



Justine's column

Welcome to this edition of Agri-gate. Firstly, I'd like to extend my thoughts to everyone affected by the recent earthquakes. I hope that you and your families are safe and well.

PGP Annual Meeting, Food and Fibre Future Conference and PGP Expo

On 1 November the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) held its Food and Fibre Future Conference in Wellington, followed by the annual Primary Growth Partnership (PGP) Expo.

The conference brought together those working in our food and fibre sectors, related businesses, media and others to learn about the major trends, developments and challenges facing these important sectors. It also considered how these industries can prepare for the challenges and opportunities the next 10 to 20 years may bring.

The PGP Expo provided the chance to learn more about current PGP programmes, experience – and taste – some of the cutting-edge innovations being delivered by programmes, celebrate achievements and network.

We provide a brief recap of the conference and expo in this

month's Agri-gate. We've also pulled together a short video of interviews and footage from the Expo, which is available on the MPI YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/MinPrimaryIndustries

We wanted the Food and Fibre Future Conference to provoke thinking, provide insights, trigger action and offer the opportunity for delegates to connect with like-minded people. Based on the comments I received during the day, and subsequently, I think we achieved that.

The conference and expo followed the PGP Annual Meeting where the Minister for Primary Industries Hon Nathan Guy spoke about some of the achievements of PGP programmes during 2015/16 and emphasized the importance of regular communication about these. The New Zealand Merino Company's Chief Executive, John Brakenridge, talked about the Wool Unleashed (W³) PGP programme that started earlier this year, and Spring Sheep Milk Co Chief Operating Officer Nick Hammond talked about the Sheep – Horizon Three PGP programme announced in August.

I'd like to thank everyone involved in organising and contributing to the annual meeting, conference and expo and those who attended.

With PGP programme managers and programme steering group chairs in Wellington for the PGP Annual Meeting, and the conference and expo, we took the opportunity to

meet the day before to share information and experience on risk management, benefits tracking and delivery and governance.

PGP meets the Royals

Another highlight during November was attending an event in Auckland for the King and Queen of Netherlands, His Majesty Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima. This included a presentation about the Precision Seafood Harvesting PGP programme by Programme Manager Dave Woods and Plant & Food Research's Suzy Black.



Precision Seafood Harvesting Programme Manager Dave Woods (left) demonstrates PSH technology to the King of Netherlands, His Majesty Willem-Alexander (right).

Afforestation Grant Scheme celebration event

On 10 November I attended the Christchurch A&P Show where we held a celebratory event for the Afforestation Grant Scheme with Minister Jo Goodhew. The event was focused on celebrating the success of the AGS to date, and to announce the results of the 2016 funding round. We had a full house at the MPI stand and it was great to see so many school children attending too. Trees were given to three local schools to symbolise the benefits the AGS has for the next generation of New Zealanders. Check out the article in this edition to find out more.

Update on funds

We have made some changes to our Erosion Control Funding Programme after consulting with the Gisborne

District Council and Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou. The programme is focused on funding treatment solutions for erosion-prone land in the Gisborne District. To find out more about the changes, check out the article in this edition.

In December, the Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF) advisory panel will meet to consider the applications we received during this year's SFF funding round. The advisory panel

go through a thorough process to consider all applications against the criteria. Successful applicants will be notified in early 2017 for projects beginning from 1 July 2017. Seventy seven applications were received this year requesting over \$21 million in funding.

Justine Gilliland
Director Investment Programmes.

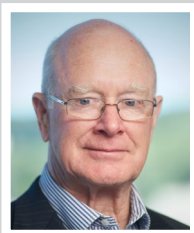


Minister Jo Goodhew gives a Cypress tree to Davi Williams from St Albans Primary School.



Associate Minister for Primary Industries Hon Jo Goodhew addresses the audience at the AGS celebration event.

From the Chair, PGP Investment Advisory Panel



It was great to see so many people at the PGP annual meeting, the Food and Fibre Future Conference and the Expo earlier this month. Events like these take a lot of effort to organise, so I would like to thank those involved.

I would also like to extend a thanks to those who presented and those who

attended.

Conference and expo delegates were from a range of different organisations, showing the wide interest in the food and fibre sectors. This included my fellow Investment Advisory Panel members, PGP programme partners, other primary industry representatives, universities, researchers, scientists, media and others.

Each speaker at the Food and Fibre Future Conference talked about very relevant issues facing our industries. This included the need to differentiate New Zealand's value-add products from other countries, tell a compelling story about our food and fibre, and take note of changing consumer trends and expectations.

