



MĀORI AGRIBUSINESS

2014 Ahuwhenua Winner: Te Rua o Te Moko Ltd

Kingi Smiler, Ahuwhenua Trophy management committee Chairman.

“A shining example of the way small Māori trusts were co-operating to create economically viable enterprises”.

Four separate Māori trusts and a treaty settlement property working together to create an economically viable and environmentally sustainable dairy operation.

Challenge

Four separate Ahuwhenua trust land-blocks and a treaty settlement property – individually leased and limited in economic viability – just north of the Taranaki township of Hawera.

Solution

Bring together the resources of the five land blocks to achieve an economically viable and environmentally sustainable dairy operation. This included:

- » feasibility study and governance and management structure development;
- » Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) negotiation for land block under live negotiation;
- » implementing a herd acquisition programme; and
- » training operation established for descendants of owners and other local Māori.

Key Facts

Achievement: 170 hectares of flat rolling ash soils, milking 500 cows

Number of shareholders: 1100 approx

Profit: Operating profit has been above the North Island benchmark for the last three years

Milk production: In excess of 200 000 kgMS or 1176 kgMS/ha this season

Tribal affiliation: Ngā Ruahine