

Winter Grazing Taskforce
Thursday 12 September 2019

MEETING SUMMARY

Date:	Thursday 12 September 2019
Time:	9:00am – 5:00pm
Location:	Wellington

Agenda

1.	Welcome and introductions
2.	Invited speakers
3.	Discuss the structure for the final report to Minister
4.	Debrief
5.	Actions review
6.	Close

Attendees

John Hellström
Arnja Dale
Helen Beattie
Stephen Hopkinson
Angus Robson
Ross Monaghan
Elaine Cook
Dave Harrison (3.15pm – 5.00pm via Skype)
Ewen Mathieson
Pania King

Meeting summary

- The Winter Grazing Taskforce's third meeting was held on 12 September 2019 in Wellington.
- The primary aim of this meeting was to hear from a range of speakers to ensure the Minister's request that the Taskforce would draw on advice and expertise from various groups and individuals across the country who can inform and challenge the taskforce's thinking, was fulfilled. These speakers were identified to build on the discussions provided by previous speakers.
- Speakers were invited to present on the challenges facing farmers using winter grazing (deer, sheep, dairy), on barriers farmers face to meeting good practice, and voice any thoughts on solutions.
- Invited speakers covered a range of backgrounds and topics
 - Codes of Welfare and analysis of current industry practice already underway
 - Perspective of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee on dairy cow housing and welfare needs
 - Deer Industry New Zealand and Deer Farmers Association
 - Agronomy representatives
 - MPI Compliance Team
 - Agricultural scientists and nutritionists
 - Farm systems analysis
- Key themes identified on the day were:
 - Accountability of all parties involved in the whole of the supply chain for winter grazing needed to be promoted.
 - The current wording in the codes of welfare and legislation, makes it difficult for MPI to prosecute animal welfare offences involving mud.
 - Forward planning and contingency plans for adverse events by farmers will be an important part of solving this issue.
 - The need to consider positive welfare states and needs (eg social behaviour) as well as just the absence of negative states (eg pain and distress). Space allowance, surface wetness (and softness), surface cleanliness and mud depth were some of the important factors discussed and need due consideration.
 - The additional challenges and animal health risks created when fodder beet represents a high proportion of dietary intake i.e. subclinical protein deficiency.
- The Taskforce discussed that farmers should be made immediately aware of the possibility of stricter enforcement next year as they plan for their 2020 winter feeding systems. The suitability of the lying surface for animals is determined in-part by available shelter (if any), soil type, topography & space allowance, and some decisions farmers make now (eg paddock selection and crop type) could result in them not meeting animal welfare requirements. The mechanism to communicate this was not specified. It was noted

Beef+LambNZ and DairyNZ are already highlighting paddock selection criteria to farmers, as well as rural professionals, contractors and seed merchants.

Action Items

Action	Who is responsible?
Additional speaker/s to be invited to next meeting	MPI
Prepare a structure for the final report to the Minister	MPI and the Chair

Invited speakers

Name	Organisation
Nita Harding (via Skype) Will Halliday	DairyNZ Beef+Lamb NZ
Gwyneth Verkerk	National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
Tony Pearse Mark McCoard	Deer Industry NZ Deer Farmers Association
Milton Munro Jamie Cunninghame	PGG Wrightson
Fraser Dymond Fred Milford-Cottam	Hodder & Taylors
Gray Harrison Peter Hyde	Ministry for Primary Industries, Compliance
Karin Schütz (via Skype)	AgResearch
Jakob Kleinmans (via Skype) Charlotte Westwood	NZ Association of Ruminant Nutritionists
Barrie Ridler	Grazing Systems Limited