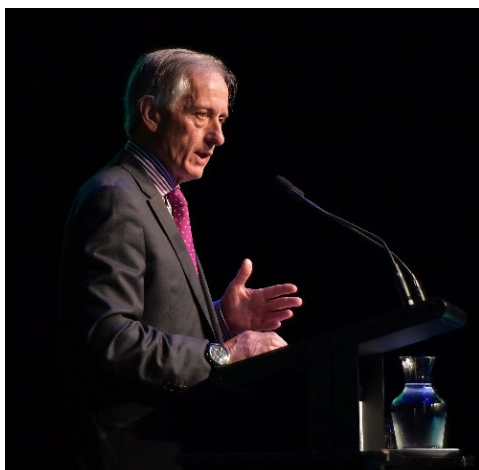
As I said in my address at the conference, throughout the primary (or food and fibre) industries we know what the issues are. The challenge now is to continue finding solutions to these issues. It will take joined-up efforts and commitment across our primary industries. This is a key focus of PGP programmes – enabling collaboration to tackle issues or progress opportunities in our primary industries. The PGP expo was a great showcase of the progress and achievements of PGP programmes. Certainly,

a strong theme of collaboration was coming through loud and clear in the programme stands I visited. I'd like to thank PGP programme partners for the efforts they put into their stands.

Across PGP programmes, we have every primary sector represented. However, MPI and the Panel are always on the lookout for new PGP programmes. Therefore, I encourage you to help spread the word about PGP through your networks. The MPI team would be happy to speak with anyone who has good workable ideas that would overcome a challenge and/or progress an opportunity in the primary industries.

John Parker
Chair of the IAP

Recap of Food and Fibre Future Conference and PGP Expo



MPI Director-General Martyn Dunne opens the Food and Fibre Future Conference.

More than 200 people packed into Wellington's TSB Bank Arena for the Food and Fibre Conference and annual Primary Growth Partnership (PGP) Expo on 1 November.

Comprising three sessions, the conference looked 10 to 20 years into the future to consider how New Zealand's primary industries can prepare for the challenges and opportunities it will bring.

Session one looked at the important role nutrition, health and wellbeing will play in our food and fibre sectors in the future. Session two discussed global trends, issues and challenges that are likely to shape this future. And, session three moved the focus from global trends to actions taking place in New Zealand right now.

Keeping the day on track was Dr Scott Champion, who's well known for his work in the primary industries, including seven years as Chief Executive of Beef + Lamb New Zealand.

Speakers

The conference had a range of speakers from New Zealand and overseas. These included Joe Mariani, series editor for Deloitte's research campaign on the 'Internet of Things (IoT)'. His research examines the impact of IoT on a diverse set of issues from business strategy and product development to technical trends.

Natasha Telles D'Costa, Associate Director Visionary Science Practice: Chemicals, Materials and Food Asia Pacific (APAC)



Food and Fibre Future Conference MC Scott Champion.



Joe Mariani, Series Editor for Deloitte's research campaign on the 'Internet of Things', speaks at the Food and Fibre Future Conference.



Massey University Vice-Chancellor Steve Maharey speaks at the Food and Fibre Future Conference.



Radio New Zealand's Alexa Cook interviews Martin Kussman, Chief Scientist for High-Value Nutrition, part of the National Science Challenges.

at Frost and Sullivan, talked about her work with the East Asian and wider APAC markets. She emphasized the need to sell people aspirational stories, linked to sustainability and traceability.

Steve Maharey, Vice-Chancellor of Massey University, took the stage to talk on a range of topics including the need for leadership and collaboration in the food and fibre sectors and the importance of making New Zealand's 'food story' real for consumers.

Martin Kussman, Chief Scientist for High-Value Nutrition, part of the National Science Challenge, talked about his team's work and the importance of looking at food for nutrition and health.

And Ian Proudfoot, who leads KPMG's Consumer/Industrial Markets and Agribusiness lines of business, talked about his observations relating to the food and fibre sectors, consumer expectations and how to capitalise on new consumer trends.

A full list of speakers and their presentations are available on the '[Conferences and events](#)' page on the MPI website, under 'Previous events'.

Innovation on display

The PGP Expo, which followed the Food and Fibre Future

Conference, showcased the 19 PGP programmes currently underway.

On offer was the opportunity to see some of the innovations developed by PGP programmes, ranging from new technology and food products to industry-good initiatives aimed at building the capability, performance and resilience of our primary industries.

On display also was the prototype bi-ped felling machine (affectionately called the "Stick Insect") controlled using a Sony Playstation controller and developed under the Steepland Harvesting PGP Programme by Scion and the University of Canterbury's mechatronics programme.

People also had the opportunity to sample some of the value-add food products developed by PGP programmes. These included Silere Alpine Origin Merino meat from the New Zealand Sheep Industry Transformation (NZSTX) programme, 'Omega Lamb' developed by the Omega Lamb Project to have higher levels of polyunsaturated fat and healthy Omega-3 oils, fish presented as sashimi and caught using Precision Seafood Harvesting technology, venison from the Passion2Profit programme and mussels courtesy of SPATnz.



Fonterra's Rob Mitchell (left) and Andrew Fletcher (right) at the Transforming the Dairy Value Chain programme stand.



'Tiaki' fish served as sashimi and caught using Precision Seafood Harvesting technology.



The PGP Expo in full swing.



The 'Stick Insect' tree felling machine developed by the Steepland Harvesting PGP programme.



From left to right, The New Zealand Merino Company's Skye Rutherford, Rhiannon James and Helena Draack.



From left to right, DairyNZ's Tim Mackle and Helen Anderson, MPI's Justine Gilliland and Minister for Primary Industries Hon Nathan Guy at the PGP Expo.



