Far North	Denise Knop	027 807 9686
Lower Northland	Mark Forsyth	021 242 5719
Whangarei West	Chris Neil	027 499 9021

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Senior Consulting Officer Lead	Phil Irvine	027 483 9820
Regional Leader	Wade Bell	027 285 9273
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Matamata/Kereone	Frank Portegys	027 807 9685
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Otorohanga	Michael Booth	027 513 7201
South Waikato	Kirsty Dickins	027 483 2205

Bay of Plenty

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Central BOP (Te Puke, Rotorua)	Kevin McKinley	027 288 8238
Eastern BOP (Whakatane, Opotiki)	Ross Bishop	027 563 1785
Central Plateau (Reporoa, Taupo)	Colin Grainger-Allen	021 225 8345
Katikati, Galatea, Waikite/Ngakuru	Jordyn Crouch	021 619 071

Lower North Island

Head of Lower North Island	Rob Brazendale	021 683 139
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Taranaki

Regional Leader	Sarah Dirks	027 513 7202
South Taranaki	Ryan Orchard	021 246 5663
Central Taranaki	Sarah Payne	027 704 5562
Coastal Taranaki	Anna Arends	021 276 5832
North Taranaki	Lauren McEldowney	027 593 4122

Lower North Island

Horowhenua/Wanganui/South Taranaki/Southern and Coastal Manawatu	Scott Cameron	027 702 3760
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Hawke's Bay	Gray Beagley	021 286 4346
Central/Northern Manawatu/Rangitikei	Jo Back	021 222 9023

South Island

Head of South Island	Tony Finch	0277 066 183
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Top of South Island/West Coast

Nelson/Marlborough	Mark Shadwick	021 287 7057
West Coast	Angela Leslie	021 277 2894

Canterbury/North Otago

Regional Leader	Virginia Serra	021 932 515
North Canterbury	Virginia Serra	021 932 515
Central Canterbury	Natalia Benquet	021 287 7059
Mid Canterbury	Stuart Moorhouse	027 513 7200
South Canterbury	Heather Donaldson	0275934124
North Otago	Trevor Gee	021 227 6476

Southland/South Otago

Regional Leader	Richard Kyte	021 246 3166
South Otago	Mark Olsen-Vetland	021 615 051
Central/North Western Southland	Nicole E Hammond	021 240 8529
West Otago/North Eastern Southland	Liam Carey	027 474 3258
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Western Southland	Teresa Anderson	027 702 2219



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25-26 JUNE 2018 | DUNEDIN CENTRE

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