

PROJECT GREEN TRUST NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2004

INTRODUCTION

Time for an update of the programme progression since our last newsletter in June. A reminder from that newsletter that **NZ Farmsure Ltd** has been formed as the operational arm of the Trust and the name that the programme will be promoted under.

Farmsure reports on a quarterly basis to the Trust and this newsletter will summarise the content of these reports and what is proposed for the future.

LOGO



The logo for Farmsure has been developed which we feel portrays our programme really well. Being very NZ in Black and White, the tick for assurance, hills and trees and the triple bottom lines for our reporting.

Letterheads and Business Cards have been produced and the Logo will be incorporated into all our documentation such as marketing brochures, website and software.

AGRESEARCH

Our relationship with Agresearch is currently being more formalised through a Contract being drawn up and negotiated with Margot Buick the Business Services Manager.

The Contract is likely to consist of an Overarching Service Agreement with Schedules attached for each additional service we use such as, secretarial, help desk for software.

This means we do not have to draw up a whole new agreement, each time we require additional services. These will be looked at as and when they become necessary and each one assessed on their value to Farmsure.

Our main focus is currently on the Software and it's completion time and follow up service.

SOFTWARE

The Software package is still on track to be completed by the end of the year. With trial versions to be tested on farm soon. Once we are confident we have eliminated the inevitable bugs and made any necessary alterations, we will be targeting the original focus group farms for implementation first.

Followed by those Trust Members that have registered an interest in the programme.

The reporting component of the software is going to be a useful farm planning tool, which we are confident you will find valuable.

WEBSITES

The Project Green site is being changed to only having a summary of it's development and the initial driving people and institutions.

With an explanation of the Trust, downloadable newsletters and a link to the Farmsure site.

This will be the main site with full programme details, examples of the software, testimonials and contact details.

Users will fill in their email to register interest and receive a copy of the plans and conditions.

All those on our mailing list will receive notification when these sites are operational, which should be by January.

PRESENTATIONS

Following is a review of presentations made since June.

Sheep Council - June : Rod Pearce presented to the AGM of the Sheep Council in Hamilton an introduction of our programme along with Mike and Jackie Carter from a farmer prospective. Well received and has led to an invitation to present to the Nth Island Sheep Council in November.

Monitor Farms - August : Bill Ritchie presented to the Monitor Farm Facilitators and Community Group Leaders at Taupo. This will be followed up with further discussion with Meat and Wool NZ and some of the individual Community Group Chairpersons.

NZ Veterinary Association - August : Kris August and Trevor Cook presented to the NZVA in Wellington which consisted of representatives from all parts of the veterinary industry. The main purpose being to, gain their support for appropriate Vets to be accredited to carry out the Animal Management Plan component of our programme. Trevor will co ordinate this and assist in the identification of the resources of Veterinary Practices within each region.

Regional Council Land Managers - September : Kris August presented to representatives of all Regional Councils and Unitary Authorities throughout NZ . A great opportunity to introduce our programme nationally. While they are all supportive of our initiative, it became apparent that each Region would have different capabilities in terms of, services or support they could offer in developing the Land Management Plans.

From this we have circulated a questionnaire to each Region to feed back their capabilities and terms for support of independent Land Managers being used in their areas.

Lower North Island Sheep Council - November: Kris August presented to this group recently as a follow up to the earlier presentation in June.

From this we now have support of the NI Sheep Council and a recommendation will be taken to their executive for National support. This is very complementary to gaining further support of Meat and Wool NZ. The SI Sheep Council will require further canvassing, which will be addressed in the near future.

WELLINGTON MEETINGS - NOVEMBER

We met with the following Organisations recently to clarify each others direction and understanding of how we could progress the future of Sustainable farming initiatives.

Federated Farmers: Their stance still revolves around any new initiative being commercially driven and not adding cost. We explained our proactive rather than reactive approach to sustainable management and the production enhancing capabilities of the programme. They cannot openly support Farmsure, but are not opposed to the programme being promoted to Farmers as a voluntary option.

Meat and Wool NZ: Presented our programme to Representatives of Business Services at M+W. They now have a clear understanding of our programme and what we are trying to achieve.

We now have their support to approach the Monitor Farms to consider implementing the programme.

A great opportunity to expose Farmsure to a large farmer audience.

Sustainable Farming Fund: We have secured the remainder of available funds to complete our initial project aims with SFF.

Are currently exploring opportunities to apply for further funds in the next funding round.

Possibly based around a cost/benefit analysis of the programme on farm to further demonstrate the value.

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment: PCE(Morgan Williams)

Some of you may have seen this report, if not we would recommend it as well worth reading. It raises some very topical issues that require further discussion/debate, which was undoubtedly one of the aims of the report.

One of the recommendations from the report is for a Trust/Foundation to be set up to facilitate discussion and promotion of sustainable farming.

From our meeting with the PCE we have been invited to be part of initial discussions for this initiative. This is a valuable opportunity for us to have a say in the future developments of this ever increasing issue which needs to be addressed with the farming community leading the way.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thanks to those of you who have returned their subscription to the Trust.

The Trust does need members to operate effectively, as this membership entitles you to attend, speak and vote at general meetings. Allowing you the opportunity to participate in the future direction of the Project Green Trust and receive newsletters and updates of developments to the programme.

We see a subscription as being a compulsory requirement with regard to having the programme implemented on your farm.

The subscription has been set at \$50 excluding GST and we would encourage you to return the subscription form enclosed in our last mail out and also update your contact information, as we intend our future communications to be by e-mail wherever possible.

If you have received this newsletter by mail, we do not have your email. If you would like future communications by email or need a subscription form please contact:

johanna.sommermeijer@agresearch.co.nz

Phone 06 351 8156

TRUSTEES

Due to changes in personal circumstances and other commitments, unfortunately John Stewart has resigned as a Trustee.

John felt he could no longer commit the time to the Trust that it deserved. We thank John for his contribution while with us and think the appropriate time to appoint a replacement will be at our general meeting, likely to be in March.

FINAL WORD

Development and promotion of this programme over the last year has at times been frustrating and perhaps not as rapid as we would have liked. However, with the ever increasing support we are gaining through presentations and meetings we are confident that the Trust is heading in the right direction to achieving it's goals.

Through the development of NZ Farmsure as our operational arm and the completion of our software, we will be in a position to start delivering the programme on a wider scale early next year.

We look forward to contacting those of you that have expressed an interest in the programme then.

As always the Trustees are happy to be contacted with feedback or to discuss any issues with you.

We wish you all the best for Xmas and the New Year

Regards

The Project Green Trustees

Rod Pearce	06 346 5766
Kris August	06 857 3873
Bill Ritchie	06 857 3774