

Ravensdown PGP Programme Quarterly Progress Report

Contract reporting period: July-Sept 2018

PSG Meeting Date: 5/11/18

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Summary of progress during this quarter

Planning of the spring 2018 validation remote sensing survey programme was 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. Four farms are planned to be surveyed during spring 2018 complimenting the 7 farms surveyed during the 2017 season. Robustness of calibrations need to be evaluated not only across seasons but also years which is the focus of the programme over the next year.

An independent review of Ravensdown's PGP adoption programme was completed during this quarter. The purpose of this review was to review the adoption aspect of the PGP programme and provide recommendations on future enhancements of this programme and approaches to the commercialisation of the new system. Overall the review was very positive regarding the direction and outcomes of the programme. The review also included recommendations for transitioning to a commercial service which are being evaluated and prioritised for action within the last 2 years of the programme.

Fertiliser applications using leading edge variable rate equipped aircraft (Intellispread™) continues to increase with fertiliser applied using this technology applied to over 79,000 hectares of NZ hill country. This also included a nitrogen application applied using the information from the pioneering decision support software developed within the programme where the application was targeted to specific areas within the farm designed to optimise nitrogen use efficiency rather than a blanket application.

Key highlights and achievements

- Completion of the planning for spring 2018 validation remote sensing surveys.

Upcoming

- Completion of the spring 2018 validation remote sensing surveys.
- Completion of fertiliser planning for applicable focus farms based on remote sensing outcomes and cutting edge decision support software.

Investment

<i>Investment period</i>	<i>Industry contribution</i>	<i>MPI contribution</i>	<i>Total investment</i>
<i>During this Quarter</i>	\$0.11m	\$0.11m	\$0.22m
<i>Programme To Date</i>	\$4.3m	\$4.3m	\$8.6m
