

Agri-Gate



Agriculture & Investment Services

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Latest news about MPI's Investment Programmes

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Steve's desk

Welcome to this edition of Agri-gate.

A recent highlight was the National Fielddays at Mystery Creek, Hamilton and, in particular, the

launch of the *Resilient Dairy: Innovative Breeding for a Sustainable Future* programme between the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC) and DairyNZ.

Resilient Dairy is a new \$25.68 million innovation programme that aims to drive improvements in the health and wellbeing of the national dairy herd and a step-change in sustainable milk production. We talk more about this new programme in this edition of Agri-gate.

At MPI's site at the Fielddays, a steady number of people called by our Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures (SFF Futures) section to learn more and talk about working together on innovation projects. The pipeline of proposed new SFF Futures projects is steadily building. Through SFF Futures MPI can fund small grants up to \$100,000 through to large multi-million dollar programmes. Get in touch if you have an idea that will make a positive difference for

New Zealand's food and fibre industries. Contact details are available at sff-futures.mpi.govt.nz

In May Fisheries New Zealand announced its approval for use of the Precision Seafood Harvesting (PSH) Modular Harvest System (MHS) in North Island inshore fisheries for snapper, tarakihi, trevally, red gurnard, and John Dory with specific conditions.

This is a significant outcome for Precision Seafood Harvesting, a Primary Growth Partnership programme between MPI and fishing companies Moana New Zealand, Sanford and the Sealord Group.

The MHS is the first innovation of its kind in 100 years of commercial fishing that has been approved for commercial use in New Zealand, and it's a world first. This new way to fish means better quality fish, less waste and will have long term benefits for the sustainability of New Zealand fish species. It'll also put high-value sustainable fish on the table for consumers while looking after fish stocks. For more information, see this [media release](#) and visit the [Fisheries New Zealand website](#).

You can read more about Precision Seafood Harvesting in this [recently published article](#) in Solutions, which showcases bold and innovative ideas to solve ecological, social and economic issues.

In this edition of Agrigate we also talk about the Minister of Agriculture's visit in May to some of the farmers affected by the 2016 Hurunui/Kaikōura earthquake, to hear how the Earthquake Recovery Fund is helping towards the recovery of their businesses and land.

We also talk about the upcoming application round in August for the Voluntary Bonding Scheme for Veterinarians (VBS),



Part of the SFF Futures area of MPI's site at the National Fielddays

which supports graduate vets in our regions who are working with production animals and working dogs. We will be seeking applications in August. If you know of any graduate vets working in the regions, encourage them to apply.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Agri-gate.

Steve Penno
Director Investment Programmes



John Parker's column

The amalgamation of the Sustainable Farming Fund and the Primary Growth Partnership into Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures (SFF Futures) has been completed and is operational.

Since SFF Futures was launched late last year, new Sustainable Farming Fund projects and Primary Growth Partnership programmes have been launched. The recently launched *Resilient Dairy: Innovative Breeding for a Sustainable Future* programme between the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC) and DairyNZ, and featured in this edition of Agri-gate, is one example.

It may seem odd to still be launching new programmes and projects under the previous funds. The reality is that the applications were past the start line in both of the previous funds, before SFF Futures was launched, and assessment was completed under the "old" criteria. Under SFF Futures, a good pipeline of new projects is emerging and there appears to be good interest.

At its meeting in June, the Investment Advisory Panel (IAP) considered some of the first SFF Futures project applications. It may seem some time since SFF Futures was launched, but a lot of work goes into assessing and working through applications. Time and care needs to be taken to ensure proposed projects meet the criteria, ensure MPI and the Panel have confidence in the project's ability to deliver good benefits for New Zealand, and to ensure public funding is appropriately spent.

SFF Futures applications fall into four categories, outlined in this table:

Funding type	Programme cost	Contract length	Expected time from enquiry to contract
Partnerships	Over \$5 million	5 or more	12 months
Small partnerships	\$2 million to \$5 million	3 to 5	12 months
Grants	Less than \$2 million	Up to 3	6 months
Small Grants	Up to \$100,000	Up to 1	3 months

The lines between each are approximate only and MPI works with applicants to determine the appropriate structure for their proposals. The IAP's expertise is particularly suited to the assessment and due diligence for larger, more complicated projects. The IAP also helps MPI to monitor overall funding decisions, the performance of large programmes, and the performance of the portfolio overall.

