

Ravensdown PGP Programme Quarterly Progress Report

Contract reporting period: July - September 2015

PSG Meeting Date: 28/10/15

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Summary of progress during this quarter

Quarter 1 of the 2015/16 year was again a very busy period for activities against the data collection and collation objective with planning and site selection being carried out across the four new research farms entering into the programme in this period. Research farms provide the baseline data to develop remote sensing calibrations. These farms are located in the Wairarapa, Nelson, Canterbury and Otago regions representing the extension of the programme across both the South and North Island. In addition an extended spring sampling on the Wairarapa farm began in late August. The extended sampling is aimed at identifying the width of the spring pasture flush for establishing a robust remote sensing relationship.

To date approximately 4,787 soil and 4,772 plant tissues samples have been collected off the first five research properties representing the most comprehensive dataset taken in New Zealand for the purpose of developing remote sensing technology to improve the identification of nutrient requirements for extensive farming properties. Results relating pasture nutrient levels to sensing data continue to suggest very robust algorithms are achievable between remote sensing data and pasture nutrient concentrations. The relationships with underlying soil fertility are now beginning to be explored.

The first two focus farms have been finalised for the programme and are Patitapu Farming Co LTD in the Wairarapa and Atihau Whanganui INC - Ohorea Station. The focus farm's purpose are to trial and refine tools that are developed as part of the PGP programme.

Key highlights and achievements

- *Sampling site selection completed across the four new research farms entering into the programme in this period.*
- *Selection of the first two focus farms within the programme.*

Upcoming

- *Data collection across the four recently introduced research farms.*

Investment

<i>Investment period</i>	<i>Industry contribution</i>	<i>MPI contribution</i>	<i>Total investment</i>
<i>During this Quarter</i>	\$0.21m	\$0.21m	\$0.42m
<i>Programme To Date</i>	\$1.94m	\$1.94m	\$3.88m