



New Zealand
Farm Environment Trust®

2014

Annual Report

30th June 2014



Ballance
Farm Environment Awards®
Promoting Sustainable Profitable Farming



Contents

	Page
Chairman's Report	1
General Manager's Report	4
Treasurer's Report	8
National Judging Coordinator's Report	10
Financial Summary	11
About the Ballance Farm Environment Awards	12
Supreme Winners for 2014	15
Exceptional Leadership Skills Impress Judges of Top Farm Environment Award	16
2014 Sustainability Showcase	17
Testimonials from past entrants of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards	20
National Sponsors	25
Regional Partners	29
Strategic Partners of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust	34
Directory	37

Chairman's Report



The past 12 months has been a time of deep sadness with the sudden illness and passing of our Chairman Alistair Polson in June. Not only did his loss rock the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust (NZFE Trust), but also the wider agricultural community. Alistair was admired and respected for the years of work he had committed to many organisations and causes within our sector. He was highly motivated to make a difference, to work tirelessly on behalf of farmers to advocate, negotiate and promote our industry. This was no more evident than in the way he was leading the NZFE Trust.

Although Alistair had only been in the Chair's role a short time, under his leadership plenty had been achieved, and a number of exciting opportunities are in the pipeline. Taranaki joined the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme in 2014 and produced an outstanding first year. It was an honour to be able to attend the awards evening and to feel the passion and enthusiasm and to witness the farming talent Taranaki has to offer. Congratulations to the Taranaki Ballance Farm Environment Awards Committee and of course the Taranaki Regional Council for backing the awards programme in your region.

The formation of the Alumni continues to gather momentum. A committee has been set up consisting of former Supreme Winners lead ably by Gray Baldwin. They are looking at opportunities to get the Alumni up and running at next year's National Showcase. As a group, they have the potential to form a network that will be rivaled by no other in agriculture. Not only will they have the opportunity to support the NZFE Trust and grow the awards, they will have the ability to influence the future direction of agriculture through debating, advocating educating farmers, agribusinesses, local and central government and potentially most importantly, our urban cousins on the challenges we face especially on farm environmental issues and the sustainability of our industry.

Over the past twelve months the NZFE Trust has undertaken a review of its governance model. From this review a number of recommendations have been signed off by the Board. These include reducing the Board size from 11 to 8 people, streamlining the Trustee election process, reviewing our Trust Deed and making amendments and alterations to match the needs of a Trust operating today. These recommendations will be implemented at our upcoming elections and Annual Meeting in October 2014.

From an operational perspective the NZFE Trust has had another very successful year, coming in on budget and delivering a small surplus. Entrant numbers have been steady with the regional and national award ceremonies and accompanying field days being a highlight. We continue to enjoy great support and commitment from our team of sponsors and partners, who not only commit funds but also time, resources and support to ensure the ongoing success of the Awards. This success can in large parts be put down to the dedicated management team of David Natzke as General Manager and Clare Rosser as Executive Administrator.

Although well placed at present, there can be no room for complacency as many challenges lie ahead. The role of the NZFE Trust and that of the Awards is becoming ever more important as the increasing scrutiny on our farming systems continues, especially in the area of nutrient losses and water quality. The NZFE Trust sits in a unique position to help lead the debate and showcase what can be achieved by our Ballance Farm Environment Awards entrants and award winning farmers. These farmers can not only showcase to the wider community what can be achieved but can also provide so many practical examples for other farmers to follow.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards

The flagship of the NZFE Trust activities are the regional awards. Now running in ten regions, the Awards

“Mark and Devon were deserved winners of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy and will make outstanding Ambassadors for New Zealand farming.”

programmes are continually developing and evolving to keep pace with our ever changing agricultural sector. There is no doubt that the regional awards programme provides a platform for farmers to showcase what they are achieving on farm. Just as importantly it provides an excellent opportunity for farmers to go through the judging process to educate and benchmark themselves as to how they are progressing, especially from an environmental perspective.

It is pleasing to see the ever increasing interest in our awards programmes from the agricultural sector and more importantly, from the wider community. This is highlighted in the ever-growing numbers at the regional awards functions and field days. The judging teams led by Jamie Strang, our National Judging Coordinator, are continually developing the judging processes and criteria to make it fair and comprehensive and importantly, to give value back to the farmer entrant. Expert judging is critical to the ongoing success of the Awards programme. I cannot thank our regional Judging Coordinators enough for their ongoing work.

At the heart of the regional awards are our Regional Committees, led by their Committee Chair, Regional Coordinator and Judging Coordinator. These regional teams are made up of a true cross section of the agricultural industry who with limited funding, huge amounts of passion and voluntary time all work towards a common goal to help deliver a great awards programme. The support the Regional Councils and the Gisborne District Council is also vital to the success of regional awards.

National Sustainability Showcase

This year's Showcase was held in Christchurch. The Trusts decision to move the Showcase from a Saturday night to a Thursday night proved to be very popular with a huge turnout of industry leaders, farmers and agricultural supporters. The Hon Nathan Guy gave the keynote address and presented the Gordon Stephenson Trophy to our National Winners. The ongoing support of the Minister and his Ministry is greatly appreciated.

The Regional Supreme Winners were hosted by the


NZFE Trust for three days of personal leadership, development and networking prior to the Showcase. A highlight of these three days is the opportunity for each of the Regional Supreme Winners to share their unique story about their farming enterprises with each other. They also heard from, and mixed with, a number of industry leaders to discuss and debate the many challenges and opportunities that our industry faces.

2014 Winners of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy

Mark and Devon Slee from Canterbury are this year's winners of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy. Mark and Devon run Melrose Dairy Ltd, a large scale dairy farm south west of Ashburton, milking 2634 cows spread over three units. The Slees were earlier judged 2014 Regional Supreme Winners for Canterbury by the regional Ballance Farm Environment judging team. The judges noted the Slees were able to run a highly profitable dairy operation, while ensuring excellent environmental management. They are industry leaders with exceptional staff management and community involvement. The Slees are in a challenging district with future prospects of nutrient limits, which could enforce change on their farming system. The Slees are well aware of the challenges they face in this area, and the National Winner Judges have no doubt they will take an important leadership role in this area as the nutrient limit discussions unfold in Canterbury.



Mark and Devon were deserved winners of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy and will make outstanding Ambassadors for New Zealand farming. As have previous National Winners, Mark and Devon will also travel overseas as part of their National Winner prize package. They will also have the opportunity to travel throughout New Zealand with General Manager David Natzke to meet with the Trust's sponsors and partners to gain the widest possible knowledge of New Zealand agriculture while promoting sustainable agriculture. A highlight of this trip will be presenting to the Primary Production Select Committee.



Craige and Roz Mackenzie, 2013 recipients of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy have been superb Ambassadors, working tirelessly to promote New Zealand agriculture with real passion and enthusiasm. They travelled to South America with a focus on precision agriculture and its role in farming systems in that part of the world. They were also keen to see what technologies could add value to New Zealand farming systems. They produced an outstanding report from their travels which gave a great insight to agriculture in South America. The report can be found at www.nzfea.org.nz

Craige and Roz's trip was supported by MPI, Beef + Lamb New Zealand and Fonterra.

Beef + Lamb New Zealand Environment Leaders Programme

This very successful programme in its second year and was attended by sheep and beef farmers from throughout New Zealand who had been award winners in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards in 2013. The programme was held in Wellington with a focus on leadership. The programme was hailed a huge success by those who attended with some inspiring speakers and plenty of robust discussion and debate with a range of leaders from both the agricultural and political spectrum. With planning already in the pipeline for next year's programme, the NZFE Trust looks forward to continue the growing partnership with Beef + Lamb New Zealand to develop the future sheep and beef environmental leaders.

Sponsors, Partners and Strategic Partners of the NZFE Trust

It is a privilege to work with such a dedicated team of Sponsors and Partners led by Ballance Agri-Nutrients. This esteemed family of supporters are leaders in the agricultural sector. Through committing to sponsoring the Awards and supporting the NZFE Trust, they allow the NZFE Trust to get on with its core business of showcasing, promoting and educating sustainable farming practices. Your continued support is vital and much appreciated.

Finally

The true strength of this organisation lies in the people who are committed and passionate about what is being achieved. This was no more evident in the challenging past eight months, as I stepped into the Acting Chair's role. The support from my fellow Trustees, our management team, our regional

teams, sponsors and partners has been humbling. This support has ensured we kept delivering to the very high standards that are now expected.

Thank you to David Natzke our General Manager, for his continued dedication and commitment to the NZFE Trust and the Awards, your support has been much appreciated over the past eight months. Also thank you to Clare Rosser in her role as Executive Administrator who works tirelessly in the background supporting our regional teams and the ever increasing administration needs of the NZFE Trust.

Jamie Strang our National Judging Coordinator has announced he is stepping down from this role, but has happily agreed to carry on in his other role as the National Winner Judging Coordinator. I cannot thank Jamie enough for his work in this very important area, where great steps have been made in ensuring our judging around the regions is of the highest standards.

Thank you to all the regional teams who keep delivering year in year out outstanding awards programmes, with huge amounts of passion, dedication and plenty of voluntary hours. You are the engine room of this organisation! To my fellow Trustees, thank you for your support and guidance. A special thank you needs to go to Joanne van Polanen our Treasurer, who not only has kept the NZFE Trust's finances in order, has taken on a raft of responsibilities and who has provided plenty of wise council when needed.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention three Trustees who have announced their retirement at the upcoming Annual meeting in October. Martin Wallace, Bruce Fraser and John Bourke have all been longstanding Trustees, with Martin and Bruce having sat on the Trust since its inception. These three retiring Trustees epitomise what is so special about this organisation; hugely committed and passionate, willing to give so much time and energy. Their vast knowledge and wisdom will be sorely missed around the board table. But, they can retire with a great deal of satisfaction that their hardwork has laid the foundations for the continued success of the NZFE Trust.

Simon Saunders
Acting Chairman

General Manager's Report



Every year delivers us challenges and every year, the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust (NZFE Trust) responds to these and delivers another outstanding result in relation to its programme of work. The commitment of Trustees and its group of stakeholders enables the NZFE Trust to deliver programmes that are clearly focused on its core business of promoting sustainable farming practices that protect and enhance the environment. And once again, the Ballance Farm Environment Awards have been such an integral part of the programme of work for the NZFE Trust. It has delivered another great lot of advocates for sustainable farming practices. Some of these advocates are referenced in Pages 20 to 24 of this report.

