



New Zealand
Farm Environment Award Trust®

2011

Annual Report

30th June 2011



Ballance
Farm Environment Awards®
Promoting Sustainable Profitable Farming

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Chairman's Report



It's a pleasure to report on the 2011 year activities for the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust (NZFEA Trust). I was fortunate to once again be elected as Chairman and I really appreciate the chance to stay involved with an organisation that has such a positive focus.

Trust Business

Volatility is the new economic buzz word and the business of the NZFEA Trust is just as exposed to swings and roundabouts as other agriculture businesses.

Fortunately we have a very dedicated team of Trustees (listed in this Report) and management teams who are focused on ensuring the NZFEA Trust delivers first class products, either through its awards and award events programme or through other educational or joint venture activities.

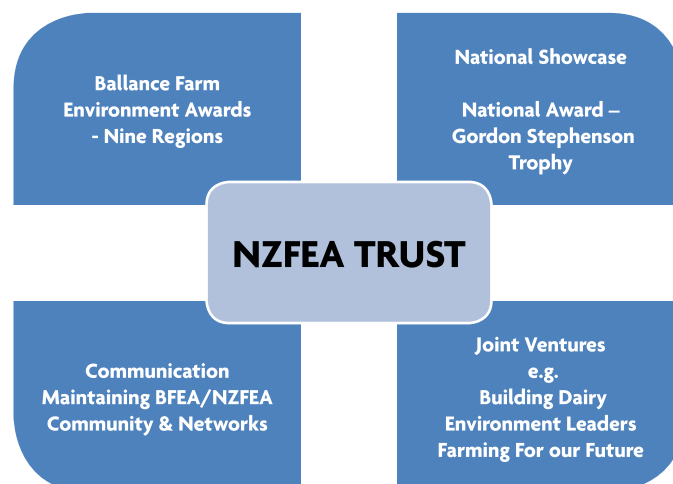
Maintaining a high standard of performance goes some way toward evening out the speed bumps and keeping the family of sponsors and partners comfortable about the long term value of their investment.

Joanne van Polanen, as Treasurer, will report on the efforts made to maintain discipline in our budget. In particular, the efforts made within our regional committees to continue to provide a first class result and stay within their budgetary constraints have been much appreciated.

As reported in my earlier "Hands On" publication, the NZFEA Trust now has a clear business structure in place which assists us meet our long term objectives of growth and sustainability.

This diagram shows the various business centers or enterprises we currently work under.

New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust Business Enterprises (Core Functions)



Trustees continue to review our long term objectives, strategies and policies to ensure we are looking forward, can better measure performance and can demonstrate mutual benefits to those who support us.

As an independent organisation, well connected with the movers and shakers of agribusiness and well supported by top of the line farmers, we are in a unique position to look for other opportunities to grow our business where a clear benefit can be shown to accrue for New Zealand agriculture and New Zealand Inc.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards

It is very pleasing to report that our budgeted work programme targets for the year have been met, albeit through very strong dedication and support from the sponsors/partners and regional teams that provide our on-ground face.

Our sponsor and partner teams, **including those Regional Councils who support us**, must take credit for sticking by us and providing not only their financial support, but also personnel and backup within local committees, judging teams, and at awards and events.

This support is of major importance to us. This ensures we are connected to the environmental issues each region faces and can be a part of the solution. We promote the good practices we see displayed by farmer entrants and see an increasing awareness of needing to manage our businesses sustainably.

Thank you all for that ongoing commitment.

Also **a special thanks to Ballance Agri-Nutrients**, the naming right sponsor for the awards, for your ongoing commitment to such an important programme. Your team of enthusiastic staff around the country are great front people and superb supporters.

A warm welcome to **WaterForce Ltd** who has come forward to compliment our family of national sponsors for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards for the 2012 awards year.

They will compliment our top notch leading edge agribusiness team of **LIC, Massey University, Hill Laboratories, PGG Wrightson** and **Beef + Lamb NZ**.

Yes, our flagship Ballance Farm Environment Awards continue to go from strength to strength with a continuous stream of motivated enthusiastic entrants willing to benchmark their progress through entering these prestigious awards.

The strength of course is garnered from the very hard work our nine Regional Committees or Trusts put into making it happen on the ground.

I encourage you all to read more about the awards, along with the testimonials from past entrants and comments on why our sponsors and partners are involved with us. These can be read from page 19.

Annual Sustainability Showcase and National Award

The Trust stepped things up a notch this year hosting a very successful Sustainability Showcase extravaganza which was held in the East Coast Region in late June 2011.

The nine regional Supreme Winners from the Awards were hosted at a 3 day event and again demonstrated why they were chosen to represent their regions.

This year's superb Supreme Winners are detailed on page 15.

When one thinks back over the ten years the national awards have been running, and prior to that in the Waikato region, a whole host of very, very good farmers have come forward mostly to benchmark their own performance but leading on to represent fellow farmers as role models. A fantastic effort!

To add another dimension and to provide deserved recognition for the New Zealand agriculture sector, the annual Sustainability Showcase event was the birthplace of a new national award – the Gordon Stephenson Trophy.

Gordon is the 'Grandfather' of the Awards, starting the idea in 1993 in the Waikato. Gordon has a strong belief that farmers by and large do a very good job. He believes that the awards programme should provide a forum to promote these values and provide a learning space for others on the never ending sustainability journey.

The superb team of regional Supreme Winners went through a pretty strenuous selection process to allow for this 'Ambassador for New Zealand Agriculture' to be chosen.

A comment from Sir Brian Lochore, guest speaker at the Sustainability Showcase, puts things into perspective. He recognised all these Supreme Winners as 'Ambassadors' for NZ agriculture and as such, all worthy of representing New Zealand.

He is certainly not wrong there and I'm sure we will see more of the regional representatives speaking up on behalf of fellow farmers.

Notwithstanding these thoughts, we have a national award and as such we are certain that the 'Ambassadors' chosen for the Gordon Stephenson Trophy will represent fellow farmers, and our agribusiness supporters and partners, very well.

They will have the opportunity to do so both within New Zealand and during their offshore visits. New Zealand will benefit from demonstrating a commitment to long term sustainability that Grant and Bernie Weller are so capable of communicating.

Please refer to Page 16 for details of the inaugural winners of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy, Grant and Bernie Weller.

NZFEA Trust/MAF Scholarship

John Mackintosh was the winner of the 2010 scholarship. Presented to a past Supreme Winner of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, the scholarship provides top farmers with an opportunity to study sustainability issues for the benefit of the wider farming community.

Entitled "Trees on Farms", John's in-depth report studies the benefits of farm forestry and looks at ways in which trees can be planted for production, shelter and erosion control.

John has considerable experience in farm forestry, both as a farmer and as a qualified forestry consultant. John and his wife Jean live on a 500ha sheep, beef, dairy grazing and forestry farm at Manawahe in the eastern Bay of Plenty.

