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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.

New contestable livestock emissions research fund

New Zealand is establishing a contestable international NZ\$25 million fund to support research on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from pastoral farming.

Agriculture Minister David Carter announced the New Zealand Fund for Global Partnerships in Livestock Emissions Research at the inaugural ministerial meeting of the Global Research Alliance in Rome on 24 June.

[Read more about the fund here.](#)

Winner of the Ahuwhenua Trophy BNZ Māori Excellence in Farming Award 2011

In an historic "first" the current holder of the Ahuwhenua Trophy for Dairy Farming, Waipapa 9 Trust, has also won the prestigious Ahuwhenua Trophy – BNZ Māori Excellence in Farming Award 2011 for its outstanding sheep and beef operation.

MAF is a proud sponsor of the awards.

His Excellency the Hon Sir Anand Satyanand (GNZM, QSO) presented Waipapa 9 Chairman Dawson Haa with the trophy before an audience of 580 people at the energy Events Centre, Rotorua on 3 June.

Mr Dawson Haa said their success was fundamentally due to a great team and good governance. He hoped their historic win would encourage other Māori farmers to make the most of their land, and to know that with a great team, hard work and a commitment to improving the land for future generations excellence in farming is within their grasp.

[For more information read here.](#)

Situation and Outlook for New Zealand Agriculture and Forestry

MAF's annual *Situation and Outlook for New Zealand Agriculture and Forestry* (SONZAF) shows New Zealand exporters are receiving historically high prices in foreign currency terms for beef, dairy, lamb, logs, timber and wool products, with the returns expected to continue into the medium-term.

Broad-based, steady and sustainable demand for many agricultural commodities is expected to underpin New Zealand's export income for the medium term.

SONZAF 2011 includes three special reports:

- a profile of the rural property database FarmsOnLine, launched in April;
- a recap of the Red Meat Sector Strategy, launched in May;
- a report on how the joint Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code has facilitated trade since it was established in 1995.

[To read the full report, click here.](#)

Ballance Farm Environment Awards – National Winner Announced

Southland farmers Grant and Bernadette Weller are the first holders of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy after being named national winners of the 2011 Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

MAF is a proud sponsor of the awards, announced this year during the 2011 Sustainability Showcase, held over three days from 23–25 June.

The Wellers who farm an 890 hectare sheep and beef farm in the Waimea Valley, have been recognised as role models for all farmers and growers in producing high quality goods while minimising the impact of their activities on the natural environment.

[For more information, read here](#)

FarmsOnLine

The MAF FarmsOnLine display at the recent Mystery Creek Fielddays was a popular destination for property owners checking their details on line were correct. For those unable to make it to the Fielddays, you can check your details are correct by visiting www.farmsonline.maf.govt.nz or by contacting the FarmsOnLine data maintenance centre at 0800 4 FOLNZ (0800 4 36569).

Pre-1990 forests and Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) deadlines

If you have land that first established before 1990, the deadlines for applications are:

- for the less than 50 ha exemption – 30 September 2011
- for an allocation of New Zealand Units - 30 November 2011.

For more information go to: www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-the-ets/pre-1990-forest-land-allocations-and-exemptions

Changes for SILNA (South Island Landless Natives Act) on MAF's website

If you think you are a SILNA landowner, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's website now has a section to help you. The new SILNA section of the Ministry's website provides a one-stop-shop of information for landowners.

The SILNA webpage can be accessed by visiting the MAF website (www.maf.govt.nz), clicking the **Forestry NZ** link under the **Forestry** tab and then **Indigenous Forestry**.

CASE STUDY: Optimising irrigation efficiency in a drought prone region

A multi-strand approach to irrigation management is being adopted at Drumpeel Station, including water use efficiency, crop rotation, crop prioritisation and energy efficiency.

In all, some 1960 hectares are farmed by Hugh and Sharon Ritchie with about 700 hectares of crops planted each year on flats. The main crops include wheat, barley, herbage seed, sweetcorn, maize, peas and squash and some specialist seed crops such as coriander and carrots are also grown.

Soils range from clays to sands, loams and peat with annual rainfall of 800–850. The area is summer dry and irrigation was introduced to the cropping operation in the mid-1990s.

Hugh is a strong advocate for efficient water use and the effective performance of irrigation systems. There is not enough water at Drumpeel to fully meet current irrigation demand, no additional resources which can be tapped and little opportunity for storage.

To read more about Drumpeel visit the MAF website and search case studies about water efficiency.

Check out more case studies on MAF's website under the **News and Resources** section.