An exciting development this year for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards was the introduction of a new region, Taranaki. As I commented last year, we have had this region on the radar for some time and it was a highlight of the year to be able to recognise and acknowledge the contribution and commitment made by farmers in the region and to showcase entrant's properties. A very big thank you to the support we received from the Committee of farmers and stakeholders in the region to deliver such a successful programme in a tight timeframe. Also, thanks to the Taranaki Regional Council for their support for what will become a very important event for the region.

Mention must also go to all the other nine regions that make up the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme, Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, East Coast, Horizons, Greater Wellington, Canterbury, Otago and Southland. All these regions had an outstanding year in terms of delivering a successful Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme. It is not always easy to attract entrants but all of these regions did a great job doing so and making sure that it was a worthwhile experience for the entrants.

The flagship business enterprise for the NZFE Trust continues to be the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme. However, we are delighted to have a contract with Beef + Lamb New Zealand to conduct, in association with that organisation, an Environment Leaders' programme for that sector.

The first of these programmes was piloted in 2013. Sheep and beef farmers who picked up awards in the 2013 Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme were invited to participate in a three day programme in Wellington in May 2014. This was another successful programme and it highlights the value of the relationship the NZFE Trust has with industry to be able to deliver on such initiatives. We are currently in discussion with Beef + Lamb New Zealand to build upon the success of the programme, either by way of an extension programme or a similar programme to

“An exciting development this year for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards was the introduction of a new region, Taranaki. We have had this region on the radar for some time and it was a highlight of the year to be able to recognise and acknowledge the contribution and commitment made by farmers in the region and to showcase entrant's properties.”



what we have conducted in the past two years.

The NZFE Trust business model has been developed and refined over a number of years, and the Trust has been fortunate to attract a number of visionary people to serve as Trustees and to chart the future direction of the Trust.

The business model and future direction of the NZFE Trust was severely challenged with the untimely death on 6 June 2014 of the Chairman, Alistair Polson. I had the privilege of working with Alistair when he was President of Federated Farmers of New Zealand and I was the Corporate Services Manager of the Federation. We got to know each other well and an added bonus was getting to know his wife, Bo. I was indeed delighted to be able to again work with both Alistair and Bo when Alistair was elected Chairman of the NZFE Trust in October 2012.

Under Alistair's Chairmanship, he introduced processes and systems to make sure our business model is fit for purpose going forward, one being a strategic review. His visionary commitment to the NZFE Trust in his all too short time as Chairman meant that the Trust was well positioned to carry on with the programme of work we had developed, although it did mean a fair bit of soul searching losing the Chairman.

There have been a number of accolades paid to Alistair's commitment to New Zealand agriculture. I could not possibly add anything to these so my tribute to Alistair is to say thank you, I valued your commitment and desire and most importantly I valued your friendship.

Stakeholder Relationships

The NZFE Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme has continued to maintain the support of a number of stakeholders who support the Trust and its business of promoting sustainable farming practices that protect and enhance the environment. Furthermore, they have been behind the Trust's objective of making the Ballance Farm Environment Awards a truly national programme, their support for the new Taranaki region was welcomed.

As the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme has grown to be one of the premier agricultural events in New Zealand, the commitment made by stakeholders has grown to as well. They have welcomed new initiatives that have been developed to promote and enhance the awards programme and they have leveraged off the success of the regional category winners and Supreme Winners as well as the National Winner.

“A very big thank you to all stakeholders for your support over the past year, we could not have achieved what we did without you being involved.”

Ballance Farm Environment Awards National Sponsors



Ballance Farm Environment Awards Regional Partners



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust Partners



New Zealand Farm Environment Awards Regional Sponsors



It is very pleasing to see stakeholders prompting the success of entrants and award winners to their clients by way of client communications and profiles on their websites. One sponsor this year developed a one off client publication profiling the National Winner and all Regional Supreme Winners. We were delighted with this initiative and the profile it gave the awards programme.

We do appreciate that companies and businesses are subject to untold representations to sponsor worthy causes and events. That is why we are delighted to have a core group of businesses who have a significant investment in the rural sector being part of the NZFE Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. Your networks have proved invaluable in promoting our objectives and it is great to see you willingly do so. Furthermore, we do value the involvement of stakeholder personnel who make a major contribution to the regional Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme. We are reliant on having the services of rural professionals to be on regional management and judging teams and to be part of the success of everything that happens in the regions.

A very big thank you to all stakeholders for your support over the past year, we could not have achieved what we did without you being involved.

National Award

This year we added another lot of names to go alongside the previous National Winners and recipients of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy, the 2014 National Winners being Mark and Devon Slee from Canterbury.

The National Showcase for 2014 was held in Christchurch in June. Trustees decided that the Showcase really needed to be taken back to Christchurch and that proved to be a very good decision. It gave the NZFE Trust the opportunity to once again profile the success of what is being achieved in New Zealand by farmers and it also gave the Trust the opportunity to support Christchurch and Canterbury. The region has missed out on hosting events like the Showcase as it has been going through its massive rebuild. However, there are now some facilities up and running and delivering an excellent event experience and we were delighted to be part of that.

The feedback we have received from Supreme Winners, stakeholders and guests was very

complimentary; they all enjoyed the Christchurch experience. So a big thank you to Christchurch for a wonderful time in the city, we look forward to being back.


The National Winner programme continues to be an important part of the NZFE Trust's business operation. In the four years that it has been running it has gained a lot of traction and it has proved to be a valuable tool to have to promote our objective. Furthermore, it has been embraced by all of our stakeholders who get to meet the National Winners as part of the tour of New Zealand they undertake.

It is important to remember that the National Winner does go through a robust judging process. There are two rounds of judging that takes place in the regional awards competition. Regional Supreme Winner are then visited on farm by two representatives of the National Judging team, this has been Warwick Catto from Ballance Agri-Nutrients and Jamie Strang, the National Judging Coordinator. Then the Supreme Winners face an interview with the whole National Judging team. For 2014 this comprised of Simon Saunders, Acting Chair of the NZFE Trust, Paul Lamont of Rabobank, Charmaine O'Shea, 2014 NZ Dairy Woman of the Year, Bruce Wills, Federated Farmers of New Zealand along with Warwick and Jamie.

When the National Award was first scoped and developed, a key consideration was that it had to be an award, not an obligation. As such, it needed to fit in well with the farming and business operations of the recipients. We think we have got the mix right and this is evidenced by the continuing success of the past winners who have combined National Winner commitments and opportunities with their impressive farming operations. All the past National Winners have commented how much they have enjoyed the process.

The 2013 National Winners, Craig and Roz Mackenzie undertook a study tour of South America as part of their prize package; they visited Chile, Uruguay and Argentina. Upon their return they compiled a comprehensive report on the farming and business operations they visited, this report has been posted on our website, www.bfea.org.nz

Craig has been invited to represent New Zealand on The Global Farmer Roundtable in the USA in October 2014.



“Without the volunteer support we receive from all manner of people, we would not be able to deliver our programme of work the way we do.”

Craige commented that he is very honoured to be invited to represent New Zealand and it is part of the role that he and Roz have found themselves involved with which is, in part, due to the Ballance Farm Environment awards.

Mark and Devon Slee are the first dairy farmers to be awarded the National Winner title so their success has been widely recognised by the dairy industry and observer organisations.

Summary

As I commented at the beginning of this report, each year delivers us challenges and this year is no exception. However, the strength of the NZFE Trust is its ability to address challenges and face them head on and plan accordingly.

Our business is dependent upon the ability of farmers to continue to do what they do so well and for us to be part of their success. There is a large group of people who have a high degree of trust and confidence in the NZFE Trust; this enables the Trust the ability deliver and showcase what is fundamental to the success of New Zealand, sustainable farming practices that protect and enhance the environment. Be it stakeholders or farmers who enter the awards and then go on to advocate and promote the awards and the other work of the Trust, we are indeed grateful.

We are a lean mean machine and I have had a number of observers comment on how well we do insofar as what we deliver and achieve with a limited resource base. However, we are not too limited in that underpinning our achievements is the contribution and commitment of a large volunteer base. Without the volunteer support we receive from all manner of people, we would not be able to deliver our programme of work the way we do.

For me, it is really rewarding for these volunteers to recognise the value of what we do and their desire to be part of the NZFE Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme. From my

involvement with some community groups, I know that it is a becoming a bit of a struggle to get volunteer involvement; there are fewer people committing to do this. We seem to buck that trend and long may it continue.

There have been a number of personnel changes this year right across the board. Change is a good thing as it brings new ideas and a fresh approach to some of what we do and for that reason, we welcome personnel changes. A full directory of NZFE Trust and Ballance Farm Environment Award personnel is at the rear of this Annual Report.

I would like to offer my personal thanks to the Acting Chairman, Simon Saunders and Trustees of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust for their support of Clare Rosser and me in delivering their polices and directions. With the sudden death of Alistair Polson, we did face some challenges but because the business of the Trust has been so clearly defined, we were able to come through that period of time without too much difficulty, albeit a sad time for the history of the Trust.

Clare Rosser has been a huge contributor to the work of the Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme. The processes she has put in place for the administration of our programme of work have been impressive.

To Regional Coordinators, Committee Chairs, Judging Coordinators and regional management personnel, your involvement at all levels of our work is very much appreciated. You never let us down in that you get amazing entrants, run successful programmes and manage your regions so efficiently. Thank you most sincerely.

Bring on the 2015 Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme.

David Natzke
General Manager

Treasurer's Report



It is my pleasure to report on the financial results of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust (NZFE Trust) for the year ended 30th June 2014. These accounts carry an unconditional independent audit certificate.

The NZFE Trust has enjoyed a successful year financially with the continued support of its three key national partners, Dairy NZ, Fonterra and Rabobank, who financially support the NZFE Trust's operations. These three partners also provide in-kind support for Ballance Farm Environment Award judging and regional management committee representation.

The Joint venture with Dairy NZ to provide the Building Dairy Environment Leaders program was discontinued this year resulting in a reduced cash flow of the NZFE Trust.

