

Summary of Progress for the Quarter, October-December 2016



Key highlights and achievements

- The NZ Farm Assurance Programme (NZFAP) was launched. Some partner meat processors to start implementation on farms from February 2017. NZFAP alleviates duplication if farmers send stock to multiple meat processors and gives New Zealand a baseline standard to help validate the red meat story currently being created by Beef + Lamb New Zealand.
- Additional computer courses were approved for 2017 helping more farmers to use computers in their businesses, make better informed decisions and save time.
- New National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) resources in schools from 2017 (see photo) will allow more students to be exposed to agriculture-related examples through English, Maths and Science.



Sector Capability

- All Secondary School NCEA assessment material and resources were approved by the NZ Qualifications Authority (NZQA). 60 secondary schools have signed up so far to use the resources, which are fully developed so that teachers can simply download and use them in their classrooms, saving a lot of preparation time.
- We are currently planning for an increase in two more hubs for the Red Meat Network for Tertiary students in 2017. These will be at Auckland University and Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre.
- The Understanding Your Farming Business programme is beginning again on 8 February in Wairoa. Another 400 women will go through this programme in 2017.
- The facilitation training programme development has begun. The first programme will be trialled in February with B+LNZ Eastern North Island Farmer Council.
- More computer courses in 2017 were approved. This will mean more farmers have the opportunity to learn to use tools that will enable them to make better decisions.

Extension Design

- The early results of the first year of farmer evaluations show significant levels of practice change occurring amongst pilot farms. Half the farms are implementing change more quickly than planned and one third of farms are implementing entirely new practices.
- Other data is showing that facilitated connections between farmers and experts, and farmers and meat processors are having a positive impact.

Data and Systems Integration

- The electronic Animal Status Declaration (eASD) pilot development will begin in February with up to 100 farmers involved alongside trucking companies and a meat processor.

- A workshop to identify Industry Standard key performance indicators (KPIs) has been run. RMPP will provide farmers and rural professionals with information about how KPIs can be created and displayed to provide consistency across the sector.
- The Information Hub software and initial content development is expected to be completed by mid-January.

NZ Farm Assurance Programme (NZ-FAP)

Resources are being created to help support farmers through the NZFAP- which is due to roll out from February.



Collaboration with other PGP programmes

Areas where RMPP is continuing to collaborate with other PGP programmes includes:

- Transforming the Dairy Value Chain (TDVC): across a number of initiatives particularly in the emerging talent space.
- Extension networks: Discussions continue with FarmIQ, Ravensdown, Ballance, Firstlight Wagyu, and dairy industry PGP's on provision of coaching and guidance with extension activities giving RMPP further insights into implementing change on-farm.
- Systems and data integration: Continuing work on the Data Linker (integration layer) which is a common project between the RMPP and the TDVC PGP programmes: - Data standards (Animal, Land Application, Finance, Effluent and Irrigation), is a jointly funded collaboration between RMPP and the Dairy PGP.
- FarmIQ developed the recent FeedSmart app for RMPP and B+LNZ collaborative delivery.
- The NZFAP has been developed in conjunction with Deer Industry NZ (DINZ), and will be launched in February.
- RMPP and TDVC are organising a joint presentation at the Future Farms Conference in March 2017.

Coming up

- The National Farmer Workshop will be run in early March with over 150 farmers, rural professionals and partners in attendance. They will participate in a 'shaping the future' workshop including insights from the extension design project farm pilot findings.
- Two Rural Professionals' Workshops will be held in January/February 2017. This is the beginning of a process to find out if additional resources or training are required to equip the sector for future growth.
- The first of a number of regional partner catch-ups will be held in Masterton with their local staff who will be able to ask questions so that they are better informed when their clients/farmers/friends/family ask them questions about RMPP.
- Speaking slot could be taken up at the Future Farmer Conference as part of the Agri-Investment Week in Manawatu mid-March.
- Working with banking partners to have a presence at both Wanaka Show (with Rabobank) and Central Districts Field Days (with ANZ), both in March.

Investment

<i>Investment period</i>	<i>Industry contribution</i>	<i>MPI contribution</i>	<i>Total investment</i>
<i>During this Quarter</i>	\$807,346	\$807,346	\$1,614,692
<i>Programme To Date</i>	\$8,529,079	\$8,529,079	\$17,058,158