Their son Tim and his wife Jo are in the process of taking over ownership of the farm which won the Supreme title in the Bay of Plenty Ballance Farm Environment Awards in 2006.

John said that the NZFEA Trust/MAF Scholarship provided him with an opportunity to "convey my enthusiasm and knowledge of forestry to other landowners".

This will complement the previous papers;

2008 prepared by David Ward, *'Lucerne on Farms'*

2009 prepared by Richard and Sarah Burdon, *'Farm Ownership Structures for New Zealand Sheep, Beef and Deer Farms'*

These are all excellent papers prepared in no-nonsense farmer language and worthwhile reading.

DairyNZ Partnership

Once again the NZFEA Trust was successful in gaining a funding partnership with DairyNZ to lead another successful Dairy Leadership development programme.

This is a great programme and has been led by an independent Chairman, Martin Bennett, who brings a wealth of enthusiasm and knowledge to the organising committee. Thanks Martin and thanks to DairyNZ and your team who get behind the programme and provide much appreciated input and expertise.

Attendees at this event are invited from a great range of dairying backgrounds and a selection criteria is aligned to awards programmes. Our Ballance Farm Environment Award dairy winners, join with winners from the Dairy Industry Awards, the Ahuwhenua Awards, and the Young Farmer of the Year award. This mix of dairy farmers provides for strong discussion with the guest presenters and motivation to think the important issues through.

To date 110 participants have taken part, with all reporting back as having gone away enthused and with increased dairy industry knowledge, particularly around the current environmental issues and pressures farmers face.

Operational

David Natzke, as General Manager has once again continued his fine efforts to ensure that the NZFEA Trust's total business focus is carried out within budget and to a very high standard.

Tasks have been loaded on to David as the NZFEA Trust's business has grown and while we are taking steps to lighten that load, we are indebted to David for picking up these needs until other arrangements are put in place.

Given this surge in operational and administration needs, we implemented a one off short term National Coordinator position to assist with the regional awards programmes. Gerry Glover carried out this role most successfully – thanks Gerry.

Our business focus continues to evolve and as such, Trustees have authorised the continuation of a National Coordinator position for this coming year. This will ensure our flagship awards are fully supported.

Jamie Strang continues to step forward, once again taking on the most important role of National Judging Coordinator for the awards programme.

The real successes of our awards stem from the very good judging processes and very good judging teams in each of the regions. As such, Jamie's contribution is much valued to ensure we retain the integrity and quality of decision making.

A Series of Thanks to a Multitude of People:

One of the absolute strengths of the NZFEA Trust is the enthusiasm and support we receive across all our activities from a multitude of people and organisations.

The farmers who support us through entering the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and becoming involved in all our programmes provide the base that we build upon.

The NZFEA Trust's partners, **Fonterra, DairyNZ, MAF, Federated Farmers of New Zealand** and **QEII National Trust** along with our family of sponsors and Regional Council partners make a significant partnership contribution.

This is very much appreciated as it assists us to promote what New Zealand food producers are very good at – producing high quality sustainably produced food products.

Thanks to you all for your support.

Thanks Trustees for your ongoing commitment and guidance. Special thanks to Joanne for picking up the Treasurer position vacated by Peter Nation.

A special thanks to past Trustees for your enthusiasm and commitment to the NZFEA Trust.

To David Natzke, a job well done and I'm sure immensely satisfying. We appreciate your ongoing efforts.

To Regional Trusts, Committees, to Jamie Strang and all the Judging teams, and to the most dedicated team of Regional Coordinators one could find, your combined efforts are the heart and soul of the awards programme.

Looking Forward

Once again the new season kicks in and I'm sure the NZFEA Trust will be increasingly recognised for the leadership position it takes in the promotion of profitable sustainable farming systems.

We can look forward to ongoing growth and success of all our programmes with the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme no doubt continuing to grow in stature and recognition.

Trustees are intending to re-launch the NZFEA Trust name from the coming season. The Trust will retain its NZFEA Trust brand but will trade as the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust.

This will better differentiate between the governance role and other activities the NZFEA Trust is increasingly becoming involved with and our very successful Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme.

We are very fortunate to once again have our Annual Sustainability Showcase hosted by the Minister of Agriculture. The event for 2012 is to be held at Banquet Hall at Parliament Buildings.

This will be held on the 23rd of June 2012. It will be a great event to look forward to.

Jim Cotman
Chairman

General Manager's Report



It was five years ago that I accepted a contract to be the General Manager of the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust (NZFEA Trust) and manage the activities of the NZFEA Trust and its flagship, the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

I look back over the past five years with a great degree of pride in what has been achieved by a whole host of visionary people, complimented by an army of volunteers, professional staff input and backed up with financial commitments by partners of the NZFEA Trust and sponsors of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. What a team.

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards have developed into a very successful competition, the focus of which is promoting sustainable profitable farming. Industry commentators have suggested of late that this competition has the potential to be the leading agricultural competition in New Zealand.

It has been very gratifying to be part of the team that has got the awards to this stage.

The year in report has built upon the success of previous years and as I travel to regional awards, it is encouraging to meet up with past entrants who comment with enthusiasm about how great the awards are and how they have enjoyed watching their development.

There were two new significant developments this year, the introduction of the East Coast region and the introduction of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy.

The introduction of the East Coast region, being a combination of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council and the Gisborne District Council was a great addition to the awards programme. The fact that both Councils were resolute in their support of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards coming to their area made the integration of a new region a pleasure to manage.

Added to the support of the Councils was the East Coast management team who picked up the challenge of making it happen and they did just that, made it happen. The template they established from day one guaranteed the overall success of the new region. Well done everyone.

The successful East Coast Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme was replicated in the Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Horizons, Greater Wellington, Canterbury, Otago and Southland regions. All regions had record numbers attend their awards functions and Fielddays were also very well attended.

Nationally, 128 farming operations entered the 2011 Balance Farm Environment Awards. This year two regions had record numbers of dairy farming entrants.

And once again the feedback from all entrants has been that it was a great experience and they were pleased they were "coerced" into entering. A feature of the feedback we receive is how well the judging process is conducted and the benefits entrants receive from being judged.

We now have another 128 advocates for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. Just imagine if those 128 advocates told ten farmers to enter the awards - 1280 entrants. Not sure we want them all entering in one year but we do want them entering, so the challenge is to get those advocates advocating. And we will do our bit to support them.

Having delivered a successful 2011 Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme, it is so satisfying having everyone lining up to do it all again next year.

Sustainability Showcase

As the Chairman has commented, this extravaganza event was held late June 2011. Whilst this event has a high profile, it needs to be placed into perspective when looking at the entire Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme. The programme starts with entrants in the nine participating regions, the regional judging process and the selection of category winners and regional Supreme Winners whose success is celebrated at regional awards functions.

The Sustainability Showcase is more than a dinner for 300 guests wearing suits and flash frocks.