The joint venture with Beef + Lamb New Zealand continues to meet the NZFE Trust's objectives of promoting leadership and contributes positively to the NZFE Trust's cash flow with a management fee for administering the programme.

The very successful 2014 Showcase held in Christchurch was a smaller event than the previous year and this is reflected in the event cost. A portion of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards sponsor funding contributes to the cost of the Showcase and appears as income in the NZFE Trust Divisional Statement and an expense in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards Statement.

The link between Ballance Farm Environment Award sponsors and the National Award is now recognised with a Sponsor Contribution entry as for the Showcase. While the Showcase and National Award contributions are an apportioning of a percentage of the Showcase and National Award expenses back to the Trust enterprise, it does represent the very significant role of all stakeholders in the Trust and the

acknowledgment of the significance of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards as the flagship enterprise for the Trust.

The Ministry for Primary Industries continues to provide financial support for the National Award. Through prudent management, the NZFE Trust continues to benefit from interest income. Prompt invoicing and payment, a very predictable year on year cash flow, timely management of the accounts and good use of a bank facilities and term deposits allow for good management of funds.

Ten tear drop banners promoting the Ballance Farm Environment Awards were purchased as capital items and distributed to the regions to have on hand as needed. The banners, costing \$7,273, will allow regions to promote the awards at any event where they have a presence such as field days and the award evening.

Reduced administration expenses across a number of cost centres, reduced Alumni activity and a smaller Showcase event account for the lower operational expenses and along with the inclusion of the sponsor contribution for the National Award allowed the NZFE Trust to return a surplus of \$17,898 for the year.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards have once again benefited from a full complement of award sponsors.

Regional income is generated from ticket sales to attend award functions in the regions and is available to the regions to grow the awards. A total of 437 tickets were sold across the regions. This is an increase of 226 on last year. Guidelines were developed at the beginning of the year for regions to submit budgets and plans for projects that will grow the awards in their region. Some regions chose to spend their regional income this year and others will



“The NZFE Trust has enjoyed a successful year financially with the continued support of its three key national sponsors, Dairy NZ, Fonterra and Rabobank, who financially support the NZFE Trust’s operations.”

have the balance of their regional income available to spend in 2015. It has been very pleasing to see regions take the opportunity to raise funds and the innovative and diverse projects that have been managed to grow their awards. To date projects have covered attracting entrants, promoting the awards regionally and assisting the judging process.

The NZFE Trust was very pleased to welcome and assist the Taranaki region to deliver a very successful inaugural awards program in August. Due to the late inclusion of Taranaki the NZFE Trust agreed to provide funding assistance from the NZFE Trust reserve fund. Sponsors agreed to provide the prizes and Ballance Agri-Nutrient sponsorship provided a one off payment of \$5,000 to assist the start-up of a new region.

The majority of the increase in regional expenses has been in the area of regional awards. Firstly with funding the Taranaki region and secondly with the support to regions to fully spend their allocated award budgets. Clare Rosser, the Executive Administrator, has worked to support regions to provide a nationally consistent award programme and award evening. Regional Coordinators receive monthly income and expenditure reports and the resulting planning and budgeting by Coordinators has been excellent. The regional award figure also includes \$8929 which was spent on regional projects.

The website, established in 2008, is an essential part of the NZFE Trust as a medium for communicating award winner information and providing information about the NZFE Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards nationally and internationally. A facility to provide an on-line payment system was set up at the beginning of this year and now operates through the NZFE Trust website. This has been an excellent method for payment for regional and national event tickets. The website also provides the opportunity to complete on-line entry to the awards.

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards returned a surplus of \$8,962. This is a considerable decrease from 2013 mainly due to the transfer to the NZFE Trust of a sponsor contribution towards the National Award and funding support to the Taranaki region. The Combined Statement of Financial Performance shows a net surplus after depreciation of \$24,637.

The NZFE Trust is very grateful to operate a successful non-profit organisation based on a loyal family of financial supporters and a passionate volunteer base who support and believe in the value of their organisation and what they are achieving. The NZFE Trust is indebted to the partners of the NZFE Trust, Ballance Farm Environment Award sponsors and Regional Councils for their continuing financial support which allows the NZFE Trust to meet its objective of promoting environmentally sustainable farming. The other half of the success of the NZFE Trust is in the delivery of its activities which relies on the generous support of the many volunteers who contribute with their time and expertise on regional committees, as judges, organisers and trustees.

I would like to thank General Manager, David Natzke who continues to professionally and diligently manage the NZFE Trust’s financial business and Executive Administrator, Clare Rosser who provides day to day management of the financial accounts and assists regions with the management of their budgets.

Thanks also to the NZFE Trust’s accountants, Accountants on London (Hamilton, NZ), the NZFE Trust auditor, Staples and Rodway (Hamilton, NZ) and the NZFE Trust’s bankers, Rabobank for their support.

Joanne van Polanen
Treasurer

National Judging Coordinator's Report



It has been another successful round of judging and awards for the 2013/2014 Ballance Farm Environment Awards judging year.

The Taranaki region came on board for the first time and a very smooth judging round was achieved. Thanks for this must go to a very enthusiastic judging group led by Phill Muir and key input from Andrea Hanna and Clare Rosser. The Northland region added an outside judge to their finals judging team to bolster the integrity of the team and to overcome the idea that the region is small and many entrants are known by local judges.

Reports suggest this was well received and will be continued. This sort of cross pollination is healthy and should be encouraged on all levels. Funding for this sort of initiative and others is to be promoted because of the benefits that accrue. Judging Coordinators also need to be proactive and visit other regions' events. The integrity of our judging process can only be enhanced by seeing what is happening in other regions and being receptive to new ideas.

Report writing is a key part of our success. This has been a key focus during the year and will continue to be. We have an obligation to ensure that information supplied at the time National Winner is announced details the reason why they have a winning property and the environmental outcomes they are achieving and how these are balanced with the profitability of their business. Such commentary will focus on why the winners have won and not why some have not. This process will begin at the first round of judging and will follow through to subsequent rounds of judging.

Judging the financial sustainability of entrants has been an issue we have needed to address. After much discussion, we now have agreement from all regions on a format. The format has been designed so as not to scare off entrants but to enable enough information to be gathered to assist in the overall judging process. It will also prove helpful to have this information to provide to the National Judging panel.

Charmaine O'Shea and Paul Lamont are to be thanked for their input.

Judging Coordinators are busy people and as some decide they need to take a break from the job, we need to have a process in place to ensure we are attracting people to undertake this fulfilling, and at times challenging role. It really is a privilege to visit the farms of entrants. I have often heard it said by judges that they have driven by farms and observed them from the roadside and then, as part of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards judging programme, they get to have a look at them from other than the roadside. They do delight in being able to see what is going on behind the roadside view and I am pretty sure they take home a lot more than being part of a judging experience. There are a lot of new ideas and innovation that are presented to judges and we hear it time and again that judging is a great opportunity to see so many exciting developments.

The challenge we have is to ensure we have a succession planning process in place so as to be able to maintain the high standard of judging that the Ballance Farm Environment Awards are recognised for. It is a critical part of everyone's business planning and I know it is high on the agenda for the NZFE Trust as part of its overall planning. One thing the Ballance Farm environment Awards is good about is providing opportunities. We do so for a whole host of people when they enter the awards and we are now looking at extending that to others who believe in what the awards are about and want to get involved. As I said, it is a great privilege to visit the farms we get to judge.

All Judging Coordinators must be acknowledged and thanked for the time and energy they have generously given during the year. Thanks must go to Clare Rosser and David Natzke for their positive input during the year.

Jamie Strang
National Judging Coordinator



Financial Summary

New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Contents of Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

Contents of Financial Statements	
Directory	2
Audit Report	3
Divisional Statement of Financial Performance	4 - 5
Combined Statement of Financial Performance	6
Statement of Changes in Trust Funds	7
Statement of Financial Position	8
Statement of Cash Flows	9
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements	10 - 12
Depreciation Schedule	13

New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Directory

As at 30 June 2014

Nature of Business	Promotion and education of sustainable environmental farming practices.
Trust Formation Date	24 December 2004
Settlor	The Farm Environment Award Trust
General Manager	David Natzke PO Box 693 HAMILTON
Office Holders	Alistair Polson, Chairperson (deceased 05/06/14) WANGANUI Simon Saunders, Acting Chairperson, LUMSDEN Joanne van Polanen, Treasurer ASHBURTON Martin Wallace, Secretary MORRINSVILLE
Trustees	Simon Saunders, Lumsden Joanne van Polanen, Ashburton David Cameron, Masterton Martin Wallace, Morrinsville John Bourke, Katikati David Cameron, Masterton Hew Dalrymple, Bulls Bruce Fraser, Tauranga Andrea Hanna, Te Kuiti James Hunter, Waipukurau Graeme Smith, Tauranga (from 11/12/13) Larry Bilodeau, Tauranga (resigned 11/12/13) Alistair Polson, Wanganui (deceased 05/06/14)
Accountants	Accountants on London Ltd Chartered Accountants 3 London Street HAMILTON
Auditor	Staples Rodway Chartered Accountants HAMILTON
Bankers	Rabobank New Zealand Ltd HAMILTON
Solicitors	Sharp Tudhope TAURANGA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of New Zealand Farm Environment Trust on pages 5 to 13, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in trust funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Trustees' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). These standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgments, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, as well as evaluating the presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, New Zealand Farm Environment Trust.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements on pages 5 to 13:

- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
- give a true and fair view of the financial position of New Zealand Farm Environment Trust as at 30 June 2014 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year ended on that date.



