# A novel approach to probiotics for production animals


## Snapshot

**Industry partner:** BioBrew

**Project length:** 8 months

**Start date:** 30 October 2019

**Estimated completion date:** 30 June 2020

**Industry funding:** $41,900

**MPI funding:** $24,000

**BioBrew aims to demonstrate the efficacy of probiotics for lambing to provide farmers with a means to reduce the use of anthelmintics (antiparasitic drugs), while maintaining production and profitability.**

## The opportunity

An extensive body of research shows that probiotics have the potential to reduce farmer dependence on anthelmintics, antibiotics and other synthetic inputs. However, commercial offerings to date haven't provided a strong economic return or significant results. BioBrew has spent many years in the laboratory developing fresh, living probiotics for a variety of markets, which address the issues other microbial products have faced. This project aims to 'road-test' BioBrew probiotics during lamb weaning.

## The solution

This project proposes to run farm trials to investigate the effectiveness of using BioBrew's live microbial cultures to treat lambs with digestive disorders. This will be incorporated with low doses of anthelmintic for stimulating natural immunity to gastrointestinal parasites. BioBrew products contain live, active microbes. These contribute to well-being and are able to survive the rigours of the digestive system to improve digestive processes.

## The benefits

If successful, this project is expected to benefit New Zealand by:

- improving the gut health of lambs;
- maintaining or improving production and profitability by providing a more affordable alternative to commercial anthelmintics;
- reducing the use of anthelmintics in animal production systems;
- improving the quality of the food supply by reducing the amount of synthetic residue in food and the environment.