This event brings together the Supreme Winners from the nine regions. They get to meet each other for the first time and they get to hear their stories as to how they got to where they are. The feedback from all the regional Supreme Winners is that the time they spend together at this forum is time well spent. They meet as strangers and leave as friends.

They also get to hear from NZFEA Trust partner and Ballance Farm Environment Awards sponsor representatives as well as industry personnel. It is a three day programme.

This year was interesting as there was a more diverse mix of farming operations than what there has been in other years. There were four dairy enterprises, one arable enterprise, one Kiwifruit enterprise, one avocado enterprise and two sheep and beef enterprises.

The Sustainability Showcase was held in Napier/Hastings and it was great to be able to showcase the new East Coast region by hosting the event there.

A new development this year was the introduction of a National Award and the awarding of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy. All regional Supreme Winners were considered for this title.

The NZFEA Trust empanelled a group of independent judges who interviewed all the regional Supreme Winners. From this process, the inaugural recipients of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy were selected, Grant and Bernie Weller, sheep and beef farmers from Southland.

I had the opportunity to accompany Grant and Bernie on a visit to meet the Hon David Carter, Minister of Agriculture, the Primary Production Select Committee of Parliament as well as NZFEA Trust partner and Ballance Farm Environment Awards sponsor representatives. All these people were delighted to have the opportunity to meet Grant and Bernie and to hear of their farming operation.

Like with all new initiatives, there will be some reviewing and fine tuning to be done before the National Award is rolled out again next year. However, the Gordon Stephenson trophy has been welcomed as a timely and highly valued addition to the role of the NZFEA Trust and the awards programme.

And as for the dinner for 300 guests wearing suits and flash frocks, it was a great night. Special thanks to members from the Hawke's Bay Dog Trial Club for bringing in their Huntaways to "round up" guests and get them moving into the function centre. Priceless.

Sponsorship and Partnerships

The business operations of the NZFEA Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards are hugely dependent on the financial and in kind support from an agricultural focused group of businesses and organisations. I include Local Government agencies in this reference as a lot of their business has a rural focus and we value their commitment to the NZFEA Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

All sponsors and partners have been given the opportunity to comment on their association with the NZFEA Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and their comments are detailed in the second part of this Annual Report.

As the Chairman has commented, WaterForce has come on board as a national sponsor for the 2012 awards programme. WaterForce is a Hawke's Bay based company with branches throughout New Zealand. Their business is about Water - how it moves, how it flows and how we manage it. The company's support of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards is welcomed and their personnel throughout the country will make a great addition to the team of expertise underpinning the judging and organisational facets of the awards programme.

Many thanks to all partners and sponsors for their ongoing financial and in kind support.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards National Sponsors



Ballance Farm Environment Awards Regional Partners



New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust Partners



Summary

It is always pleasing to look back at another successful year and to conclude, "Didn't we do well". Yes we did do well but there was a lot of work undertaken to achieve that accolade and as we all know, past success does not guarantee future success.

The NZFEA Trust is a business enterprise and its business has to be managed to maximise its current programme of work and to have the ability to pick up new opportunities.

The Chairman has commented on how the NZFEA Trust has been structured so as to be able to capitalise on opportunities which compliment its flagship enterprise, the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. The partnership with DairyNZ is one such opportunity and I look forward to working with the Chairman and his fellow Trustees developing additional programmes of work that fit with the objectives of the NZFEA Trust.

External relations have developed into an important function for the overall operations of the NZFEA Trust. As I mentioned in my opening, commentators are suggesting that the Ballance Farm Environment Awards have the potential to be the leading agricultural competition in New Zealand.

The work of the NZFEA Trust and the role that the Ballance Farm Environment Awards play regionally and nationally have generated a lot of interest. Already one national company has indicated it wants to be a sponsor for the 2013 awards, that decision was triggered by observing what the NZFEA Trust and the awards programme are achieving. Other businesses and organisations have indicated an intention to get along side us.

The challenge for the NZFEA Trust is going to be turning business interest into commercial partnerships of mutual benefit, be it NZFEA Trust related or awards related.

To get where the NZFEA Trust and the awards programme have got to, we have been fortunate to have the support of a number of commercial, organisational and Central and Local Government entities. In recognising the value of what they have contributed over the years, we will be looking at new partners and sponsors who will strengthen existing relationships.

The structure that the NZFEA Trust has set in place along with its strategic direction will, undoubtedly, appeal to other businesses and organisations and we look forward to developing relationships with them.

The NZFEA Trust and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme are businesses that are fortunate to have a great team of people managing them.

As the General Manager, I really just drive a desk. Trustees set the direction and the team I have around me deliver on that. To Jim Cotman and Trustees, past and present, many thanks for your tireless efforts, which are voluntary and not always recognised as such. Thank you for your support.

The nature of my role means it is important for me to have a good working relationship with the Treasurer. This past year I have worked with two Treasurers, Peter Nation and Joanne van Polanen. Their knowledge of all things financial have has been of immense value to the business and to me and I do thank them for the time they have committed to the

Treasurer's position. I would also like to thank Faye Shaw who has assisted me manage the financial side of the business.

Last year, Trustees approved for a National Coordinator to be appointed to assist with the overall management of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme. Gerry Glover made a significant contribution to that role and I thank her for her achievements.

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards start in the regions and whilst each region has a dedicated and committed management team, the person who pulls it all together and makes it happen is the Regional Coordinator. These people are the shop window for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards in the regions and all do a fantastic job. Saying thank you is somewhat an inadequate expression of gratitude for their efforts. I do thank them most sincerely.

The task ahead is one that I look forward to working on so as to ensure that the Ballance Farm Environment Awards are the leading agricultural competition in New Zealand. It won't happen overnight, but I am confident it will happen.

David Natzke
General Manager

Treasurer's Report



It is my pleasure to present the Treasurer's Report for the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust (NZFEA Trust). The 2011 Financial Statements, which incorporates the Ballance Farm Environment Awards carry an unconditional independent audit certificate.

At the beginning of the year when Trustees considered the annual budget, the NZFEA Trust was facing a deficit in excess of \$100,000. After careful consideration the budget deficit was reduced to \$42,000, largely due to the very generous offer from Ballance Agri-Nutrients to increase their support and underwrite the Habitat Improvement Award for the final year of its inclusion in the award programme.

I am very pleased to report that the Trust finished the year with an overall surplus of \$46,067. Increased revenue and very prudent financial management by General Manager David Natzke have led to this very positive result. Also included in this surplus is \$10,233 from the 2011 Building Dairy Environment Leaders programme to carry over for the 2012 year, in which an increased number of participants will be attending.

The NZFEA Trust welcomed a new sponsor and two regional partners this year. Beef + Lamb New Zealand and the combined Gisborne District Council and Hawke's Bay Regional Council joined the sponsor and partner team. The NZFEA Trust look forward to adding value to Beef + Lamb NZ and the East Coast region through the very successful awards programme.