STAPLES RODWAY
HAMILTON
1 October 2014

New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Divisional Statement of Financial Performance

For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
NZFET			
Partnership Income			
Dairy NZ		20,000	20,000
Fonterra		50,000	50,000
Rabobank		50,000	45,000
Total Partnership		120,000	115,000
Joint Venture Income			
Dairy NZ BDEL		-	84,500
Beef + Lamb New Zealand BBLL		30,000	58,000
BBLL Management Fee		20,000	12,000
Total Joint Venture Income		50,000	154,500
Operational Income			
National Award - Other		868	1,250
National Award - MPI		20,000	20,000
Showcase		8,383	20,773
Sponsor Contribution to Showcase		49,193	62,192
Sponsor Contribution to National Award		21,197	-
Total Operational		99,641	104,215
Other Income			
NZFE Trust Donations		-	2,520
Other Income		4,001	4,000
Interest Received		26,344	24,680
Total Other Income		30,345	31,200
Total Income		299,986	404,915
Less Expenses			
Operational Expenses			
Administration		72,223	99,977
Alumnus		504	2,720
BBLL		33,913	25,471
BDEL		-	75,084
Governance		34,669	39,108
National Award		42,394	42,145
Showcase		98,385	124,383
Total Expenses		282,008	408,888
Surplus - NZFET (Deficit - NZFET)		17,898	(3,973)

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes. These statements have been audited.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Divisional Statement of Financial Performance (continued)

For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
Ballance Farm Environment Awards		
Income		
Sponsorship	514,250	507,000
Other Income	10,000	9,000
Regional Councils	148,000	143,000
Public Relations	24,626	22,275
Regional Income	24,805	14,172
Total Income	721,681	695,447
Less Expenses		
General Administration Expenses		
Administration	79,172	71,636
Public Relations	24,144	22,440
	103,316	94,076
Regional Expenses		
DVD Productions	30,966	31,275
Co-ordination	146,224	149,667
Printing & Stationery	52,931	48,433
Prizes	49,000	44,000
Regional Awards	231,420	160,913
Regional Contributions	26,000	21,089
Website	2,472	1,193
	539,013	456,570
National Award Expenses		
Sponsor Contribution to National Awards	21,197	-
Showcase Expenses		
Sponsor Contribution to Showcase	49,193	62,192
Total Expenses	712,719	612,838
Surplus - BFEA	8,962	82,609

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes. These statements have been audited.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Combined Statement of Financial Performance

For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
Divisional Income		
Surplus (Deficit) from NZFET	17,898	(3,973)
Surplus from BFEA	8,962	82,609
Total Divisional Income	26,860	78,636
Less Expenses		
Non Cash Expenses		
Depreciation	2,223	4,755
Net Surplus	24,637	73,881

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes. These statements have been audited.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Statement of Changes in Trust Funds

For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2014	2013
		\$	\$
Revenues and Expenses			
Net Surplus		24,637	73,881
Total Recognised Revenues and Expenses		24,637	73,881
Trust Funds at the Beginning of the Year	7	545,084	471,203
Trust Funds at the End of the Year		569,721	545,084

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes. These statements have been audited.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2014


	Note	2014 \$	2013 \$
Current Assets			
Cash & Bank Balances	2	351,941	393,013
Other Receivables	3	23,429	21,606
GST Receivable		25,679	11,622
Current Investments	4	317,681	208,449
Total Current Assets		718,730	634,690
Non Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	5	8,542	3,492
Total Assets		727,272	638,182
Current Liabilities			
Audit Fee Accrual	6	2,150	2,000
Sundry Creditors	6	155,401	91,098
Total Liabilities		157,551	93,098
Net Assets		569,721	545,084
Trust Funds			
Trust Capital	7	569,721	545,084
Total Trust Funds		569,721	545,084



 Simon Saunders, Acting Chairperson

Trustee

Date 1/10/14



 David Natzke, General Manager

Trustee

Date 01-10-2014



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2014	2013
		\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash was provided from:			
Operating Revenue		979,443	1,079,521
Interest Received		26,344	24,681
		1,005,787	1,104,202
Cash was disbursed to:			
Administration and Operating Expenses		930,355	1,046,539
		930,355	1,046,539
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	8	75,432	57,663
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Cash was disbursed to:			
Purchase of Banner Flags		7,273	-
		7,273	-
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		(7,273)	-
Net Increase in Cash Held		68,159	57,663
Cash at the Beginning of the Year		601,462	543,799
Cash at the End of the Year		669,621	601,462



1 Statement of Accounting Policies

Reporting Entity

New Zealand Farm Environment Trust (the "Trust") is a Discretionary Trust.

The financial statements of New Zealand Farm Environment Trust are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared according to Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP).

The Trust is involved in the business of Promotion and education of sustainable environmental farming practices.

Statement of Compliance and Basis of Preparation

The Trust qualifies for differential reporting as it is not publicly accountable and is not large as defined in the Framework for Differential Reporting. The Trust has taken advantage of all available differential reporting exemptions other than FRS 10 Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of the Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Financial Position on a historical cost basis are followed by the Trust. The information is presented in New Zealand dollars.

Specific Accounting Policies

The following specific accounting policies which materially affect the measurement of the Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Financial Position have been applied:

(a) Revenue

Revenue is recognised on an accruals basis.

(b) Trade Receivables

Trade Receivables are recognised at estimated realisable value.

(c) Property, Plant & Equipment

Property, Plant & Equipment are recognised at Cost less aggregate depreciation. Depreciation has been calculated using the maximum rates permitted by the Income Tax Act 2007. Gains and losses on disposal of fixed assets are taken into account in determining the operating result for the year.

Plant & Equipment	15.6 - 16 % DV
Computer Equipment	60.0% DV

(d) Income Tax

Trust is not subject to income tax pursuant to the Income Tax Act 2007 as it is a registered Charitable Trust.

(e) Goods and Services Taxation (GST)

Revenues and expenses have been recognised in the financial statements exclusive of GST except that irrecoverable GST input tax has been recognised in association with the expense to which it relates. All items in the Statement of Financial Position are stated exclusive of GST except for receivables and payables which are stated inclusive of GST.

(f) Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. All policies have been applied on a basis consistent with those from previous financial statements.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements (continued)

For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

2	Cash & Bank Balances				
			2014	2013	
			\$	\$	
	Bank Account Balances				
	ANZ Ballance 00 Account		-	100	
	Rabobank All in One Account		16,181	84,191	
	Rabobank On Call Account		335,760	308,722	
			<u>351,941</u>	<u>393,013</u>	
	Total Cash & Bank Balances		<u>351,941</u>	<u>393,013</u>	
3	Current Receivables		2014	2013	
			\$	\$	
	Other Receivables				
	Sundry Debtors		23,429	21,606	
	Total Current Receivables		<u>23,429</u>	<u>21,606</u>	
4	Current Investments		2014	2013	
			\$	\$	
	Rabobank Term Deposit 483		100,629	-	
	Rabobank Term Deposit 229		217,052	208,449	
	Total Current Investments		<u>317,681</u>	<u>208,449</u>	
5	Property, Plant & Equipment				
		Cost	Depreciation Charged	Accumulated Depreciation	Closing Book Value
	Property, Plant & Equipment 2014	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Plant & Equipment	8,225	347	933	7,292
	Computer Equipment	19,610	1,876	18,360	1,250
	Total Property, Plant & Equipment	<u>27,835</u>	<u>2,223</u>	<u>19,293</u>	<u>8,542</u>
		Cost	Depreciation Charged	Accumulated Depreciation	Closing Book Value
	Property, Plant & Equipment 2013	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Plant & Equipment	951	67	586	365
	Computer Equipment	19,611	4,688	16,484	3,127
	Total Property, Plant & Equipment	<u>20,562</u>	<u>4,755</u>	<u>17,070</u>	<u>3,492</u>

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying Notes. These statements have been audited.



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements (continued)

For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
6 Payables & Accruals	\$	\$
Accounts Payable		
Audit Fee Accrual	2,150	2,000
Sundry Creditors	155,401	91,098
Total Payables & Accruals	157,551	93,098
7 Trust Capital	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Opening Balance	545,084	471,203
Plus:		
Net Surplus	24,637	73,881
Total Trust Capital	569,721	545,084
8 Operating Surplus	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Net Operating Surplus	24,637	73,881
Depreciation	2,223	4,755
(Increase)/decrease in trade and GST accounts receivable	(15,881)	3,839
(Increase)/decrease in trade and GST accounts payables	64,453	(24,812)
Total Operating Surplus	75,432	57,663
9 Fees Paid to Auditor	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Audit Fee	2,150	2,000
Total Fees Paid to Auditor	2,150	2,000

10 Contingent Liabilities

The Trust has no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2014, (2013 Nil).

11 Capital Commitments

The Trust has no capital commitments as at 30 June 2014, (2013 Nil).



New Zealand Farm Environment Trust

Depreciation Schedule

For the Year Ended 30 June 2014

	RATE & TYPE	% PVT USE	Cost on HAND	OPENING WDV	ADDITIONS	DATE of ADDITION	SALE PRICE	PARTSALE PRICE	PROFIT (LOSS)	DISPOSAL DATE	Cost	CAPITAL GAIN/LOSS	DEPN	ACCUM DEPN	PRIVATE DEPN	ACCUM DEPN	CLOSING WDV	
Plant & Equipment																		
Promotional Screens	15.600		851	365		30/11/07							57	643				308
Banner Flags	16.000		7,273		7,273	08/04/14							250	280				8,983
			8,225	365	7,273								347	933				7,292
Computer Equipment																		
Trademark Promotional Design	60.000		10,606	245		14/05/09							147	10,508				98
Website Design 2012	60.000		9,005	2,882		01/03/12							1,729	7,852				1,153
			19,611	3,127									1,876	18,360				1,251
TOTAL			27,835	3,492	7,273								2,223	19,293				8,542



These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes. These statements have been audited.

About the Ballance Farm Environment Awards

The New Zealand Farm Environment Trust has put in place a forward looking Strategic Plan which has the following key objective:

“To promote sustainable farming practices that protect and enhance the environment”

The objectives of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards are to display to farmers that profitability need not compromise and, in the best examples, can restore and enhance environmental values.

Through feedback and profiling winners, the Awards encourage other farmers to be proactive in their resource management by providing them with role models for sustainable land management.

The Awards look at whole farm systems and strongly promote the positive. Every entrant is given feedback from specialist judges.

The key question the Ballance Farm Environment Awards asks is:

“Can what is being done now, still be working successfully in 100 years?”

Supreme Winners

A Supreme Winner will be selected from each of the 10 regions - Supreme Winners will be chosen from the group of finalists.

National Award – Gordon Stephenson Trophy

The recipient of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy will be selected from the 10 regional Supreme Winners and will be announced at the 2015 Sustainability Showcase.

Principal National Sponsor



Ballance Agri-Nutrient's Soil Management Award

This Award focuses on the excellent management of the soil resource as well as the appropriate use of nutrients. A very good understanding of nutrient cycles will need to be demonstrated. Nutrient budgeting will be understood and well documented. The impacts of nutrients on both surface and ground water will need to be well understood and well managed.



