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Solutions to the environmental and climatic challenge.

Evaluation of the solutions to environmental and climatic change by farmers and dairy sector experts.

Chaired by Dr Ants Roberts, Chief Scientific Officer at Ravensdown

Phillipa Hedley

Senior Developer Farm Systems, DairyNZ

Phillipa Hedley is a Senior Developer at DairyNZ with 30 years of Consulting and practical farming experience. Her work has included the 5 farm systems grouping and analysis of the KPIs for each system and profitability/ROA. She was also part of the Mark and Measure development team helping farmers analyse their business and develop strategies to meet their goals. Phillipa has spent 5 years at the coal face in Production management roles with Grasslands in Missouri and Canterbury and has recently come back to DairyNZ to focus on profitable farm systems that reduce their environmental footprint.

Dr Stewart Ledgard

Principal Scientist, AgResearch

Dr Stewart Ledgard is a Principal Scientist in the Land and Environment Section at AgResearch. He is internationally recognised for research in two areas: The first is in nitrogen cycling in pastoral farming systems and evaluation of practical farm mitigation options to reduce nitrogen losses. His second research area is life cycle management, which targets resource use efficiency and reducing environmental emissions across the life cycle of agricultural products. Recent focus has been on environmental footprinting of milk and meat products from agriculture in collaboration with primary sector groups.

The environmental footprint of our farms is an important indicator of our future success.

As we've studied nutrient loss and GHG emissions from our farms, it's become clear that pasture farming can have a high environmental footprint.

We need to address these issues in order to win the respect of our neighbours, and to support the provenance and reputation of our products with our consumers.

In solving the challenge of achieving low footprint dairy we want to maintain our grazed pasture base. We want systems with high profit, high provenance and low footprint.

Protecting and nurturing the environment is Commitment 1 in our dairy tomorrow strategy, this includes the four main water quality issues (N, P, sediment and e coli), methane and nitrous oxide and biodiversity.

Today we're going to focus on N loss and methane – these are the priority issues for dairy farmers to address.