



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.

Merged MAF focuses on growing and protecting New Zealand

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Fisheries have merged to form a single Ministry.

A new structure has been created and a new strategy developed with a vision of growing and protecting New Zealand. The new MAF aims to be a "gateway to government" for primary industries and plans to work across the entire sector from the paddock and the ocean to the plate.

The new Ministry aims to maximise export opportunities and improve sector productivity, at the same time as increasing the use of sustainable resources and protecting New Zealand from biological risk.

A comprehensive schedule of meetings is being planned on a region-by-region and industry-by-industry basis. This will see the Director-General, relevant directors and lead stakeholder contacts visiting each region to talk about the new MAF strategy and to find out what the primary sectors want and need.

More information about the regional meetings will be provided in the next issue of Smart Farming.

Animal welfare advice for vets

A new guide provides practical advice for veterinarians involved in addressing animal welfare issues on farms.

MAF's animal welfare team and the New Zealand Veterinary Association developed the toolkit that helps vets understand their obligations and options when an animal welfare issue is identified, and references useful support resources for vets and farmers.

Copies of the toolkit are available from the MAF website

Get Welfare Pulse direct to your inbox

Welfare Pulse is a magazine that covers a range of topics across animal welfare around the world, as well as here in New Zealand. Produced by MAF, it is free to subscribe. You can get a copy sent to you by email – just sign up for alerts at the MAF website by ticking the "Welfare Pulse magazine" option.

Environmental Protection authority to take over administration of NZEUR

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) was established on 1 July 2011. From 1 January 2012, the administration of the New Zealand Emissions Unit Register (NZEUR) will be performed by the EPA. Until then the NZEUR remains with the Ministry of Economic Development.

Policy and technical support for the Forestry and Agricultural sectors in the ETS is remaining with MAF. The NZEUR website (nzeugovt.nz), Climate Change website (www.climatechange.govt.nz) and 0800 CLIMATE (0800 254628) number remain unchanged and you should continue to use these.

Farm gate sales of raw drinking milk

The Government intends for sales of raw drinking milk from the farm gate to continue. A discussion document is currently being consulted on, focused on proposals for how to legally provide for limited sales of raw milk for drinking from the farm gate.

Proposals do not include providing for commercial-scale sale of this product at this time. There are three options being proposed for consideration. MAF's preferred option is to make limited amendments to conditions of sale and exempt farmers from an RMP for farm gate sales, but still require them to meet some animal health and hygiene requirements and to keep sales records. Submissions close 5 December 2011.

Link: <http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/farm-gate-raw-milk-sales/index.htm>

Calling all Māori dairy farmers

Entry is now open for the 2012 Ahuwhenua Trophy – *BNZ Māori Excellence in Farming Award*, which is sponsored by MAF.

This year it's the turn of Māori dairy farmers to accept the challenge and test themselves against some of the best dairy farmers in Aotearoa.

The Ahuwhenua Trophy is the premier award for Māori in agriculture. It acknowledges and celebrates business excellence in the New Zealand pastoral sector and is open to Māori farming properties either owned individually or managed by a Māori trust or incorporation in New Zealand.

Entries close for the historic and prestigious competition on Friday, 27 January 2012.

Copies of the entry form are available on www.ahuwhenuatrophy.maori.nz and www.maoritrustee.co.nz

Workshops to promote trees on farms

A new three year programme of regionally-based workshops promoting trees on farms begins this month in Gisborne. The workshops will help pastoral farmers and their advisors identify the economic and environmental benefits of planting trees on their properties, and how best to incorporate appropriate species into their agribusiness.

The workshops are designed by experienced tree-planting farmers and Agfirst consultants, and supported by the MAF Sustainable Farming Fund. Local branches of the NZ Farm Forestry Association are hosting the workshops which are free of charge.

The first two workshops are:

17 November, Wangara, Gisborne

15 February 2012, Wallingford, Central Hawkes Bay.

For more information and to register, contact Nick Seymour

CASE STUDY: Threats to stocks of Titi and Tio in the South Island

This case study is one in a series called Adapting to a changing climate: Case Study 33.

Over time, iwi of the south of the South Island have witnessed the health and quality of their taonga species, like the Titi (mutton birds) and the Tio (oysters) decline, and through their research have identified climate change as a key factor in this.

The harvest of Titi from islands adjacent to Rakiura is one of the few remaining native wildlife harvest managed entirely by Māori and is of great economic, social and cultural importance. The ability of local iwi to feed their own people, host others and create an economic benefit from their native fishery is deteriorating.

Research programmes have supported matauranga Māori – a result of inter-generational observations of the Titi and Tio.

Check out this case study and others on this link:

www.maf.govt.nz/environment-natural-resources/climate-change/resources-and-tools.aspx