Beef + Lamb New Zealand Livestock Award

This Award recognises the livestock farmer, inclusive of deer and other dry stock farming operations (other than dairy) who demonstrate in a practical way the choices that have been made to farm for the long term. Considerations will be made around the wise use of the land, labour and capital resource available or created. Stock will be well cared for. Stock class and type will be well suited to the land contour and soil type and managed appropriately to suit those soils.



Hill Laboratories Harvest Award

This award recognises the farmer who is predominantly involved in growing crops, (e.g. Grain, Seed, Viticulture, Horticulture) but also encompasses livestock farmers who demonstrate excellent pasture and soil management. Consideration will include the effect the farming system has on the land resource currently and in the long term. Its effect on the water resource, along with nutrient use and effect will also be considered. Some formal monitoring or measuring of effects of the growing system on these resources would be a positive. Demonstration of a good understanding of weed and pest management and treatments is also required.



LIC Dairy Farm Award

This Award recognises the dairy farmer who demonstrates in a practical way the choices that have been made to farm for the long term. Considerations will be made around the wise use of the land, labour and capital resource available or created. Increasingly the effects of dairy farming on both surface and groundwater and its impact on soil properties are factors the judges will consider.



PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award

This Award is focused more on the all-important 'people' side of the farming business. The personal beliefs of pride and passion for the land will be a key part of the considerations as well as an element of demonstrating good farm safety practices. A community spirit will be evident, along with a very good relationship with external 'advice or support' from agribusiness people. Intergenerational thinking and planning is often a feature.



Massey University Innovation Award

The Innovation Award is given in recognition of the identification and implementation of economically and environmentally sustainable farming systems. The Award recognises farmers and farming families who develop or embrace new technologies and systems and have an established record of advancing farm practices for improved outcomes. The winner, or their nominee, will receive a fees scholarship to further their professional development through a short course (subject to entry requirements), or period of private study, at Massey University.



WaterForce Integrated Management Award

The WaterForce Award recognises the farmer who has developed and implemented integrated water management systems and processes for water used within their farming system. This award will take into account the design of systems and the efficiency of monitoring water usage, water saved and cost effectiveness in any land based farming system.



Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award

This Award is for the creation of special places on farm and may include protection or enhancement of wetlands, landscape features, or historic places. There is also a need to demonstrate management systems that improve productivity and sustainability.

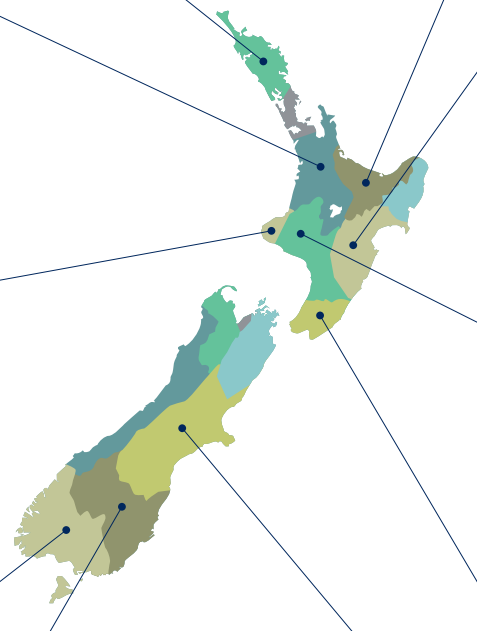
Regional Awards

- Northland Regional Council Water Quality Enhancement Award
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council Environmental Award
- Waikato Regional Council Water Protection Award
- The East Coast Farming for the Future Award
- Horizons Regional Council Award (for the integration of trees)
- Taranaki Regional Council Sustainability Award
- Akura Conservation Centre Lifestyle Farm/Small Block Award
- Environment Canterbury Regional Council Water Quality Award
- Otago Regional Council Water Quality Award

Regional Partners



Supreme Winners for 2014



NORTHLAND
Roger and Jane Hutchings
Lodore Farm Ltd, Okaihau
Dairy

BAY OF PLENTY
Rick Burke and Jan Loney
Pukekauri Farms, Katikati
Sheep, Bull Beef and Dairy Grazers

WAIKATO
Mike and Sharon Barton
Glen Emmreth Farm, Turangi
Beef

EAST COAST
Robert & Sandra Faulkner and Bruce & Jo Graham
Wairakaia Partnership, Gisborne
Sheep, Beef, Cropping, Citrus, Forestry

TARANAKI
Gavin & Oliver Faull and Tony & Loie Penwarden
Faull Farms Ltd/Trewhithen Partnership, Waitara
Dairy

HORIZONS
Justin and Mary Vennell
Richcrest Farming Limited, Hunterville
Sheep and Beef

SOUTHLAND
Andrew and Heather Tripp
Nithdale Station, Kaiwera
Dairy, Sheep, Beef

GREATER WELLINGTON
Matt and Lynley Wyeth
Spring Valley Enterprises Ltd, Kaituna
Sheep and Beef

OTAGO
Wayne McIntosh
McIntosh Orchard Ltd, Earnsclough, Alexandra
Pip and Stone Fruit

CANTERBURY
Mark and Devon Slee
Melrose Dairy Ltd, Ealing
Dairy

Intensive Canterbury Dairy Farmers Clear Choice for Farm Environment Judges

Mark and Devon Slee, National Winners of the 2014 Ballance Farm Environment Awards, will make outstanding ambassadors for New Zealand agriculture, says Federated Farmers president Bruce Wills.

Mr Wills, a first-time judge on New Zealand Farm Environment Trust's National Winner judging panel, says while all ten Supreme winners vying for the award were great farming leaders, the Slees showed they had the exceptional communication skills required to champion NZ farming to a national and international audience.

He says their Canterbury business, Melrose Dairy, is an outstanding example of a high performing, sustainable dairy operation.

The Slees are achieving excellent production and outstanding profitability while remaining steadfastly committed to minimising their operation's impacts on the environment, he says. "Mark and Devon run a large-scale intensive dairy farming business on some of the lighter soils in Canterbury and this type of operation has been at the forefront of the debate on the effects of dairying on the environment. But the Slees have shown great initiative and dedication when it comes to reducing their environmental footprint, and they are excellent role models for other farmers to follow."

Mr Wills says the Slees were early converters to dairying in the region and among the first dairy farmers to adopt pivot irrigation to improve water utilisation.



Simon Saunders, acting chair of the New Zealand Farm Environment (NZFE) Trust and chair of the National Winner judging panel, said the Slees performed superbly during their interview with the judges. "They proved they have a very good understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing New Zealand agriculture."

He said the Slees also demonstrated excellent communication skills and team work. "They are a highly motivated and skilled couple, yet very down to earth and humble. They absolutely deserved to win this competition and they will make excellent ambassadors for the dairy industry and for New Zealand agriculture in general."

Mr Saunders said the judging panel, which also included Jamie Strang, Warwick Catto, Paul Lamont and Charmaine O'Shea, was "blown away" by the calibre of all the regional winners. "They are all great leaders and they should be very proud of what they have achieved. Listening to these people talk about their farming operations with such passion and enthusiasm gives me great confidence for the future of New Zealand agriculture."

Mr Wills, who recently stood down as president of Federated Farmers of New Zealand, says judging the competition was an inspiring experience. "I found it a huge privilege to be able to sit down with ten of New Zealand's best farmers and hear them talk about their focus and commitment towards running a sustainable business. It's clear that farmers have got the message about environmental sustainability. Change is underway and a new age is coming."

"Listening to these people talk about their farming operations with such passion and enthusiasm gives me great confidence for the future of New Zealand agriculture."

2014 Sustainability Showcase

Thursday 26 June 2014 at Rydges Latimer, Christchurch



Mark and Devon Slee with the Hon Nathan Guy.



Mark and Devon Slee with Craig and Roz Mackenzie.



Andrew and Heather Tripp with John Monaghan of Fonterra.



Roger and Jane Hutchings with Natasha King of Meridian.



Mike and Sharon Barton with Larry Bilodeau of Ballance Agri-Nutrients.



Rick Burke and Jan Loney with Jeremy Silva of Donaghys.



Rob and Sandra Faulkner with Prof Robert Anderson of Massey University.



Wayne McIntosh with Dr Matt Glenn of Hill Laboratories.



Justin and Mary Vennell with Paul Donaldson of WaterForce.



Oliver and Gavin Faull & Tony Penwarden with Mark Dewdney of PGG Wrightson.



Mark and Devon Slee with Murray King of LIC.



Matt and Lynley Wyeth with James Parsons of Beef + Lamb New Zealand.





Testimonials from past entrants of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Mark Chrystall – Entrant

2014 Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Entering the 2014 Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards helped Mark Chrystall and his partners benchmark the progress of their “hybrid” farming venture.

Along with his brother Richard and fellow farmer Rob Collier, Mark runs Spring Farms (NZ) Ltd, a large-scale sheep and beef operation that carries 25,000 stock units spread across six different farms.

Mark describes Spring Farms as a ‘hybrid’ set-up “because it combines the values of a family-run farm with the governance and financial planning advantages of a corporate business.”

Mark says winning three category awards this year was a big thrill for the families involved in the company. “We first entered the awards about eight years ago and although we didn’t win anything, we learnt a lot from the experience. So it’s good to look back at that



now and realise just how far we have come.” Mark says the judging process was enjoyable and rewarding. “It was all pretty informal. We did a presentation for the judges, they asked us questions and we asked them questions. Their comments were very encouraging, and at the end of it they came up with a constructive report that suggested things we could do to improve in future.”

Mark says Spring Farms will definitely enter the competition again. He would also encourage other farmers to participate. “It’s a very good way to benchmark your operation.”

He says the awards-evening was well run, providing an excellent opportunity to network with other farmers who share the same values.

“Being involved with this competition confirms that it is possible for your farming operation to be both profitable and sustainable.”

“We first entered the awards about eight years ago and although we didn’t win anything, we learnt a lot from the experience. So it’s good to look back at that now and realise just how far we have come.”



Callum and Sarah & Leicester and Margaret Gray – Entrants

2014 East Coast Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Central Hawke’s Bay farmer Callum Gray says participating in the East Coast Ballance Farm Environment Awards was a “brilliant” experience for his family. Now he is encouraging other farmers to enter the 2015 Awards.