Having considered two large partnership applications and two smaller grant applications at our recent meeting, I believe the process is working well. A new part of the process requires IAP members to submit their comments on applications ahead of meetings, highlighting the important areas to discuss. I think it is a good way of focusing discussion and ensuring all views are presented.

If you have an idea for a new SFF Futures projects, I'd encourage you to get in touch with MPI. Details are available at sff-futures.mpi.govt.nz

John Parker
Chair Investment Advisory Panel

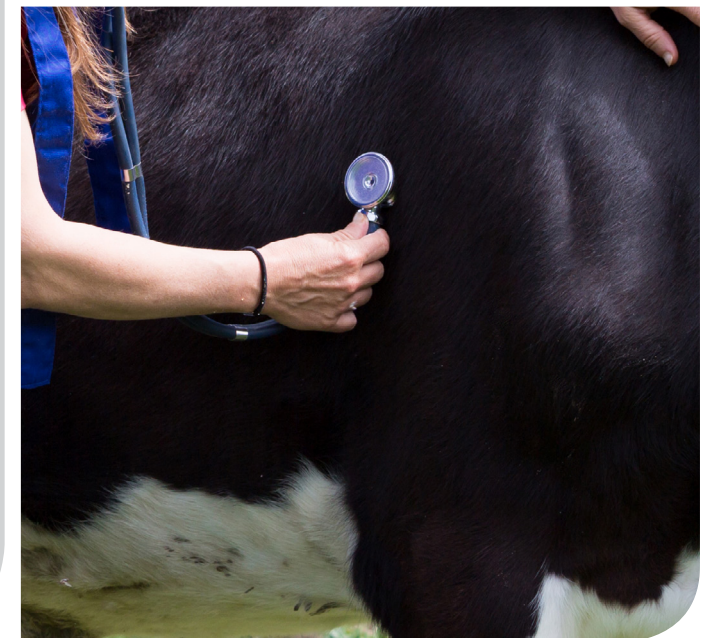
Vet Bonding Scheme application round to open for two weeks in August

The Ministry for Primary Industries Voluntary Bonding Scheme for Veterinarians (VBS) is designed to support and boost the number of graduate vets in our regions who are working with production animals and working dogs.

The VBS is a key way of helping graduate vets to develop their careers working with production animals, particularly as they start out. As a result of the 2018 application round, 30 graduate vets are receiving \$55,000 each over five years.

The application round for 2019 will open in August for two weeks. Thirty new spaces will be available.

Keep up to date on the application round, including timing, at mpi.govt.nz/vbs



Celebrating biosecurity superstars

– Biosecurity Awards nominations open until 24 July 2019



2018 Industry Award Winners – Stu Hutchings and Jen Scoular

It takes all of us to protect what we've got but there are a few champions worth celebrating.

The New Zealand Biosecurity Awards recognise and celebrate outstanding contributions towards protecting our country.

Much of what we do to protect our biodiversity in New Zealand is through biosecurity activity – from trapping rats in backyards to washing and disinfecting footwear when visiting our kauri forests.

The Awards acknowledge people and organisations across New Zealand who are contributing to biosecurity – in our communities, businesses, on-farm, on-orchard, iwi and hapū, government, in the bush and in our backyards.

If you or someone you know is doing great work to protect New Zealand against pests and diseases, it's time to shine a light on their achievements.

Entries for the Awards are now open until 5pm 24 July 2019. Visit [ThisIsUs.nz/biosecurity-awards](https://thisisus.nz/biosecurity-awards) to find out more and enter.

New Zealand Biosecurity Award categories are:

- Department of Conservation Community Pihinga Award
- Department of Conservation Community Kahiwi Award
- Te Puni Kōkiri Māori Award
- GIA Industry Award
- Eagle Technology Local and Central Government Award
- Bio-protection Research Centre Science Award
- Mondiale Innovation Award
- AsureQuality Emerging Leader Award (open to nominations)
- Minister's Biosecurity Award (open to nominations)
- Supreme Award (awarded to one of the category winners)

You can enter more than one category and it's easy to enter online.

Dairy industry receives boost with \$25 million sustainable innovation programme

A new \$25.68 million innovation programme for New Zealand's dairy industry will drive improvements in the health and wellbeing of the national dairy herd and a step-change in sustainable milk production.

The seven-year programme, called *Resilient Dairy: Innovative Breeding for a Sustainable Future*, is being led by farmer-owned herd improvement co-operative Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC), with investment and support from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and DairyNZ.

It will invest in new disease management technologies and advancements in genomic science to improve cow productivity, and produce better cows with improved health, wellbeing and environmental resilience.

