



sustainable · resilient · productive

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Smart Farming Bulletin is published by MAF to help you farm smarter and improve your farm's efficiency and sustainability. Send us your questions or feedback anytime or email smartfarming@maf.govt.nz to subscribe or unsubscribe.

Progress on the Irrigation Acceleration Fund

The Irrigation Acceleration Fund (IAF) was announced in this year's Budget.

The *IAF – Guidelines for Proponents* is currently being developed and will be published in early September.

The **IAF has funding** of \$35 million over five years to see proposals to the "investment-ready" prospectus stage. Developing irrigation has huge potential to unlock economic growth and prosperity for our primary sectors and, by extension, all New Zealanders.

Biosecurity month

July was Biosecurity month and MAF took the opportunity to highlight some of its work.

From an emperor penguin on Peka Peka beach to the kiwifruit vine disease Psa and the alga didymo which congests waterways, it's always possible that a new plant, animal or microbe will arrive in New Zealand.

New Zealand's biosecurity system is designed to balance the careful management of risks, with protecting our ability to trade and travel internationally.

Collaboration is the key to keeping our country safe from incursions, and MAF works in partnership with other organisations with an interest in biosecurity, such as the Department of Conservation, regional councils, affected industry and iwi.

To read press releases on surveillance, border interceptions, pest management and import health standards please go to www.biosecurity.govt.nz.

Field Measurement Approach comes into effect on 1 September 2011

If you have 100 hectares or more of forest land registered in the ETS, or the PFSI, you will be required to use the Field Measurement Approach (FMA) to determine the change in carbon stocks in your forests. It comes into force on 1 September 2011.

Be sure to get your application in quickly as it will take time to prepare and process.

FMA workshops

MAF and the NZ Institute of Forestry will be running a series of workshops on the new FMA during September.

Location	Date
Wellington	Thursday 8 September 2011
Balclutha	Tuesday 27 September 2011
Auckland	Wednesday 14 September 2011
Rotorua	Monday 19 September 2011
Christchurch	Wednesday 21 September 2011

Sustainable Farming Fund applications

The Sustainable Farming Fund has opened its funding round for applications seeking grants from July 2012 onwards.

For applicants seeking grants of over \$25 000, applications close 26 September, while for those applying for less than \$25 000, applications do not close until 13 February. The maximum investment that SFF can provide to any one project is \$200 000 (GST exclusive) each year for three years.

For further information and queries, contact 0800 008 333 or www.maf.govt/sff

Strong demand for logs raises income

MAF has released [forestry production and trade figures for the March 2011 quarter](#).

The total value of forestry exports for the year to 31 March 2011 was NZ\$4.4 billion, NZ\$0.8 billion up on the previous year, due to the sustained high levels of log exports over the year.

The statistics show that New Zealand's log exports continue to be dominated by exports to China.

For further information, see the full March 2011 quarter report at www.maf.govt.nz/news-resources/statistics-forecasting/forestry/forestry-production-and-trade-publications.aspx

Submissions sought for new code of welfare

Minimum standards of animal welfare and recommended best practices for everyone responsible for camelids are outlined in a draft code of welfare that has been released for public consultation. Submissions from anyone interested in the welfare and management of camelids such as llamas, alpacas, guanacos and their crossbreeds are welcomed.

The draft code of welfare includes proposed standards that cover stockmanship and handling; restraint; the provision of food, water and shelter; housing and breeding.

The closing date for submissions is 9 September 2011. Information and the draft code are available at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult

Launch of the New Zealand Poplar & Willow Research Trust

The **New Zealand Poplar & Willow Research Trust** will be launched on 9 August 2011. The Trust will ensure the maintenance of an irreplaceable gene bank of poplar and willow varieties from around the world and the continuous development and commercial release of new and versatile poplar and willow cultivars.

Poplars and willow perform a multitude of roles – from the simple act of providing stock shade and shelter through to stabilising hill slopes and stream banks.

MAF has provided \$650 000 (matched by regional government), from the Hill Country Erosion Fund over the 2008/09 to 2011/12 period, to support a broader-based research programme and the establishment of the Trust.

For more information visit www.maf.govt.nz/environment-natural-resources/funding-programmes/slm-hill-country-erosion-programme/slmhce-project-poplar-and-willow-breeding-program.aspx

Forest Industries Expo, 5–7 September 2011, Rotorua

The PF Olsen Forest Industries Expo 2011 is the largest forestry and wood processing exhibition held in New Zealand. This year it will be one of the largest in the world and MAF will again be an exhibitor.

An update on MAF's stand at the Forest Industries Expo will be provided in the next issue of the **Smart Farming Bulletin**.

CASE STUDY: Adapting to a changing climate – A Hawke's Bay hill country farm

Bruce Wills, President of Federated Farmers and Chairman of the New Zealand Poplar & Willow Research Trust, has a strong focus on long-term sustainability.

He and his brother Scott are partners of Trelinnoe farm in the Hawke's Bay. The farm is 1134 hectares in total with 800 hectares effective.

The 2007 drought and its financial effect triggered a dramatic change in how the brothers farmed. Contrary to the adage that "you can't be green when you're in the red" they've borrowed money to invest in the long-term sustainability of the farm.

Significant changes have been made to stock policies and pasture management, supported by huge investments in fencing and infrastructure development.

This case study is one in a series of called **Adapting to a changing climate**. Check out more case studies on MAF's website under the News and Resources section. www.maf.govt.nz/environment-natural-resources/climate-change/resources-and-tools.aspx