Callum’s family runs a sheep, beef and cropping business in the Waipawa District. Their 1009ha ‘Waimarino’ carries about 15,000 sheep and beef stock units and grows a range of crops, including maize (for dairy support), peas, green beans, sweetcorn and beetroot.



He says BFEA judges were able to offer some very useful advice on which plants were suitable. “We were very impressed with the judges. They had

some challenging questions, but they weren’t there to trip us up. The feedback they gave us was excellent.”

Callum says his family entered the competition after talking to previous entrants.

“The Ballance Farm Environment Awards have a lot of credibility and they help to promote the positive side of farming. We felt it would be a good challenge for us to put ourselves forward and to get an outside perspective on what we are doing.”

Callum says other farmers should consider entering the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. “It doesn’t cost you anything, so you’ve got nothing to lose. It’s good to challenge yourself and you might even learn something.”

Robin and Jacqueline Blackwell – Entrants

2014 Taranaki Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Tariki farmers Robin and Jacqueline Blackwell are glad they got the opportunity to enter the inaugural Taranaki Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

The Blackwells, who run a sheep, beef and dairy grazing operation on 658ha north east of Stratford, had followed the farming competition with interest in previous years.

Robin says the BFEA endorsement of their farming operation was very welcome, and he and Jacqueline have since been farming with a renewed vigour that comes with “knowing you are on the right track”.



The Blackwells enjoyed the judging process and were impressed with the calibre of the judges. “We really valued their post-competition feedback. They looked

at our strengths and weaknesses and gave us advice on how we could improve.”

One of their immediate priorities is to covenant more native bush. “That’s something we would have done eventually, but our involvement with the Awards has encouraged us to crack into it much sooner.”

Robin says he and Jacqueline enjoyed mingling with other entrants on awards night. “It was a wonderfully run event and the atmosphere was excellent.”

“It’s easy to become tunnel-visioned when you are so heavily focused on the day to day running of the farm. But this competition makes you take an in-depth look at your business and think about where you want to take it in future.”

Trevor and Harriet Hamilton – Entrants

2014 Bay of Plenty Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Bay of Plenty dairy farmer Trevor Hamilton entered the Ballance Farm Environment Awards because he had a point to prove.

Trevor and his wife Harriet run a large-scale family business that spans ten farms – five in Canterbury, four in Bay of Plenty and one in Hawke’s Bay. The operation is on track to produce three million kilograms of Milksolids this season, with four million targeted for 2015/16.

Starting from scratch as a sharemilker in 1980, Trevor says his aim is to create an intergenerational dairy farming business. But he is acutely aware that the scale of the operation opens it up to claims that its growth has come

at the expense of the environment. Entering the Ballance Farm Environment Awards gave him the opportunity to prove this wasn’t the case.

Trevor says the BFEA judging process was excellent and he enjoyed being involved with the Awards.



“I think they have an important role to play in showing the wider community that most dairy farmers are not out there to have cows standing in the river or effluent pouring down the creek.

“While we want our businesses to be financially successful, we know that we’ve got a responsibility to mitigate the environmental effects as much as possible.”

Phil and Kim Dykzeul – Entrants

2014 Waikato Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Entering the Waikato Ballance Farm Environment Awards was a great way for Matamata sharemilkers Phil and Kim Dykzeul to find out how their operation stacked up in terms of environmental sustainability.

The Dykzeuls, who 50:50 sharemilk 200 cows on 83ha owned by Richard and Pauline Kean, were thrilled to win three category awards in the 2014 Waikato Ballance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA), including the LIC Dairy Farm Award.

Phil says he and Kim thoroughly enjoyed the judging process. “The judges were very personable and they had a wealth of experience from both inside and outside farming. They made some very good comments and we asked them a lot of questions, so it was very much a two-way street.”

Getting an expert perspective on their farming operation was particularly valuable. “As farmers we tend to be heads-down, tail-up on our land, and we can become very insular,” says Phil.



“So it was nice to have the judges come and look at what we were doing and reassure us that we were on the right track.”

Phil’s advice to anyone considering entering the awards is to give it a go. “Some people think you have to have a park-like farm to enter, but that is certainly not the case. It’s not just about creating indigenous biodiversity, it’s about how you manage your soil, pasture and water resources.

“Being involved with the competition is a great learning experience and I think most farmers would benefit from entering. I know we got a lot out of it.”



Jason, Henry and Dorothy Christensen – Entrants 2014 Greater Wellington Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Wairarapa dairy farmer Jason Christensen is a passionate advocate for sustainable farming.

The efforts he and parents Henry and Dorothy have made to improve the sustainability of their 527ha dairy and beef farm, north of Masterton, were recognised this year when the family picked up three category awards in the 2014 Greater Wellington Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

Jason says the awards process encourages farmers to review their farming systems.

“You’ve got to look outside the square because what you’ve done in the past might not necessarily be the best way of doing things.”

Jason and his parents plan to re-enter the competition again in future.



He says mixing with like-minded people at the awards ceremony was a highlight. “It was a good night, with a great atmosphere. I’d definitely encourage other farmers to enter the awards, even if they feel their farm is not ready. It’s very worthwhile.”

“You’ve got to look outside the square because what you’ve done in the past might not necessarily be the best way of doing things.”

David and Sarah Smith – Entrants 2014 Otago Ballance Farm Environment Awards

The switch to a gravity-feed water system has resulted in huge cost-savings for Otago farmers David and Sarah Smith.

The Smiths are equity managers on 1463ha Mt Watkins near Waikouaiti in eastern Otago, farming in partnership with David’s parents Rex and Glenys. The family purchased the original 920ha block in 2005 and bought another 510ha, which was previously leased, three years ago. Mt Watkins now carries up to 9500 stock units, including 5000 ewes and hoggets and 460 Friesian bulls.

David says they first entered the BFEA in 2009 when they were still relatively new to farming. “We learnt a lot from that experience and I think it really encouraged us to improve.”

They re-entered again last year and were thrilled to win three awards. David says participating in the

competition confirmed they are on the right track as far as sustainability goes. “It also highlighted some of the areas we needed to work on in future. For example, the process made us realise our farm budgeting skills were not as good as they could be.”

Sarah is now studying for a diploma in Agribusiness and this will help the couple improve their business management skills.



David says he and Sarah enjoyed the BFEA judging process, which was conducted in a relaxed and friendly manner. “We had eight experts on our farm for free. It was a great opportunity for us to look at what

we were doing and to learn as much as we could from the judges.”

David and Sarah would certainly encourage other farmers to enter the Awards. “It’s a very worthwhile experience. And it doesn’t cost a thing!”

Mark and Deborah Hamill – Entrants

2014 Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Southland farmers Mark and Deborah Hamill entered the Ballance Farm Environment Awards because they wanted to tell a 'good news story' about dairy farming.

The Hamills converted their 301ha sheep and beef farm, near Gorge Road, to dairying in 2008 and now milk around 800 cows on a 241ha milking platform.

Mark says he and Deborah had been approached in the past about entering the Ballance Farm Environment Awards but the 2014 competition was their first go.

Deborah says one of the key advantages of being involved in the competition is that it "makes you look back at where you have come from and where you are now, and then it makes you think about where you will be in five years' time".



Mark and Deborah included their three children in the BFEA judging process. Both sons are studying agriculture at university. "We feel it's vital to invest in our children and involve them in the business. They are our succession plan."

Mark says the Ballance Farm Environment Awards are unique because they don't focus solely on production and profitability. "They also look at the social and environmental factors that are a crucial part of the whole farming picture. That sets it apart from other competitions."

He says the BFEA play a key role in highlighting the positive sides of agriculture. "As farmers, I think we have a responsibility to showcase what we are doing. People in town need to hear about the good things happening on the farm."

Patrick and Rebecca Malley – Entrants

2014 Northland Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Horticultural newcomers Patrick and Rebecca Malley say entering the Northland Ballance Farm Environment Awards was a great way to build knowledge.

In 2011 the couple left jobs in Auckland to run Ararimu Orchard with Patrick's parents Dermott and Linzi. Situated at Maungatapere near Whangarei, Ararimu grows 14ha of kiwifruit and 3.5ha of avocados.

Rebecca says participating in the Northland BFEA was a rewarding and worthwhile experience.

Entering the competition was easy, she says, and the judging was conducted in a very relaxed manner. "We enjoyed showing the judges around the orchard and we had two visits from four judges with a wide range of skills and experience.



The process made us take a good hard look at what we were doing on the orchard. It also made us ask ourselves if there might be better ways of doing some things in future."

At the end of the process the judges presented the family with a report that offered helpful advice on how they could improve the performance of the operation.

Rebecca says being involved with the competition is a great way for people to find out about how to improve the sustainability of their farm and horticultural businesses.

"We would definitely encourage other orchardists to enter the awards," she says. "You've got nothing to lose by giving it a go."

National Sponsors



Ballance Agri-Nutrients, the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust and all those who participate in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards have a common goal – the long term viability and sustainability of New Zealand’s agricultural and horticultural sectors.

This sector is crucial to our economy, to the ability of rural communities to flourish and to New Zealand’s ability to take advantage of the growing global demand for food which is high quality, safe and produced with minimal environmental impacts.

We have sponsored the Awards since 1995. This support is a natural extension to the support we provide to our shareholders and customers every day. In both cases, it is about enabling good farmers to become even better by exchanging knowledge, demonstrating what best practice looks like and to help farmers and growers to meet their individual goals.

We understand farmers because as a co-operative, we are owned by them. Since we first stepped up to support the awards, even the best farmers have faced increasing environmental pressures and expectations. What is common practice today, such as riparian planting and stock exclusion from waterways, was considered best practice or ideological back then. Internationally, the growing

demand for food is accompanied by growing regulatory pressures, supported by advancing testing regimes and increasingly high consumer expectations of quality.

Times have certainly changed and Ballance has not only moved with them, but moved to stay one step ahead of them. Whole farm nutrient management advice, technology, services and products backed by sound science is the complete package needed today by farmers.

Our new product innovation programme is delivering products and technology which support profitable production while limiting nutrient losses.

Our online farm management systems, like Ag Hub, reflect farmers’ need to have smart farm information at their fingertips. We are proud to see so many Awards contestants have been early adopters, confirming our view that technology is becoming as second nature as tractors in farming’s future.