The NZFEA Trust administers a number of enterprises as illustrated on page 1 of the Chairman's Report. While there is an obvious link between the enterprises, the funds to administer them come from different sources. A review of the financial coding system over the year has allowed clearer allocation of expenses to the Trust's enterprises and

this has led to a number of changes in the assigning of expenses in the Annual Financial Reports in an effort to better reflect the financial operation of Trust activities.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards enterprise returned a solid operating surplus of \$43,591.

An increase in the operating revenue was due to the addition of Beef + Lamb New Zealand as a new sponsor for the awards and the addition of the Gisborne District Council and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (East Coast Region) as regional partners.

Six Councils make their sponsorship payment directly to the NZFEA Trust and these regions are funded by the Trust to administer their awards, the remaining three regions receive funding directly from their Regional Councils. This year the budget to fund all award related activities, including Judging Coordinators honoraria, was set at \$35,000 per region for the six regions.

In the past, printing costs had been a regional expense and this year the Trust coordinated printing and covered the expenses. The financial management by the six regional committees has been excellent with all regions operating within their budget. The NZFEA Trust acknowledges their diligence to assist in the return of a positive financial result.

The awards thrive because of the belief and goodwill of a large number of volunteers and supporters throughout nine regions of New Zealand.

The valuable role and success of the awards is an acknowledgment to the generosity of Ballance Farm Environment Awards sponsors and volunteers.

New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust

The New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust returned a surplus of \$13,023 which as mentioned, includes \$10,233 being carried forward for the 2012 Building Dairy Environment Leaders programme. The Trust receives a \$20,000 management fee for the organisation of this highly successful and growing partnership enterprise.

The NZFEA Trust was fortunate to secure extra funding with Fonterra increasing their contribution by \$30,000. The Trust is very grateful for this strong partnership and support.

The Sustainability Showcase DVD production was recorded as a NZFEA Trust expense and The Gordon Stephenson Trophy National Award was also noted as a new expense as part of the move to reflect the cost of each enterprise activity.

I would like to thank David Natzke for his excellent management of the finances and Faye Shaw for assisting with the management of the accounts in a professional manner. Thanks to the NZFEA Trust's and Ballance Farm Environment Award's accountants, Accountants on London (Hamilton NZ), the Trust's auditors, Staples Rodway (Hamilton NZ) and the Trust's bankers, ANZ National Ltd for their continued support.

Joanne van Polanen
Treasurer

About the Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Sustainable Land Management - Our Main Objective

The overall objective of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards is to promote sustainable land management on New Zealand farms believing that role models and education are effective tools to improving farming practices.

This objective is achieved by:

- The judging process, which we aim to keep **mutually enjoyable** and informative.
- Our **commitment** to practical solutions, which benefit people as well as the land.
- Our **support for diversity** - there's never one right answer, it's about what works.
- Our deed requires us to use objective criteria to determine **sustainable management** where practical.
- Our **down-to-earth** approach to communicating sustainable management concepts which relies on real people and their stories.

These Awards are unlike other events.

Entrants are not seeking major prizes or overseas trips. Most instead are seeking to share their ideas and expertise with the wider farming community. They are seeking to have a ruler run over their enterprise to provide a personal benchmark.

Notable among our entrants is a pattern of seeking methods, often in innovative ways, to find sustainable solutions to limitations that they encounter in their farming businesses. We see enormous skill demonstrated in tackling the challenges of the specific farm environment they encounter.

We see New Zealand ingenuity at its best, where many solutions are found through innovation, often by thinking outside the square. This ingenuity is driven by the desire to understand the constraints each property imposes and the desire to find solutions through careful planning, and the use of the outside consultation where necessary.

Supreme Winners

A Supreme Winner will be selected from each of the 9 regions - Supreme Winners will be chosen from the group of finalists. – **\$3000 cash**

National Award – Gordon Stephenson Trophy

The recipient of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy will be selected from the 9 regional Supreme Winners and will be announced at the 2012 Sustainability Showcase – **Prize package TBA**

Principal National Sponsor



Balance Nutrient Management Award

This Award focuses on the wise use of nutrients for productivity while demonstrating excellent care for the environment around them. 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. – **\$1000 cash/product**

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. – **\$1000 cash/product**

Beef + Lamb New Zealand Livestock Farm Award

This Award recognises the livestock farmer (other than dairy) 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. 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. – **\$1000 cash/services**

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. – **\$1000 cash/product**



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. 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. – **\$1000 cash/product**



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA

Massey University Discovery Award

The Discovery Award is given in recognition of new discovery and implementation of economically and environmentally sustainable farming systems. The Award recognises farmers and farming families who have been proactive in discovering new knowledge and applying that knowledge to move their farming business to a more sustainable state. The winner will receive \$1000, and in addition be able to nominate a person from their region to receive a fees scholarship to an appropriate professional development short course at Massey University (subject to entry requirements) – **\$1000 cash/services**



WaterForce Integrated Management Award

The WaterForce Award recognizes 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. – **\$1000 cash/voucher**

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)
- Akura Conservation Centre Lifestyle Farm/Small Block Award
- Environment Canterbury Regional Council Water Efficiency Award
- Otago Regional Council Sustainable Resource Management Award

Regional Partners



Supreme Winners for 2011



NORTHLAND
 Sue and Shane Culham
 'Puripak Avocados'
 GLENBERVIE
Avocado Orchard



BAY OF PLENTY
 Graham and Mavis Dyer
 'Bay Park Orchard'
 TAURANGA
Kiwifruit Orchard



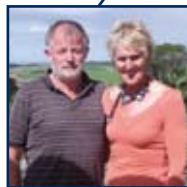
WAIKATO
 Gordon and Pamela Blake,
 Grant and Lindsay Blake
 'Waiomou Valley Farms Ltd'
 TIRAU
Dairy



EAST COAST
 Steve and Jane Wyn-Harris
 'Marlow Hill'
 TAKAPAU
Sheep and Beef



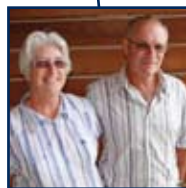
SOUTHLAND
 Grant and Bernadette Weller
 'Crosshill'
 WAIMEA VALLEY
Sheep and Beef



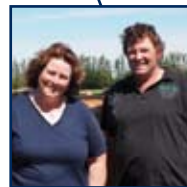
OTAGO
 Peter and Helen Gilder
 and Landcorp
 'Waitepeka Farm'
 BALCLUTHA
Dairy / Dry Stock



HORIZONS
 Rickie Morrison and
 Sharleen Hutching
 EKETAHUNA
Dairy



CANTERBURY
 Eric and Maxine Watson
 'Rangitata Holdings Ltd',
 ASHBURTON
Arable



GREATER WELLINGTON
 Ray and Lyn Craig
 'Lynx Farm'
 CARTERTON
Dairy

National Award Winners, Grant and Bernie Weller, will be superb ambassadors for New Zealand agriculture and horticulture, says Massey University's Jacqueline Rowarth.