The programme was officially launched at the National Fieldays (13 June) by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Damien O'Connor.

Over the life of the programme, LIC is investing \$11.2 million, MPI is investing \$10.3 million and DairyNZ is investing \$4.2 million.

"At the heart of the new programme is innovation that aims to deliver long-term economic, environmental and animal health benefits for New Zealand," says Steve Penno, MPI's Director Investment Programmes.

"For New Zealand to maintain its reputation as a world-leading producer of premium products, we need to further increase the value of our products in a way that improves sustainability," says Steve.

"MPI is investing in this new programme as it aims to deliver long-term gains in a number of areas, including sustainable production, milk quality, and animal wellbeing, while importantly reducing impacts on the environment."

LIC, the largest supplier of artificial breeding services to

New Zealand's dairy farms, will leverage its existing capabilities in genomic science and diagnostics to develop innovative breeding tools and tests that support more sustainable milk production.

"We're committed to providing farmers with the tools they need to improve their prosperity and productivity in a sustainable way, with animal health, wellbeing and the environment at the forefront," says Richard Spelman, LIC's Chief Scientist.

"This programme will strengthen our existing research and development work to keep our farmers and New Zealand leading the global pastoral dairy system," says Richard.

Investment from industry-good body DairyNZ will go into re-building its national evaluation system for dairy cattle to incorporate genomic information to facilitate faster rates of genetic gain.

"*Resilient Dairy* is our opportunity to get back in front of the world with genetic gain," says Bruce Thorrold, DairyNZ's Strategic Investment Leader.

"With new discoveries in genomic methods and data collection we are now in the position to jump ahead and incorporate genomic data into our animal evaluation system – enabling the whole sector to maximise genetic gain," says Bruce.



From left: Minister of Agriculture Hon Damien O'Connor, LIC's Richard Spelman, MPI's Steve Penno and DairyNZ's Bruce Thorrold at the launch of the new *Resilient Dairy: Innovative Breeding for a Sustainable Future* programme.

Richard says this programme will address calls for resilience and sustainability on dairy farms, now and into the future. "Through the new *Resilient Dairy: Innovative Breeding for a Sustainable Future* programme, we're investing now, to help future proof our dairy industry and deliver long-term benefits for New Zealand."

Richard and Bruce talk about the new programme more in [this video](#).

Post-quake farming project showcased to Minister of Agriculture

The Earthquake Recovery Fund (ERF) was launched by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) in 2017 to support farmers and growers affected by the 2016 Kaikoura-Hurunui earthquake, and facing the hard challenge of deciding what to do with the resulting damaged land.

The earthquake caused significant erosion and damage particularly in Marlborough, Hurunui and Kaikoura. Many farmers and land owners are still dealing with the ongoing effects from the earthquake including land slippage that's continuing to cause damage to fences and access tracks.

The ERF provided support two ways – funding for community group projects and funding for advisory services for land owners and land managers.

Eight projects were funded through the ERF, involving more than 150 rural properties and more than fifteen organisations.

In May, the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Damien O'Connor, visited some of the farmers involved with the Post Quake Farming (PQF) project. The PQF project was set up to support local affected farmers to turn adversity into opportunity. As well as help from the ERF, the project has support from Beef and Lamb New Zealand and Environment Canterbury.

One of the farms affected by the quake was Ngaroma Farm, a Hurunui sheep and beef farm owned by Hamish Pavey and Pip Jamieson. During the eight years they've farmed there, Hamish and Pip have experienced a severe drought followed by severe damage to land and infrastructure following the earthquake.

Hamish and Pip have been heavily involved in the PQF project, which is helping them to deal with the impacts from the earthquake.

"The visit to Ngaroma was a great opportunity to see how the farm had changed geographically after the quake," says Steve Penno, MPI's Director Investment Programmes.

"With help from the ERF, Hamish and Pip are taking up a number of opportunities to diversify their land. This includes exploring rural tourism opportunities, production opportunities

such as honey, and integrating native forestry onto their farm.

"It's been incredible to see how far the people in this area have come since the devastating quake. It's a real testament to their resilience and how they've worked together as a community in the toughest of circumstances."

Keep up to date with the PQF Project, including field days and events, at www.facebook.com/postquakefarming



Minister of Agriculture, Hon Damien O'Connor (centre), speaks with farmers affected by the 2016 Kaikoura- Hurunui earthquake, with Hamish Pavey from Ngaroma Farm to his right.