The New Zealand Farm Environment Trust is there to support the best practices in farming today and into the future. We are right alongside them, ensuring the long-term viability of our pastoral farming sector is protected for this generation and those to follow.

“This sector is crucial to our economy, to the ability of rural communities to flourish and to New Zealand’s ability to take advantage of the growing global demand for food which is high quality, safe and produced with minimal environmental impacts.”



As New Zealand's leading provider to the agricultural sector, PGG Wrightson offers a wide range of products, services and solutions to growers, farmers and processors in New Zealand and internationally.

Over 2,000 of our staff come to work each day to do our part in helping grow the country. Not only do we do this through the delivery of the right products and services, but also by supporting our rural community.

We are proud to sponsor the Ballance Farm Environment Awards which encourages sustainable land management and shows farmers that profitability can be balanced with environmental concerns.

The PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award is about the people element of farming and strongly aligns with our vision of helping grow the country. Winners have a keen community spirit and demonstrate a clear understanding of the role they play in local and regional prosperity. Ultimately, the outcome of this community involvement will be a healthy and vibrant rural sector, helping to ensure the future of New Zealand's farming family for generations to come.

PGG Wrightson congratulates all the nominees and winners of the 2014 Ballance Farm Environment Awards and we look forward to once again celebrating the successes of New Zealand farmers at the 2015 Awards.



LIC is one of the oldest farming cooperatives in New Zealand and, right from when the Farm Environment Awards were first launched in 2001, was proud to sponsor awareness and application of the highest standards of environmental sustainability through, initially, the Farm Environment Awards better known today as the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

Back in 2001 the language was new, but the practice was not, and what the Awards has done has raise the profile of the good work being done on farms around New Zealand, and provide leadership so that these standards have become a goal for more farmers and more mainstream.

As an organisation, LIC applies environmental sustainability principles and practices to all aspects of our business – our offices, vehicles, farms, products and services; our values and behaviours.

Achieving this in any measure comes down to role-modelling and it is in this area that the Ballance Farm Environment Awards plays such an important part. Not only do the Awards recognise individual excellence, but collectively promote and position agriculture as guardians and protectors of nature. LIC is proud to be part of that vision, of that movement.

The LIC Dairy Farm Award recognises the dairy farmer who role-models best practices through long term, practical, environmental planning and their commitment to the entrenchment of our country's clean green image through their stewardship of the land.

LIC extends its congratulations to the winner/s of this Award, and to all the entrants and winners in the 2014 Ballance Farm Environment Awards.



Hill Laboratories has, since its inception in 1984, been committed to serving the soil and plant analytical testing needs of the agricultural industry in New Zealand. Throughout that time Hills has had an extremely positive relationship with our customers, working to ensure the primary industry is at its most productive and progressive.

It has been an honour to be a sponsor of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and to recognise and acknowledging the high performing, sustainable farmers in our midst.

Hill Laboratories is the largest private analytical testing laboratory in New Zealand, and the vision and objectives of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards sit perfectly within the driving interests of Hill Laboratories.

Throughout our involvement with the Ballance Farm Environment Awards since 2004, it has been wonderful to see the innovative and socially conscious efforts being achieved throughout the farming industry in New Zealand. As a company we are dedicated to supporting and promoting those efforts into the future.



WaterForce joined the Ballance Farm Environment Awards sponsorship team in 2012. We have had a great introduction to the awards and are proud to be part of an organisation which promotes sustainable, proactive farming. The awards give us the opportunity to promote our industry while recognising and acknowledging those farmers who are leaders within New Zealand.

The WaterForce Integrated Management Award recognises farmers who have successfully implemented water management systems and

processes within their farming operation. We believe water is one of our most precious resources. Efficient, sustainable and reliable water systems are vital to the running of a successful farming operation. We are dedicated to protecting this valuable resource for the future.

WaterForce supplies, installs and services a complete range of water, wastewater and irrigation products. With 10 branches nationwide, we are well-positioned to offer solutions for all types of water related systems.



Donaghys is pleased to be associated with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust and Ballance Farm Environment Awards. The work done by the Trust and the recognition and encouragement inspired by the Awards are very important for New Zealand Agriculture. The need to maximise productivity from the land while ensuring sustainability and environmental care is essential.

Founded in Dunedin in 1876, Donaghys is one of New Zealand's oldest companies with a proud heritage linked to the land. Donaghys have invested millions

to develop products specifically tailored to improve a farms productivity and/or reduce costs of a farms inputs while protecting the environment. The sponsorship of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards reflects this continued focus and Donaghys on-going commitment to New Zealand farming.

The Donaghys Farm Stewardship Award acknowledges the ability to create special places on farm and protect or enhance wetlands, landscape features, or historic places while demonstrating management systems that improve productivity and sustainability.

Massey University is proud to be part of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and particularly the Innovation Award. It recognises the identification and implementation of farming systems that are economically and environmentally sustainable. New knowledge or research and its application is what innovation is about and this is highly valued at Massey University. We nurture the expertise and skills needed to explore new frontiers and to apply new information to developing the technologies and processes needed. We are committed to our research programmes and to research-led teaching and learning. We are also dedicated to working with industry leaders to ensure our research and teaching delivers what's wanted.

Each year Massey graduates with degrees ranging from agricultural, veterinary and environmental science to international agribusiness take the next step in roles building New Zealand's economy. Together they provide New Zealand with the latest knowledge and expertise across the food value

chain, from smart production systems to food product development and from market research to developing international trade. Just as the primary production sector is critical to our country, Massey is the engine of the new New Zealand.

Innovation Award

The Innovation Award is given in recognition of the identification and implementation of economically and environmentally sustainable farming systems. The Award recognises farmers and farming families who develop or embrace new technologies and systems and have an established record of advancing farm practices for improved outcomes.

The winner, or their nominee, will receive a fees scholarship to further their professional development through a short course (subject to entry requirements), or period of private study, at Massey University.



Beef + Lamb New Zealand is proud to sponsor the Livestock Award in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards recognising farming practices that support a long-term commitment to sustainability.

The essence of sustainability is in finding a balance between environmental, economic and social values and the awards provide an opportunity to showcase the farmers who are working in this way. Their stories inspire other farmers to think along the same lines.

Beef + Lamb New Zealand works to provide the

tools and information that highlight environmental issues and promote sustainability and so it's good to be involved in the awards which share our goals.

The Beef + Lamb New Zealand Land and Environment Planning Toolkit is one such tool that helps farmers identify land and environmental issues on their farms.

From there they can make a plan to ensure the land is managed sustainably and productively, taking into account the specific soil type, fertility, pasture types, susceptibility to erosion and management practices relevant to that particular farm.

Regional Partners



The Northland Regional Council is proud of its role as both an environmental guardian and an advocate for sustainable economic growth.

As a long-time supporter of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards (council and the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust introduced these to Northland region in 2005-06) we're delighted to sponsor them again this year.

The awards encourage sustainable land management – a key council goal – and publicly reinforce a very important message; that profitability does not need to come at the expense of our environment.

In fact the best examples, showcased through these awards, show that farming can actually restore and enhance the environmental values our communities hold dear.

Equally importantly, the feedback and winners' profiles generated through the awards encourage and set a great example to other farmers of how they too can proactively manage their environment as part of an economically viable agricultural enterprise.

Bill Shepherd
Chairman
Northland Regional Council



Working collaboratively to protect water quality is an important part of what's going on in the Waikato.

From Waikato Regional Council's perspective, the work we do with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust is a great example of this.

We appreciate the Trust's important role in promoting excellence in environmental management on farms to ensure that agriculture's place in Waikato and New Zealand is valued by the whole community. The Council is strongly committed to working with the Trust and others in the agriculture sector, and elsewhere, to making the further gains that we need to on water quality in our region.

Farmers and their representatives are closely involved in helping design new policy to protect and restore the health of the Waikato and Waipa rivers. Working together is vital and positive.

Our vision of the Waikato "competing globally, caring locally" stresses our focus on ensuring we have a strong, competitive regional economy while carrying out local actions that protect our environment and our reputation in international markets.

Paula Southgate
Chairperson
Waikato Regional Council



Sustainable management of our land and water is the backbone of Bay of Plenty Regional Council's work, which is why we have sponsored the Bay of Plenty Ballance Farm Environment Awards for the past 13 years.

These awards support and encourage the practices which will ensure we have healthy and sustainable resources on the land and water for both current and future generations.

We are facing some major challenges in our region to improve our waterways, particularly the Rotorua lakes and Tauranga Harbour, and the practical on-farm methods developed by the environmentally-conscious farmers who participate in the Ballance

Farm Environment Awards are at the heart of this work.

We are impressed by our farmers' willingness to look more closely at what they are doing on the land to protect their waterways, reducing nutrients, preventing erosion, managing pests and improving biodiversity. Most importantly they are willing to share their solutions with others.

These awards are a recognition of their commitment to our region.

Douglas Leeder
Chairman
Bay of Plenty Regional Council



Another great and successful competition our region has participated in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. This was evident in more entries and the higher calibre of hard working farmers participating.

It goes with saying that the level of betterment is continuing to grow in our district as people are becoming more aware of sustainable farming into the future.

Farmers want the same as environmentalist, farmers sole survival is how well they look after their land for

the now and the present.

I thank all who participated from entrants, judges, sponsors. The future bodes well for us as a great paradise to continue and build on the good work we are all doing.

Kia ora

Meng Foon
Mayor
Gisborne District Council



The 2013 winner was the Hawke's Bay farming icon, Smedley Station at Tikokino.

As one of the country's finest agricultural training farms the importance of the award is not lost on the station's management. With graduates going on to manage some of New Zealand's top farming operations, environmental stewardship is a key element of farming in the 21st century.

The judging panel noted the importance placed on this by Smedley Station, which represented the Coast

with pride at the national finals. The satisfying aspect is the depth and range of great farmers along our coast who consider the environmental impacts of their operations with such high importance.

There is real desire to voluntarily make a positive difference during their day to day activities and the HBRC plus GDC are proud to be partners in that progress.

Fenton Wilson
Chairman
Hawke's Bay Regional Council



Horizons Regional Council is proud to support the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and their celebration of those who have created profitable farming systems while enhancing the environment.