The Wellers, who farm an 850 hectare (effective) sheep and beef farm in Southland, were named winners of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy at the New Zealand Farm Environment Award (NZFEA) Trust's Sustainability Showcase in Hastings on June 25th 2011.

They were chosen from the nine regional Supreme winners of the 2011 Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

The National Award judging team was led by Professor Jacqueline Rowarth, Institute of Natural Resources, Massey University.

She says picking an inaugural recipient of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy was no easy task as all the regional Supreme winners had shown great commitment to the values of the award, making a significant contribution in their region through economic, environment and social activities.

"But the Wellers had the 'X-factor'."

The judging panel also included Warwick Catto, head of Research and Environment, Ballance Agri-Nutrients, Alistair Polson, Agriculture Trade Envoy, Todd Charteris, East Coast regional manager, Rabobank New Zealand, and Greg Glover, deputy chair of the NZFEA Trust.

Prof. Rowarth said the judges were looking for a number of qualities, including leadership.

"Among the nine couples interviewed, we were impressed by the fact that all said that for them it was by example – getting stuck in and doing what was required and then standing by what they had done to show whoever was interested."

As well as commitment on their home property, entrants were also judged for their conviction that clean green and productive was possible on a much wider scale.

"And we looked for communications skills - for the couple that could express their vision for New Zealand into the future with passion. The couple that could talk in rural and urban areas, and go overseas with the message that New Zealand has great food produced from a great environment by people who care passionately about the future."

Prof. Rowarth says the Weller's acceptance speech was a 'wow' moment and a highlight of the awards evening.

She said the Wellers spoke with a clarity and vision that will serve them well in their future role of representing New Zealand agricultural and horticultural sectors.

She also praised the ability of the Farm Environment Awards to bring together innovative and creative practitioners, agribusiness professionals and leaders in education and research to prove that it is possible to achieve sustainability in terms of clean, green and productive.

"In fact, we're defining it – leading the world in developments to ensure that in 100 years, NZ is still clean, green and productive – the goal that Gordon Stephenson established.

"When they said it couldn't be done, they forgot about team New Zealand – all of us working together towards the same goal. The Farm Environment Awards have made it possible to showcase great people, and the Wellers will take the message to the world."

2011 Sustainability Showcase

**Saturday,
25th of June 2011
Hastings**



Grant and Bernie Weller and Sir Brian Lochore.



Gordon Stephenson and Bernie and Grant Weller.



Steve and Jane Wynn-Harris and Margaret McKee of QEII National Trust.



Grant and Bernie Weller and Mike Petersen of Beef + Lamb New Zealand.



Sharleen Hutching and Ricky Morrison and Steve Murphy of Fonterra.



Eric and Maxine Watson and Larry Bilodeau of Ballance Agri-Nutrients.



Gordon, Pamela, Grant and Lindsay Blake and Neville Maindonald of LIC.



Ray and Lyn Craig and the Hon John Luxton of DairyNZ.



Peter and Helen Gilder and Tom Mowatt of PGG Wrightson.



Shane and Sue Culham and the Hon Steve Maharey of Massey University.



Graham and Mavis Dyer and Steve Howse of Hill Laboratories.



Testimonials from past entrants of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Bay of Plenty sheep and beef farmers Tony and Joanna Carr say their first time in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards was a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

The Carrs, who farm 400ha on the eastern shores of Lake Rotorua, won the Beef + Lamb New Zealand Livestock Award and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Environmental Award in the 2011 Bay of Plenty Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

Tony Carr says they entered the competition largely as a learning exercise and to find out how their farming operation stacked up in terms of long term sustainability.

Tony says their participation in the competition made them reflect on how much environmental work had been done on the third-generation family farm. "Being involved in the competition makes you look at your farm through different eyes.

It really highlighted the benefits of taking a holistic approach to sustainable land management."

Tony says the judging process was relaxed and enjoyable.

"Feedback from the judges was very positive and encouraging. They pointed out one or two areas we could improve on in future, so we will work on these and probably enter the competition again in two or three years time."

"It's a very good event to be involved with and I think everybody can learn something from it. We certainly got good value out of it."

Tony and Joanna Carr
2011 entrants
Bay of Plenty Ballance Farm Environment Awards



Gisborne arable farmer David Clark had two good reasons to be happy about the East Coast Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

Encouraged by the Gisborne District Council, he entered the inaugural East Coast awards and won two category awards – the Hill Laboratories Harvest Award and the Ballance Agri-Nutrients Nutrient Management Award.

David says the judging process was enjoyable and motivating. "The judges were very enthusiastic and it was rewarding to know they could see what we were trying to achieve."

"I think it's very important for our industry to have a competition like this because it enables different

farming types to see how they stack up against each other."

David says he would certainly encourage other farmers to enter the competition because it is a great learning experience. "If you are trying something interesting and environmentally sound and you are proud of what you are doing, I'd definitely say give it a go."

David Clark
2011 entrant
East Coast Ballance Farm Environment Awards



Patoka dairy farmers Nick and Nicky Dawson saw entering the 2011 East Coast Ballance Farm Environment Awards as a good way to gain knowledge and “break down a few barriers”.

Nick says entering the competition was a good opportunity to represent the dairy industry and show the wider farming community that when it comes to sustainable farming “there are some half-decent dairy farmers out there”.

Nick says the Ballance Farm Environment Awards help to highlight the fact many dairy farmers care deeply about the environment and are trying their best to improve sustainability.

He says the awards judging process was relaxed, enjoyable and extremely informative. “The judges were very friendly. They were obviously there to

help us rather than catch us out.”

Nick says the awards are a “fantastic event” that brings together farmers from a wide range of farming types.

He urges other dairy farmers to step up and enter the awards. As well as representing their industry they can expect to gain knowledge and be inspired by other like-minded farmers. “There is definitely no point in sitting on your hands. Get out there and enter.”

**Nick and Nicky Dawson
2011 entrants
East Coast Ballance Farm Environment Awards**



Though initially hesitant, Manawatu farmer James Stewart and his family are pleased they entered the Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

Three years ago the family was asked to enter the Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards. They deliberated for a while, eventually deciding to give it a go. “It was a little daunting because we’d never done anything like that before. But once we’d made our minds up, we were determined to give it our best shot.”

The Stewarts put together a presentation which they felt gave an accurate portrayal of the farm and their philosophies. “It was a very good exercise for us. The whole family got involved and it made us take a long, hard look at our business and the way we do things.”

“We got a lot out of the judging process and the judges challenged us to think about some issues that we had never really considered before.”

As a result of this, the Stewarts have ‘tweaked’ certain areas of their farming systems. “Dairying always seems to be under fire here in New Zealand. But I think the Ballance Farm Environment Awards help to give people a better perception of our industry by showing that many farmers do care for the environment. For this reason I think it’s important for dairy farmers to support the awards and show that we are doing our bit.”

