



MĀORI AGRIBUSINESS

2014 Ahuwhenua Finalist: Putauaki Trust – Himiona Farm

A 177 hectares milking platform made up of an original 57 hectares barely economic Māori-owned land block and 14 neighbouring Māori-owned lease blocks.

“Significant cultural and spiritual value. Trust and owners enduring commitment to reacquire their traditional homeland, acre by acre, for as long as it takes”.

Challenge

A 57 hectares farm severely limited in economic viability, which was surrounded by a number of small land blocks owned by whānau and scattered throughout the Rangitikei Plains. The furthest block milked is 3.5 km away.

Solution

Acquire leases from the surrounding smallholdings and build up the milking platform to 177 hectares. What has resulted is a transformation from a marginal farming operation to a farm that over the last eight years has tripled its size on the back of leases of whanau land, providing:

- » increased scale for better utilisation;
- » higher lease returns for landowners;
- » significant increase in the profitability of the Trust.

Key Facts

Achievement: Running 570 Friesian/Jersey-cross cows on 177 hectares

Milk production: On target to produce 230 000 kgMS this season

Economic Benefits: Equity growth to \$5.24 million over last three years. A dividend increase from \$100 to \$230 per share over 8 years

Tribal affiliation: Te Pahipoto, Ngāti Awa

Shareholders: 700 approx.