

Ravensdown PGP Programme Quarterly Progress Report

Contract reporting period: January-March 2018

PSG Meeting Date: 16/4/18

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Summary of progress during this quarter

Analysis of spring 2017 validation remote sensing surveys were completed during this quarter. The purpose of the validation surveys is to test the robustness of remote sensing soil fertility predictions against physical soil fertility tests. Results continue to look promising however the robustness of calibrations need to be evaluated across seasons and years. To this effect, planning for the autumn 2018 validation surveys has been completed and surveys have begun during this quarter. The programme continues to collect the most comprehensive fertility dataset in New Zealand hill country which also leads to further opportunities for improvements to the working relationships already established.

Fertiliser applications using leading edge variable rate equipped aircraft (Intellispread™) continues to increase with the increase in the number of aerial spreading aircraft equipped with this technology increasing to four across New Zealand.

Key highlights and achievements

- Completion of analysis of three spring 2017 validation remote sensing surveys
- Completion of planning for the autumn 2018 validation remote sensing surveys
- Presentations from outcomes from the programme to the Mobiltech Conference 2018 highlighting what is required for incorporating hyperspectral data into variable rate fertiliser plans for NZ hill country.

Upcoming

- Completion and analysis of the autumn 2018 validation remote sensing surveys.
- The selection of two further farms for inclusion into the focus farm network.
- Workshops centred on three of the focus farms aimed at informing early farmer adopters.

Investment

<i>Investment period</i>	<i>Industry contribution</i>	<i>MPI contribution</i>	<i>Total investment</i>
<i>During this Quarter</i>	\$0.033m	\$0.033m	\$0.067m
<i>Programme To Date</i>	\$3.89m	\$3.89m	\$7.78m