He says the benefits of entering the competition make it well worthwhile. “We don’t regret entering. It was a good experience that helps you strengthen your business.”

**Stewart Family
2009 entrants
Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards**



Annvale Station managers Brian and Linda Groome were thrilled to win a string of awards in their first time in the Canterbury Ballance Farm Environment Awards. But they aren't putting their feet up just yet. "If anything", says Brian, "it's actually encouraged us to do better in future".

Linda says the judging process was informative and pleasant. "The judges quickly put us at ease - so much so, we now look on them as our friends."

The Groomes enjoyed being involved in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. "Linda and I got a huge amount out of it. While we found out that we weren't doing too badly, there is always room for improvement," says Brian.

Brian says he and Linda would like to re-enter the Farm Environment Awards in future. "We learnt a lot this time around and we've got plans we want to put in place over the next couple of years. Then we will give the competition another go."

He would certainly encourage other farmers to enter the awards. "Don't be afraid to give it a go. It's a great experience and you will learn much from it."

Brian and Linda Groome
2011 entrants
Canterbury Ballance Farm Environment Awards



Entering the Ballance Farm Environment Awards gave Miles and Janet King the opportunity to gain a valuable outside perspective of their unique Wairarapa farming venture.

"It's always helpful to have external feedback," says Janet. "Sometimes you become so immersed in a business, you can't see the wood for the trees."

Janet and Miles are pioneers of sheep milk cheesemaking in New Zealand. Since 1998 they have produced a growing range of cheeses which are marketed under the Kingsmeade Artisan Cheese label. They entered the Ballance Farm Environment Awards in 2011, winning the PGG Wrightson Land and Life Award.

Janet says they were particularly pleased to win this award because it was an all-encompassing endorsement of their lifestyle, business and community involvement. "It was great to be noticed by the sponsors, and the award has enhanced the

reputation of our farming and cheese-making business."

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards logo now features prominently on the Kingsmeade website.

Janet says participating in the awards was "heaps of fun". She says she and Miles learnt a lot from the judging process "and the judges made some very valid comments about our business".

She strongly recommends the competition to any other farming or horticultural operation. "We learnt a lot from it and the awards evening was a great night out."

Miles and Janet King
2011 entrants
Greater Wellington Ballance Farm Environment Awards



The Ballance Farm Environment Awards provide a great forum for people from different primary industries to exchange ideas on environmental sustainability, says Northland forest manager John Robinson.

John works for Juken New Zealand Ltd (JNL), a Japanese-owned forestry and wood processing company that grows 30,000ha of exotic forest and operates two mills in the Northland region.

John says the awards are great for bringing together people from different primary industries and promoting “positive education” on environmental issues.

“We are a commercial forestry company so we are much different to your typical farming business. But we face many of the same environmental challenges

that farmers face and I think we all have a lot to gain by cross-pollinating our ideas and our knowledge.”

John says he found the awards judging process to be informal and rewarding and he also appreciated the networking opportunities the awards provided. “It was a great competition. I thoroughly enjoyed it.”

“We’ve all got to take responsibility for environmental sustainability. These awards are a very good way to gain knowledge in this field.”

John Robinson
2010 entrant
Northland Ballance Farm Environment Awards



Despite collecting several category awards in the 2010 Southland Ballance Farm Environment Awards, Southland dairy farmers Jack and Julie Ballam believe they still have a long way to go to achieve the perfect farm.

The Ballams were persuaded to enter the annual competition by a previous award winner and while they were initially hesitant, Jack says they found the experience very beneficial.

“Julie and I both work off-farm and so entering the competition provided the catalyst for us to sit down and do a major review of the operation.”

Jack says the interactive judging process was rewarding because it enabled them to get independent feedback on their operation. “It was really good to get an outside perspective on what we were doing.”

Jack says a key strength of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards competition is that it focuses on the sustainability of an operation from an

environmental, social and business perspective.

Jack says the Ballance Farm Environment Awards are beneficial to the dairy industry because they show that dairy operations can be both environmentally and economically sustainable.

He says he and Julie were inspired by what they saw at the awards ceremony for the 2010 Southland Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

“We were very impressed with the audio-visual presentations and what other contestants had achieved. The whole awards process was a great learning experience and I’d encourage other dairy farmers to go for it.”

Jack and Julie Ballam
2010 entrants
Southland Ballance Farm Environment Awards



A past winner of the Northland Ballance Farm Environment Awards is urging other farmers to enter the competition.

“I thoroughly recommend everyone have a go because you learn so much in the process,” says Hukerenui dairy farmer Evan Smeath, who with wife Sherleen won the Supreme award for Northland in 2007.

He describes the win as “the pinnacle of our farming career.” “The contest has opened doors for us and we found the judging experience brilliant. It is so valuable to have people with expertise in their own fields on your property and to be able to discuss sustainability and productivity aspects with them.”

While many farmers feel they are a long way off achieving such a balance, Evan’s advice to farmers

who are unsure about entering is to give it a go anyway. “They should regard it as a starting point on a learning curve. What they learn will help them to decide what to do next.”



Entrants are encouraged to ask questions of the judges who offer a wide range of skills and expertise. “It’s all about communication. If the judges can’t offer advice on a specific issue, they will put the entrant in touch with someone who can.”

**Evan and Sherleen Smeath
2007 Supreme Winners
Northland Ballance Farm Environment Awards**

Gordon and Pam Blake and their son and daughter-in-law, Grant and Lindsay, won the Supreme title in 2011 after entering the competition for the first time.

Lindsay Blake says entering the competition gave the family the chance to offset some of the negative press lavished upon dairy farming. “Day in, day out, most dairy farmers are trying to do their best with what they’ve got,” she says.

Lindsay says the competition has given the family confidence “in where we are on our farm today”.

Gordon Blake says the competition made the family aware “of how lucky we are that Gordon Stephenson (competition founder) had not only the vision but also the drive and determination to make the Farm Environment Awards become a reality all those years ago”.

Grant Blake says their involvement with the competition has encouraged the family to look forward beyond the next 20 years “and think more about the big picture”.

Lindsay Blake says farmers who enter the Ballance Farm Environment Awards get the opportunity to

learn much more about their business’s direction and legacy.

She says the competition is unique in that it’s not about prizes or glory; it’s really for people who have a story to tell about sustainability and their progression. “If you would like to test your farming operation with like-minded people, or you’d like some encouragement without a price tag, this is the competition for you.”

Gordon Blake says the efforts of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards team, their sponsors and supporters, have resulted in a fantastic national competition. “But its on-going success is dependent on participants stepping up and entering each year. “We know that those that do will have a most rewarding and enjoyable experience.”

**Gordon and Pamela Blake,
and Grant and Lindsay Blake
2011 Supreme Winners
Waikato Ballance Farm Environment Awards**



National Sponsors



Ballance Agri-Nutrients has reaffirmed its support to the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust with a sponsorship commitment to 2014.

