

FarmIQ Programme Quarterly Progress report, July to September 2013

Work to integrate the FarmIQ components continued apace this quarter.

The quarter to September 2013 is the first of the fourth year of operation.

The second product release of the Farm Management System was made available at the beginning of the quarter and participants gave useful feedback. Work began on the next product release, expected to be launched in December 2013.

A significant adjustment was made to the FMS design this quarter, in response to farmer feedback. Functionality for working with mobs has been increased. The original design was based on more frequent use of tag EID's than is currently the case.

There were over 500 farmers in the programme at the end of this quarter. Overall there was a 10% increase in sessions conducted by farmers on the system compared to the previous season. The drought had a significant impact as it meant that many animals left the system significantly earlier.

In early September FarmIQ took part in a joint, international announcement of the completion of the Ovine Infinium® HD SNP BeadChip. By the end of the quarter 6000 animals had been genotyped for meat quality and yield characteristics using the new high-density SNP chip.

Two new IQ demonstration farms were contracted this quarter, taking the total to 11 (with one further to be added). The two new farms are Whangara Farms near Gisborne and Telford, a farm training institution (linked to Lincoln University), located near Balclutha. Business plans were finalised for existing IQ farms.

Silver Fern Farms was set to launch a new beef quality grading and payment system in the next quarter, as a result of work completed within the FarmIQ programme.