

# Ravensdown PGP Programme Quarterly Progress Report

Contract reporting period: April-June 2019

PSG Meeting Date: 1/8/19

Prepared by: Mike White, Technical Development Manager

Updated: 7 August 2019

Printed: 7 August 2019

---

## Summary of progress during this quarter

Analysis of the autumn 2019 validation remote sensing surveys was completed during this quarter. Autumn was a challenging season where many hill country farms throughout the country had abundant feed supply, with many endeavouring to gain control of pastures. The programme has now conducted 12 validation surveys across two years and four seasons indicating a strong test of the remote sensing technology with the purpose of validation surveys to test the robustness of remote sensing soil fertility predictions against physical soil tests.

The programme science advisory group met in July to review the programmes progress up to June 2019. The group advised they were confident, based on experimental results to date, that hyperspectral sensing of hill country pastures will provide information that correlates very well with soil Olsen P values derived from on the ground soil sampling. The programme is now concentrating on ensuring that the technology is suitable to be offered as a commercial service from spring 2020.

The programmes 2019/2020 annual plan was finalised during this quarter which includes completion of planning for spring 2019 remote sensing surveys with a further three farms selected and added to the validation survey programme.

Fertiliser applications using leading edge variable rate equipped aircraft (Intellispread™) continues to grow with fertiliser applied using this technology applied to over 108,835 hectares of NZ hill country. This includes 5 variable rate nutrient applications using variable rate equipped aircraft based on fertiliser plans developed directly from hyperspectral remote sensing information.

## Key highlights and achievements

- Completion of the analysis of the autumn 2019 validation remote sensing surveys
- Completion of the review by the programmes science advisory group of the programmes results up to June 2019.
- Finalisation of the programmes 2019/20 annual plan

## Upcoming

- Commencement of the spring 2019 validation survey programme
- Selection of the final farm for inclusion into the focus farm network bringing the total farms in the focus farm network to seven.

## Investment

<i>Investment period</i>	<i>Industry contribution</i>	<i>MPI contribution</i>	<i>Total investment</i>
<i>During this Quarter</i>	\$0.20m	\$0.15m	\$0.35m
<i>Programme To Date</i>	\$4.86m	\$4.77m	\$9.63m

---