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards have become a showcase of sustainable farming, helping to demonstrate the care farmers are taking with their land, getting the best production today while ensuring it gets handed to the next generation in good health.

Ballance has been the main sponsor of the awards since 1995, and since 2003, the awards have been the co-operative's main sponsorship commitment. That reflects the co-operative's view that sustainability and profitability go hand-in-hand on many different levels from environmental responsibility, to understanding the needs of the end consumer.

In addition, the work of the NZFEA Trust fits in with Ballance's core values and desire to help boost productivity with minimal environmental impact. Giving farmers the agri-nutrient products, services and advice to improve economic and environmental sustainability is at the heart of the co-operative, and its support of the NZFEA Trust and the awards ensures the very best of those who are practising farming are showcased.

Identifying role models in the farming community who have clear business direction and innovation is key. This year saw the expansion of the awards to include the East Coast as the ninth region, which is further driving them towards a truly national event demonstrating innovation, best practice and farming leadership.

As part of the farming landscape, Ballance and the NZFEA Trust are connecting with farmers across all sectors with the understanding New Zealanders all have a deep connection with the land and, as a result, an intrinsic desire to preserve it as we live from it.

There are many challenges ahead, and change will happen as a result of many pressures from all quarters. The Ballance Farm Environment Awards allow the best of the best to show how they are rising to those challenges and others to learn from that.

Ballance looks forward to the 2012 awards and celebrating the successes, innovation and environmental awareness they will bring as they add to the pool of role models all farmers can look to for inspiration in the future.



As New Zealand's leading rural services provider, PGG Wrightson's more than 2,000 staff share a common vision: to be leaders in the field, helping grow the country. We do this in partnership with our people, our customers and the communities within which we operate. PGG Wrightson is proud of the role we play in the community, through a number of funding initiatives including the highly successful PGG Wrightson IHC Calf & Rural Scheme and Cash for Communities programmes, which together raise over \$1 million per year for rural communities.

While providing a pipeline for community based funding is important, the private sector also needs to play its part in supporting rural education and sustainable farm practices. We are therefore

delighted with our continued association with the NZFEA Trust initiative and sponsorship of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards which promotes a balance between farm prosperity and environmental best practice on farm.

The Land and Life award is strongly aligned with our vision and is focused around the people side of our business. Winners actively engage with their communities and have a keen understanding of the role they play in local and regional prosperity.

Ultimately the outcome will be a healthy and vibrant rural sector, helping to assure there is a future for New Zealand's farming family for generations to come.



LIC is proud to have been associated with the Ballance Farm Environment Awards since 2004 and, before that, the Farm Environment Awards Trust (2001).

Back then, environmental sustainability was a term new to common language, to society and to agricultural industries. Today, all New Zealanders understand its importance to our economy, we understand the part we play as individuals and the pressure and challenge placed on all industries to protect what we hold near and dear – to ensure we work with, not against, nature.

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

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 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 nominees and winners in the 2011 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 their customers, working to ensure the primary industry is at its most productive and progressive.

It has been an honour to take part in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards structure and do our bit in recognising and acknowledging the high performing, sustainable farmers in our midst.

Hill Laboratories is the largest private analytical testing laboratory in New Zealand, concentrating on agricultural, environmental and food and bioanalytical testing, so the aims and coverage of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards sit perfectly within the driving interests of Hill Laboratories.

Throughout the seven years we have been involved with sponsorship of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards it has been wonderful to see the innovative and socially conscious efforts being achieved throughout the farming industry in New Zealand and we are dedicated to supporting and promoting those efforts into the future.



The Ballance Farm Environment Awards showcase farmers who are implementing best environmental practices “and get others thinking along the same lines.”

Beef + Lamb New Zealand is sponsoring the Livestock Farm Award in this year’s competition and the organisation is proud to be supporting the awards.

Beef + Lamb New Zealand works to highlight environmental issues and promote environmental sustainability and so it’s good to be involved with the awards which share the same goals.

The awards are also an opportunity to showcase wider environmental and economic benefits for the New Zealand economy.



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA

Massey University is proud to be part of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and particularly the Discovery Award recognising the development and implementation of farming systems that are economically and environmentally sustainable.

New knowledge or research is about discovery 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 veterinary science, agribusiness and business studies 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 university defining New Zealand.



WaterForce joins the Ballance Farm Environment Awards sponsorship team as of the 2012 awards programme.

Their business is water, and water is to the fore in the decisions that agriculturalists have to make. The expertise the company will be able to bring to the Ballance Farm Environment Awards programme will be invaluable.



Regional Partners



The Northland Regional Council introduced the awards to the Northland region in 2005-06, in partnership with the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust.

The key objectives of the awards are to encourage sustainable land management and to display to farmers that profitability need not compromise and, in the best examples, can restore and enhance environmental values.

The awards reflect our role as environmental guardians, while encouraging the sustainable use of our region's resources to promote economic growth.

The feedback and winners' profiles encourage other farmers to be proactive with their resource management as part of an economically viable agricultural enterprise.

It is our pleasure to continue to support the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, which acknowledge the success of land owners in achieving sustainable land management practices.

Craig Brown
 Chairman
 Northland Regional Council



Waikato Regional Council's vision is of the Waikato "Competing globally, caring locally". It puts into a nutshell our focus on ensuring we have a strong, competitive economy whilst carrying out local actions that protect our environment and our reputation in international markets.

The council's ongoing involvement with the Ballance Farm Environment Awards is part of that work. We're also working hard with all our other partners – including iwi, the agriculture sector and farmers generally – to achieve our aims.

Collectively, we made some good progress in 2010-11 with, for example, higher levels of farmer compliance with dairy effluent management rules.

One of our challenges during 2011-12 and beyond is to develop new policy which better protects the land and water resources which underpin our economy and way of life.

I look forward to working with the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust and others in the agriculture sector towards the achievement of this important goal.

Peter Buckley
 Chairman
 Environment Waikato



Bay of Plenty Regional Council has been a sponsor of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards for 10 years.

The awards, and in particular the Bay of Plenty Ballance Farm Environment Award sponsored by the Regional Council, support and encourage sustainable farming practices.

Sustainability is about practical, on-going actions and decision-making on the farm. It's about establishing life-time habits and the way things are done so that everyone wins.

We're continually impressed with the commitment and drive shown by those who enter the awards, and by their willingness to learn from and to share with others.

We continue to be involved because we recognise the environmental and economic benefits that the region can achieve through sustainable farming.

John Cronin
Chairman
Bay of Plenty Regional Council



Tena koutou no matau o te Tairāwhiti.

Toi tu te Whenua whakangarongaro te tangata – the land is here forever as people come and go.

After a couple of times being invited to the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, I was impressed with the quality of the programme, the awards and the participants videos convinced me that Gisborne should participate. So we along with the Hawke's Bay got together and to cut a short story shorter, we are very happy to be in.

We had a number of entries in our first year, winning a couple of categories.