MacLean Fraser, Executive Chef at Wellington's Bolton Hotel, prepares Omega Lamb at The Omega Lamb Project's site.



FarmIQ's Andrew van Bunnick (left) Darryn Pegram (centre) with a visitor to their stand.



MPI's Ross McIsaac (left) and David Jordon from the Lifestyle Wines PGP programme.

In other news...

Improvements to Erosion Control Funding Programme

In order to treat more erodible land in the Gisborne district, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) will implement two new improvements to the Erosion Control Funding Programme (ECFP) in the coming months.

The ECFP has been running since 1992 and is focused on reducing the severe erosion problem facing the Gisborne district. The Gisborne district is also susceptible to regular high-intensity weather events that cause soil erosion and downstream flooding.

A review of the ECFP was undertaken earlier this year to understand the barriers preventing land owners from taking up the funding available, and to develop initiatives to deliver the best erosion outcomes for the Gisborne region.

Feedback from Te Runanganui o Ngāti Porou, Gisborne District Council and current and potential ECFP grantees

has confirmed that the single biggest barrier to uptake was the lack of upfront funding available. As a result, MPI will be changing the payment structure to enable grant payments to be aligned with when grantees actually incur costs.

MPI's Director of Investment Programmes, Justine Gilliland, says MPI expects that this change will substantially reduce the financial borrowing burden for grantees.

"This change will enable more landowners across the region to participate in the scheme and treat their erosion prone land."

The new payment structure will be offered to those landowners who were successful in the 2016 funding round, and in future rounds.

The second new improvement involves extending the land

categories that are eligible for the scheme, broadening the amount of land available for erosion treatment.

Ms Gilliland says "by widening the eligibility, we can support land owners with various degrees of erosion problems, from moderate through to severe."

This change will take effect from the next ECFP funding round which is scheduled for May – June 2017.

MPI is continuing to work with Te Runanganui o Ngāti Porou and Gisborne District Council to discuss other ways in which the ECFP can deliver the best outcomes for the Gisborne district.

For more information on the Erosion Control Funding Programme, visit www.mpi.govt.nz/ECFP



Sustainable Farming Fund Spotlight: Olives New Zealand –increasing the market share for New Zealand Olive Oil

Olives New Zealand are well in to year one of their Sustainable Farming Fund project focused on ultimately allowing the New Zealand olive industry to compete effectively with imported olive oils to increase market share.

To achieve this, Olives New Zealand are identifying practice changes that can be made to enhance tree and grove productivity and therefore reduce costs.

The methods use expert horticultural advice focusing on two key aspects of grove management:

1. Improving tree health by disease control using affordable protectant spray programmes to eliminate foliage diseases that defoliate olive trees, a primary cause of low

productivity in New Zealand groves.

2. Introducing practical, affordable tree pruning regimes that improve light distribution for stimulating flowering and fruit growth, aiding effective spray coverage and inducing adequate annual shoot growth to provide the required bud sites for new flower production annually.

To encourage on-farm practice change by applying these methods, focus groves have been selected and expert advice and recommendations have been applied to improve tree health and significantly increase and maintain their crop yields. The focus groves will be continually monitored so further improvements can be made.

The methods applied at the focus groves are demonstrated to olive growers via field days. The first round of focus grove field days have been held across the country. Attendance and engagement at these events has been very pleasing, with olive growers appreciating the practical learning opportunities that focus on increasing their productivity.

As this SFF project progresses, the focus groves will continue to be monitored and knowledge will continue to be shared with olive growers through further field visits.

For more information on the project and the focus groves, visit www.olivesnz.org.nz



Olive growers gathered at focus grove field day in Northland.



A pruning demonstration at a focus grove field day in Wairarapa.

Christchurch Show AGS celebration event

The results of the 2016 Afforestation Grant Scheme funding round were celebrated at the Christchurch A&P Show on 10 November with Associate Minister for Primary Industries, Hon Jo Goodhew.

The Afforestation Grant Scheme funds planting of new forests to encourage a better environment and the scheme is dedicated to establishing 15 000 hectares of new forest between 2015 and 2020.

Eighty one applications were approved this year to plant a total of 4818 hectares across the country next winter – totalling over 5.5 million new seedlings.

Local schools, farmers, applicants and forestry industry representatives attended the event held at MPI's stand where Associate Minister for Primary Industries Hon Jo Goodhew discussed this year's results. The Minister

also presented trees to students from primary schools within the Canterbury region to celebrate the AGS achievements.

The effect of climate change can be reduced by planting new forests as the trees absorb carbon dioxide, offsetting carbon emissions made elsewhere.

Many of the new forests funded through the scheme are in erosion-prone areas which means we can keep soil in place and land owners, local industries and communities benefit.

Any land owners considering applying for funding through the AGS can do so in March 2017 when the next funding round opens. Further information can be found at www.mpi.govt.nz/ags



Students, parents and teachers from St Albans Primary School, Allenvale School and St Albans Catholic School with MPI Director-General Martyn Dunne, Associate Minister for Primary Industries Hon Jo Goodhew and Director of Investment Programmes Justine Gilliland.