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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.

PGP invests in nutrient research and development

The Primary Growth Partnership (PGP) has awarded funding to a new programme looking at improving the efficiency of nitrogen and phosphate use, as well as reducing nitrate run-off on dairy farms.

A programme of research and innovation totalling \$19.5 million over seven years has been developed, with funding evenly split between industry and the PGP. If fully realised, it is estimated that the programme could see an overall benefit to New Zealand pastoral farming estimated at over \$340 million by 2025.

To read more about the Ballance Agri-Nutrients programme and the PGP visit www.maf.govt.nz/agriculture/funding-programmes/primary-growth-partnership.aspx.

With this announcement, the total funding awarded has reached nearly \$500 million. PGP investment awarded in just two years is \$227 million, and with industry contributions, this takes the total to \$493 million. There are now nine PGP programmes underway, covering sectors from wool, red meat and dairy to aquaculture, manuka honey and forestry.

New code of welfare for animal transport released

Minimum standards of animal welfare and recommended best practices for everyone involved in transporting animals in New Zealand are outlined in a new code of welfare.

Issued by Agriculture Minister David Carter, the "Transport within New Zealand" code was developed by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) in conjunction with companies and organisations involved in the commercial transport of animals, farmers, and vets.

Copies of the code are available at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/codes/alphabetically

Submissions on the DIRA Raw Milk Regulations

As part of the review of Raw Milk Regulations, MAF recently asked for the dairy industry's feedback on a number of issues related to possible improvements to the current working of the regulations.

Over 1500 submissions were received – most of which were from farmers and other interested individuals. Once MAF has analysed submissions, advice will be provided to the Minister of Agriculture. Given the large volume of submissions received this will take some time but it is hoped to be complete mid October.

A one page summary of submissions from farmers and individuals is available on the MAF website, as well as copies of the submissions made by various groups. Visit www.maf.govt.nz/agriculture/pastoral/dairy.aspx for more information.

LAWF to progress next stage in water reforms

The Land and Water Forum will continue to play a role in fresh water policy work contributing to the Government's programme on water management.

By May 2012 Government will receive advice on methods, tools and governance arrangements for setting limits for water quality and quantity and by November 2012 on methods and tools on allocation.

Government's response to the Forum's report: www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/water/freshwater/fresh-start-for-fresh-water/index.html

A Fresh Start for Fresh Water – Forum's report: www.landandwater.org.nz/land_and_water_forum_report.pdf

New tool for foot and mouth preparedness

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has new tools to help staff at meat processing plants recognise and respond to an incursion of foot and mouth disease in stock, as part of its preparedness for risk organisms.

MAF wants to make sure meat processing premises staff know what to look out for so they can respond appropriately if symptoms are found. The Ministry is distributing an 11-minute DVD and a poster describing the symptoms and also what meat workers should do if they suspect an animal has FMD.

New NAIT mandatory tagging date announced

New Zealand's mandatory national animal identification and tracing (NAIT) scheme is set to commence for cattle on 1 July next year (2012), NAIT Ltd Chief Executive Russell Burnard has announced.

The scheme will assure New Zealand's overseas markets that a livestock disease can be quickly contained in the event of any biosecurity incidents.

For more information about the NAIT scheme and tagging rules go to: www.nait.co.nz.

Sign up here to receive NAIT's new e-newsletter www.nait.co.nz/news-and-publications/enews/

Field Measurement Approach (FMA) came into effect on 1 September 2011

If you have 100 hectares or more of forest land registered in the ETS (post-89 forest), or the PFSI, you are required to use the FMA to determine the change in carbon stocks in your forests. FMA participants can now request assign forest class and sample plot location forms.

Available FMA publications are available on the MAF website:

- *A Guide to the Field Measurement Approach for Forestry in the ETS.*

- *Field Measurement Approach Standard.*
- *FMA Information Standard.*

More information on the FMA is available if you click [here](#).

Deadlines fast approaching for pre-1990 forest owners

Time is running out if you own pre-1990 forest. Landowners can apply for an exemption from the deforestation obligations under the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), or for an allocation of carbon credits.

Pre-1990 deadlines for applications:

- Less-than-50 hectares exemptions close **30 September 2011**
- Allocation applications for carbon credits close **30 November 2011**.

More information on exemptions and allocations for pre-1990 forest and the ETS is on www.maf.govt.nz/forestry-allocation, or call 0800 CLIMATE 254 628 or email climatechange@mag.govt.nz.

Proposals invited for irrigation fund

Proposals can now be put forward to the \$35 million Irrigation Acceleration Fund for assisting development of regional rural water infrastructure and community irrigation schemes to an 'investment ready' state, and for funding of strategic water management studies.

The Irrigation Acceleration Fund (IAF) was announced in this year's Budget. It is one of the government's measures to enhance the strategic value of water.

Successful projects will be committed to good industry practice, and promote efficient water use and environmental management, particularly around land-use intensification.

NZIER research suggests the fund could support 340 000 hectares of new irrigation, which could boost exports by \$1.4 billion a year by 2018, rising to \$4 billion a year by 2026. www.maf.govt.nz/environment-natural-resources/funding-programmes/irrigation-acceleration-fund

Adapting to a changing climate – Erratic seasons test Middlehurst Station

Middlehurst Station stretches from the upper Awatere Valley to the top of the Inland Kaikoura Range and is 16 723 hectares.

Winter conditions extend well into autumn and spring with searingly hot summer months. Frosts can strike at any time of the year, and snowfall can also be unpredictable.

Willie and Sue Macdonald have learnt to cope with the erratic high country climate and an extremely narrow window for pasture growth of just three months. The high country is a fragile

environment and requires adaptable land management to be prioritised ahead of stock.

"We work with, rather than against nature," says Willie. "We've got no desire to be bamboozled by feed budgets, or find ourselves growing feed all summer to feed out in the winter."

This case study is one in a series called Adapting to a changing climate. Check out more case studies on this link: www.maf.govt.nz/environment-natural-resources/climate-change/resources-and-tools.aspx