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards sets the standard of a common vision across the nation for sustainable management, our land based business were pleased to participate. The awards process

help people from our region to communicate with other land businesses across the nation, sharing ideas learning of each other and taking what one thought was good for their situation can only help the nation grow its wealth and we are interested in growing Tairāwhiti wealth.

Thank to all the sponsors and our volunteers who went from farm to farm to judge the entrants. Big vision local implementation is the key to regional success, so I look forward to the coming competition

Kia ora

Meng Foon
Mayor
Gisborne District Council



The Hawke's Bay Regional Council sponsored the Ballance Farm Environment Awards for the Eastern Region, along with Gisborne District Council, for the first time last year, and were very impressed by the experience.

The opportunity grew out of our own regional environmental awards, where farmers had excelled for some years and needed a fresh approach to help them achieve more and showcase their contribution to sustainable farming in New Zealand.

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards proved to be the right choice as these combine the best of farming with the reality of the business and the need for landowners to have a vision of 'leaving the land better than when they started'. It's a big job, and we are proud to see that Hawke's Bay and Gisborne landowners have confidence in their abilities as stewards of the land to step up to the plate for these awards.



Horizons Regional Council support the Ballance Farm Environment Awards as a vehicle to showcase best environment management practice on farms within our region.

This year's award winners, Rickie Morrison and Sharleen Hutchins, dairy farmers from Eketahuna, showed with thought and planning they could minimize the impact of their farming practices on the environment and also make their property a delightful place to work. Their work complimented

The 2011 Supreme Winners, Steve and Jane Wyn-Harris are whole-hearted in their sustainable farming approach, and have been well-known in Hawke's Bay for their enthusiasm and leadership. They farm on the southern edge of our region in a difficult area, prone, as are many others along this coast, to lengthy droughts. Their property simply glows with good health, and the award was a fine recognition of their efforts.

We are pleased to include the Ballance Farm Environment Awards in the mix to encourage sustainable farming practices and good economics, and reward farming leadership along the east coast.

Fenton Wilson
Chairman
Hawke's Bay Regional Council

the work that Horizons is doing in the Upper Manawatu River catchment.

Horizons have been involved with the Ballance Farm Environment Awards since 2004 and appreciates the value the awards play in supporting our role in protecting and enhancing the environment.

Bruce Gordon
Chairman
Horizons Regional Council



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

By promoting and recognising innovative approaches to sustainable land management, the awards help farmers find practical solutions to sustainability issues, while at the same time provide a unique opportunity to share innovative farming practices amongst peers.

A key element of the awards is that they show that profitability can successfully be combined with

restoration and with enhancement of environmental values. Our judges, many who are volunteers, also gain important insights from their participation, which is reflected in their on-going involvement and commitment to the awards.

It is a pleasure 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



It is with great pleasure that Environment Canterbury continues to support the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

In Canterbury, these awards are central to recognising and celebrating the efforts that many in our community make towards undertaking and promoting sustainable farming practices in the region.

Local winners demonstrate that good environmental management is good for business. Achieving sustainable use of resources while maintaining a farm's day-to-day demands is vital for the future prosperity of the region. All entrants are to be commended for their efforts.

The success of the on-farm field days held following the awards' conclusion demonstrates farmers are always keen to learn new approaches.

The environmental challenges facing Canterbury farmers are numerous, and the public interest in their activities intense. Environment Canterbury is working with the community to tackle the challenges of sustainable land and water use and these awards provide an important focus for that work. We are proud to be involved with these awards.

Dame Margaret Bazley
Chair of Commissioners
Environment Canterbury



The Otago Regional Council is pleased to support the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. The awards aim of recognising excellence in sustainable farm management is closely aligned to many of ORC's policies and goals.

For example, ORC is now consulting on a new effects-based approach for the improvement and maintenance of water quality in Otago rivers, lakes, and streams. These proposed changes will encourage farmers to manage their farm discharge from drains, runoff, and leaching. In some catchments this will mean farmers may have to incorporate environmental farm management practices to meet water quality standards associated with this approach.

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards help farmers plan for the future through its focus on the implementation of good farming practices. Sharing the award entrants and winners management methods among the wider farming community motivates all farmers to think about ways of farming that will support their families, staff, land, waterways, crops, and livestock over the long term.

These awards complement ORC strategies of working directly with local communities to improve water and land environments, as well as economic and social conditions. We value our association with them.

Stephen Woodhead
Chairman

Strategic Partners of the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust



Dairy for life

Sustainability is a cornerstone of Fonterra's business and a key focus for dairying in the 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 Award 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 practicing sustainable farming is the way we will protect our dairying future.



QEII National Trust
Open Space New Zealand
Nga Kaiwhiri Papa

QEII National Trust is proud to be a supporter and partner to the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust. The Ballance Farm Environment Awards celebrate the very best in farming practice and it is a pleasure to be involved.

The QEII National Trust helps landowners identify and protect special natural features on their land and provide long term protection by way of an open space covenant for the benefit of future generations of New Zealanders. Many of the properties entered in the awards have natural areas legally protected within the working farm.

It is our pleasure to work in partnership with the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, and share in acknowledging and celebrating the very best of New Zealand farming.

The QEII National Trust applauds the innovation of The Gordon Stephenson Trophy recognising a National Award and ambassador and is proud to support the award.



The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is proud to be a partner of the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust.

MAF is committed to growing and protecting New Zealand by focussing on improving sector productivity and growing revenues, while increasing sustainable resource use and protecting the sectors from biological risk.

To do this, MAF is focussed on partnering with, and enabling stakeholders across the primary sectors. .

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards help MAF to fulfil this commitment by fostering and celebrating excellence in sustainable farming. 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.



DairyNZ is proud to be a partner of the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust. The work the Trust does to promote responsible stewardship of the land is significant.

The New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust plays a part in encouraging dairy farmers to take proactive steps on their farms to ensure the sustainability of their farm businesses. Importantly, it also gives those farmers the recognition they deserve for their efforts and promotes their successes to the wider community.

The Trust delivers the Building Dairy Environment Leaders programme which we fund to give dairy farmers an insight into complex environmental issues and skills to help them work through them.

Creating leaders at the farm gate is important work and we are pleased the Trust is delivering to the high expectations of our farmers.



**Federated Farmers and the NZFEA Trust:
Farming for Generations**

Federated Farmers is pleased of its partnership with the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust. We are both committed to a sustainable, profitable and progressive future for New Zealand's farmers.

Members of the Federation have been involved since year one of the awards, either as entrants or as judges. It also continues a long and proud tradition of leadership inside and outside of the farm gate.

Farmers, if anything, are guilty of underplaying the key role they have in promoting biodiversity. From the formation of the QEII National Trust as well as the New Zealand Landcare Trust, Federated Farmers and it's members have been to the fore in progressing the protection of our fauna and flora. A key thing about the New Zealand Farm Environment Award Trust, is that it covers all facets of the farm system as well as economic, social and environmental factors.

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