The 2014 Regional winners Mary and Justin Vennell were successful due to a strong conservation ethic demonstrated in their Rangitikei sheep, beef and forestry operation. They have achieved an excellent overall balance of production, biodiversity, sustainability and water quality protection and planted 57,000 trees under Horizons' Sustainable Land Use Initiative since 2007.

Horizons has been involved with the Ballance Farm

Environment Awards since 2004. We see great value in this involvement each year as the Awards not only recognise successful farmers in our Region, but also provide the opportunity for regional council to build stronger links with the community, share ideas and work in partnership with landowners to achieve environmental best practice.

We look forward to the future of this partnership as we work to enhance our Region's environment alongside its economy.

Bruce Gordon
Chairman
Horizons Regional Council



The Taranaki Regional Council was pleased to form a partnership with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust to bring the Ballance Farm Environment Awards to Taranaki for the first time this year.

The awards give us a national stage on which to showcase the sustainable farming practices used by farmers to protect and enhance the Taranaki environment. Our first regional supreme award winners, the owners and sharemilkers of Faull Farms Ltd/Trewhithen Partnership, certainly demonstrated why our farmers rank with the best anywhere. Similarly, all of our regional finalists and award winners can hold their heads high.

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards are a perfect complement to our own Taranaki Regional Council Environmental Awards, which are now into their third decade of highlighting and celebrating environmental achievement across all sectors of the regional community.

So now we enjoy the best of both worlds with two environmental awards programmes – one regional and celebratory, the other national and competitive.

David MacLeod
Chairman
Taranaki Regional Council



Greater Wellington Regional Council is proud to continue to support the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

The awards celebrate excellence in sustainable land management and allow farmers to share innovative farming practices and discuss practical solutions to sustainability issues.

They show that the restoration and enhancement of the environment and profitability can be successfully

integrated and build a positive and profitable future for farming in New Zealand.

Greater Wellington Regional Council is pleased to continue our involvement with the awards and we look forward to continuing success for landowners, sponsors and volunteers.

Fran Wilde
Chair
Greater Wellington Regional Council



Environment Canterbury is delighted to have an ongoing association with the Ballance Farm Environment Awards as a Regional Partner.

The Canterbury Regional Ballance Farm Environment Awards provide an opportunity to recognise leadership socially, environmentally, financially and sustainably on farm.

The Awards recognise and celebrate that best practice on-farm management is good for business and good for the environment.

By reducing the adverse effects on the environment we enhance not only our social and cultural well-being but help ensure the long term sustainability of our farming industry.

The best way to achieve this is through working in partnership with the communities in the Canterbury region and by continuing to support the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

The on-farm field days held following the awards' conclusion are a particular highlight for us as they are a celebration of excellence in farm management and provide a useful demonstration for farmers to learn new approaches. We commend each entrant, and all those involved in running the awards for their hard work in promoting sustainable farming practices.

Dame Margaret Bazley, ONZ, DNZM, Hon D.Lit,
Chairperson
Environment Canterbury



The Otago Regional Council has supported the Ballance Farm Environment Awards for several years. ORC congratulates all land managers, from across Otago's primary production sector, who have entered the awards and demonstrated that they have achieved high standards of sustainable farm management.

Life on any type of farm is complex and busy, and balancing environmental, economic and social issues in this working environment is an art and a science. The BFEA directly assist this creative process, and in doing so supports resource management policies

that ORC has developed that call for land managers to manage their water and land resources in a sustainable way. We value our association with them.

The BFEA also help farmers develop and share their knowledge of the latest quality farm management practices which play a part in maintaining New Zealand's position as one of the world's most innovative agricultural producers.

Stephen Woodhead
Chairman
Otago Regional Council

Strategic Partners of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust



Dairy for life

Continuously improving our environmental sustainability is a cornerstone of Fonterra's business and is key to ensuring dairying's future. We are committed to the dairy industry and balancing economic, environmental and social concerns.

That's why we are proud to support and partner with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. These awards give our farmers practical examples of how farming systems can effectively drive production

and profitability while protecting the land that's so important to us.

The role models celebrated in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards are living proof that farmers do take the environment seriously and recognise the need for responsible practices. By awarding these top performers, we show all farmers that practising sustainable farming is the way we will take care of what makes us unique, for today and tomorrow's generations.



Federated Farmers: Farming for future Generations

Federated Farmers is proud of its partnership with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust. We are committed to sustainable and profitable farming for New Zealand and our support of the NZFE Trust fits well with this commitment.

We can only be sustainable if we look after the water and land with which we farm. We must continue to grow our businesses but not at the expense of the environment. It's about building resilient farms. New Zealand farmers are world leaders at working in

sympathy with the environment, it is important for us to leave our farms in better shape than we found them.

There are already many New Zealand farmers doing this very well, these awards celebrate and showcase these environmental leaders so that others can learn and be inspired. Environmental sustainability is vital if we are to farm successfully for generations to come.

We strongly encourage farmers to be part of these awards and we commend the NZFE Trust for being at the forefront of recognising and celebrating good farming practice.



DairyNZ is proud to be a partner of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust.

Growing the skills of dairy farmers in environmental management is important work, and will only become increasingly more so over time. These awards are a very effective way in which farmers can learn how

they can improve their capabilities in this area.

They also provide an excellent showcase of the great work that is being done on-farm, and this helps to inspire other farmers and educate the wider public. These awards continue to grow in stature, and we applaud the NZFET for their excellent stewardship.

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is proud to be a partner of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust. Now more than ever, the productivity and export performance of our primary industries is paramount to New Zealand's well-being.

MPI works across all aspects of primary production and is committed to growing and protecting New Zealand. The challenge in front of all of us today is to grow more of our quality products while minimising the impact of our activities on the natural environment. To do this, MPI is focused on partnering with, and enabling stakeholders across the primary sectors.

The value of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards is that they recognise people who can be role models for all farmers and growers. The stories of all entrants – your philosophies, your experiences and your achievements – are invaluable to encourage your peers.

MPI thanks all entrants for your commitment to farming for the future. The awards' emphasis on shared expertise helps create partners in sustainability across the primary sector, and enables everyone involved to enhance their management of land and resources.



QEII National Trust
Open Space New Zealand
Ngā Kaiwhiri Papa

Much of our unique natural heritage is found on private land and can only be protected with the goodwill and hard work of landowners. The QEII National Trust helps landowners identify and protect special natural features on their land and secure long term protection of these places with open space covenants.

QEII covenantors and the many other farmers

nominated for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards are inspirational guardians of our productive landscapes and the biodiversity values found on their land.

The QEII National Trust is proud to support and partner the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust in acknowledging and celebrating the very best in sustainable farming practice in New Zealand.



Rabobank

Rabobank New Zealand is part of the International Rabobank Group, the world's leading food and agribusiness bank.

As a specialist lender to the food and agribusiness sector, Rabobank is focused on the long term viability and sustainability of New Zealand agriculture and that's why we are proud to partner with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust, an organisation that shares this focus.

The bank believes knowledge and understanding of environmental sustainability issues are the keys for both farmers and banks and, as such, is undertaking a range of initiatives to work with both our staff and clients in a range of ways to incorporate sustainability within long-term farm business planning. Chief amongst these initiatives is our partnership with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust and support for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

Throughout the 2014 Ballance Farm Environment Awards, Rabobank staff from around the country have played a significant role on the committees and judging panels of both the Regional and National Awards.

This hands-on role provides our staff with a first-hand view of farming best practice and we are continually impressed by the passion of New Zealand's farmers and their drive to improve their farming operations.

The bank was thrilled to see the awards expanded this year with the inclusion of the Taranaki region and we are sure farmers in this region will benefit from the ability to participate in these prestigious Awards. We are delighted to partner with the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust and will be working with the trust in the coming months to encourage our clients and other industry contacts to enter next year's Awards.

Directory

TRUSTEES

Chairman

Alistair Polson (deceased 05/06/2014)

Deputy Chairman

Simon Saunders (Acting Chairman 05/06/2014)

Treasurer

Joanne van Polanen

Secretary

Martin Wallace

Trustees

Joanne van Polanen, Ashburton

David Cameron, Masterton

Bruce Fraser, Tauranga

Martin Wallace, Morrinsville

Andrea Hanna, Te Kuiti

James Hunter, Waipukurau

Simon Saunders, Lumsden

Larry Bilodeau, Tauranga (resigned 11/12/2013)

John Bourke, Katikati

Hew Dalrymple, Bulls

Graeme Smith, Mount Maunganui

AUDITOR

Staples Rodway

Hamilton

SOLICITORS

Sharpe Tudhope

Tauranga

ACCOUNTANTS

Accountants on London Ltd

Hamilton

BANKER

Rabobank

Hamilton

GENERAL MANAGER

David Natzke

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

Clare Rosser

REGIONAL CO-ORDINATORS

Chris Mason, Northland

Charlotte Tollervey, Waikato

Kirsten Winter, Bay of Plenty

Kate Taylor, East Coast

Stella Rackham, Horizons

Claire Hunn, Taranaki

Georgiana Cranswick, Greater Wellington

Jocelyn Muller, Canterbury

Camille McAtamney, Otago

Tracie Donnelley, Southland

NATIONAL JUDGING CO-ORDINATOR

Jamie Strang

JUDGING CO-ORDINATORS

Managed by committee, Northland

Andrea Hanna, Waikato

Margaret Wright, Bay of Plenty

Lloyd Fitness, East Coast

To be advised, Horizons

Phil Muir, Taranaki

Barbie Barton, Greater Wellington

James Hoban, Canterbury

Judy Miller, Otago

Megan Templeton, Southland

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Shayne O'Shea, Northland

Jon Lee, Waikato

Jim Hitchcock, Bay of Plenty

Bruce Wills, East Coast

Shelley Dew-Hopkins, Horizons

Alistair Abbott, Taranaki

Michael Blundell, Greater Wellington

Joanne van Polanen, Canterbury

Simon McAtamney, Otago

To be advised, Southland

CONTACT

David Natzke

PO Box 693, Hamilton 3240

Phone: 07 834 0400

Mobile: 0274 841 732

Email: david.natzke@nzfeatrust.org.nz



New Zealand
Farm Environment Trust®

New Zealand Farm Environment Trust
PO Box 693, Hamilton 3240
Ph 07 834 0400
www.nzfeitrust.org.nz

