

Ravensdown PGP Programme Quarterly Progress Report

Contract reporting period: October - December 2015

PSG Meeting Date: 15/02/16

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Summary of progress during this quarter

Quarter 2 of the 2015/16 year was again a very busy period for activities against the data collection and collation objective with the spring sampling completed across four new research farms entering into the programme. Research farms provide the baseline data to develop remote sensing calibrations. These farms are located in the Wairarapa, Nelson, Canterbury and Otago regions representing the extension of the programme across both the South and North Island. In addition an extended spring sampling on the Wairarapa farm was completed during this period. The extended sampling is aimed at identifying the width of the spring pasture flush for establishing a robust remote sensing relationship.

To date approximately 6216 soil and 6015 plant tissues samples have been collected off eight research properties representing the most comprehensive dataset taken in New Zealand for the purpose of developing remote sensing technology to improve the identification of nutrient requirements for extensive farming properties. Results relating pasture nutrient levels to sensing data continue to suggest very robust algorithms are achievable between remote sensing data and pasture nutrient concentrations. The relationships with underlying soil fertility are now beginning to be explored.

The first two focus farms have been finalised for the programme and are Patitapu Farming Co LTD in the Wairarapa and Atihau Whanganui INC - Ohorea Station. The focus farm's purpose are to trial and refine tools that are developed as part of the PGP programme. A series of workshops are currently underway with the aim of increasing farmer and industry group's awareness and understanding of the value proposition for adopting new precision fertiliser application technology.

Key highlights and achievements

- Spring sampling site selection completed across four new research farms which entered into the programme during year 3.

Upcoming

- Completion of autumn data collection across four most recent research farms.
- Focus farm events planning underway for the 4th Quarter of year 3 for Patitapu Farming Co LTD in the Wairarapa and Atihau Whanganui INC - Ohorea Station.

Investment

<i>Investment period</i>	<i>Industry contribution</i>	<i>MPI contribution</i>	<i>Total investment</i>
<i>During this Quarter</i>	\$0.41m	\$0.41m	\$0.82m
<i>Programme To Date</i>	\$2.35m	\$2.35m	\$4.70m
