

Ravensdown PGP Programme Quarterly Progress Report

Contract reporting period: April - June 2015

PSG Meeting Date: 10/8/15

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Summary of progress during this quarter

Quarter 4 of the 2014/15 year continued to be a busy period for activities against the data collection and collation objective with field sampling events carried out across three research farms within the programme. To date approximately 9,500 soil and plant tissues samples have been collected which is in line with expectations with the programme close to half way in terms of the field programme.

Results relating pasture nutrient levels to sensing data continue to be encouraging. The latest results suggest very robust algorithms are achievable between remote sensing data and pasture nutrient concentrations.

Planning for the upcoming 2015 spring sampling is well underway. Four new research farms are entering into the programme in this period. These farms are located in the Wairarapa, Nelson, Canterbury and Otago regions which add to the existing regions of Hawkes Bay, Waikato, and Wanganui-Manawatu.

The science advisory group met this quarter and reviewed the current position of the project. It was concluded at this stage there is satisfactory merit in the relationship from plant to soil nutrient for the programme to achieve its outcomes.

Ravensdown continues to make very good progress on introducing its generation two technology enabling more precise aerial fertiliser applications to hill country. A second aircraft has now being equipped adding to the commercial service that Ravensdown launched in August 2014.

Key highlights and achievements

- Completion of the autumn 2015 sampling programme across three research farms.
- Finalisation of the 2015/16 annual plan
- A second differential rate capable aircraft equipped and operating in Aerowork fleet.

Collaboration with other PGP programmes.

- The fifth research farm for the Ravensdown PGP programme has been selected. This farm is also a focus farm within the Farm IQ PGP programme.

Upcoming

- Planning for the 2015 Spring sampling is underway. Four farms to be sampled across the next two quarters.

Investment

<i>Investment period</i>	<i>Industry contribution</i>	<i>MPI contribution</i>	<i>Total investment</i>
<i>During this Quarter</i>	\$0.27m	\$0.27m	\$0.54m
<i>Programme To Date</i>	\$1.73m	\$1.73m	\$3.46m
