

Ravensdown PGP Programme Quarterly Progress Report

Contract reporting period: April-June 2018

PSG Meeting Date: 3/8/18

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Summary of progress during this quarter

Analysis of autumn 2018 validation remote sensing surveys were completed during this quarter. The purpose of validation surveys are to test the robustness of remote sensing soil fertility predictions against physical soil tests. The results from spring and autumn look very promising and the programme is making excellent progress towards its goals. Robustness of calibrations need to be evaluated not only across seasons but also years which is the focus of the programme over the next year.

The programme has been extended to cover more geographic areas with the aim of determining if remote sensing soil fertility predictions are valid for 90% of NZ hill country. To achieve this new additional funding has been made available by Ravensdown and MPI on a 60:40 basis so that the North Canterbury and Southland regions can be modelled and tested.

A further vote in confidence for hyperspectral sensing as an emerging technology, Ravensdown has announced that it will be extending its own research into the applicability of the technology for flat intensively managed pastures.

Two further farms have been included into the focus farm network bring the total number of farms in the network to six. Fertiliser applications using leading edge variable rate equipped aircraft (Intellispread™) continues to increase with fertiliser applied using this technology applied to over 66,000 hectares of NZ hill country.

Key highlights and achievements

- Promising results from the spring 2017 and autumn 2018 validation remote sensing surveys
- Workshops centred on three of the focus farms aimed at informing early farmer adopters.
- The programme receiving an extension in funding to cover more geographic areas.
- The inclusion of two further farms into the focus farm network.

Upcoming

- Planning and commencing spring 2018 validation remote sensing surveys.

Investment

<i>Investment period</i>	<i>Industry contribution</i>	<i>MPI contribution</i>	<i>Total investment</i>
<i>During this Quarter</i>	\$0.3m	\$0.3m	\$0.599m
<i>Programme To Date</i>	\$4.19m	\$4.19m	\$8.38m
