

Sheep – Horizon Three

Progress Report for the Period January 2019 to March 2019

The Sheep – Horizon Three programme is most of the way through its third year and is coming to the end of the first season milking the new genetic lines in new Pilot Farms.

Highlights from this period include:

- Milk volume results from both Pilot Farms using the recently imported genetics show a significant increase in the yield of milk per ewe. The flock average lifted from 200L/ewe the prior season to around 260-270L/ewe across both Pilot Farms. Noting this was the first year running two new systems and all the European sheep were hoggets (who typically produce only 70% of their expected production), this is a very promising result for the industry.
- The top performing ewes are on track to reach over 500L/ewe for the season.
- The 5th Annual Sheep Milking Conference was held in March 2019, which brought together 150 key industry personnel. Highlights of the conference included a:
 - Presentation by the Sheep – Horizon Three team on industry learnings
 - Site visit to the Pilot Farms which covered the key aspects of running a sheep milking farm and indepth onsite learnings across four work stations (milking parlour, housing, nutrition and feed and lamb rearing),
- New artificial insemination techniques to improve sheep and goat pregnancy rates were brought to New Zealand through a collective industry initiative by Sheep – Horizon Three, Spring Sheep, Agresearch, Focus Genetics, Pāmu and Tru Test. The theoretical and practical workshops were held by The Norwegian Association of Sheep and Goat Breeders.
- The new product range is in its final stages of development prior to market launches into multiple markets over the coming 12 months.
- An exclusive Supply Agreement has been signed with Singapore company VitaKids PTE LTD., to open up a new market for New Zealand sheep milk.

Investment Summary:

	Industry Contribution	MPI Contribution	Total Investment
During this Period	417,456	278,304	695,761
Programme to Date	8,727,532	5,818,355	14,545,885



2019 Annual Sheep Milk Conference New Zealand - Presentation



2019 Sheep Milk Conference - Indepth onsite learnings were provided by industry experts across four work stations



2019 Annual Sheep Milk Conference - Site visit to the Hybrid Pilot Farm