



PASTURE SUMMIT MEDIA RELEASE – NOVEMBER 2018

Sharing the latest knowledge in dairy farm pasture management

Waikato dairy farmer Peter Morgan is encouraging fellow farmers to attend New Zealand and Ireland's first joint Pasture Summit in Hamilton and Ashburton this month.

A key goal of the summit is to help farmers secure profitable and sustainable businesses from pastoral farming, Mr Morgan says, and a great part of farming culture is the way people in the sector share what they know.

Mr Morgan is one of more than 20 speakers and session leads who will be sharing the latest information, knowledge and innovations at the summit.

"The dairy sector has challenges including economically and climatically as well as tremendous opportunities, such as farming more sustainably and introducing new technologies. As farmers, we have to get off-farm to gatherings like this to get new ideas to develop our own farm systems to address these challenges and make the most of the opportunities," he says.

The summit programme is designed to promote thinking and robust debate, as well as provide a space for like-minded farmers to network and find inspiration and motivation.

Mr Morgan's talk will be about farm management – including how best to grow and manage pasture, and the importance of teaching farm managers about pasture management.

"I'll be talking about the considerations of feeding animals and managing pasture, as well as the big picture of your farm system and the key decisions you have to make to ensure the season goes well on your farm.

"Our dairy farm systems are fundamentally built around how we manage pasture. Any considerations that go into your farm systems must embrace the impacts those decisions are going to have on your ability to grow and utilise your pasture.

"Everything we do in pasture management impacts everything on your farm including when you mate and when your high-risk periods are such as dry summers."

Mr Morgan will host a group of Irish dairy farmers on his farm to discuss similarities and differences and what New Zealand and Ireland can learn from each other.

"Our whole culture in New Zealand is around how we sustainably manage pasture – from an environmental, animal health and economic point of view. We love working with our animals and pastoral farming gives us a huge benefit in the quality of the product we're making."

As well as farming, Mr Morgan is a trainer for Dairy Training Ltd, which delivers sector training throughout New Zealand. The training is vocational in nature, with trainees in employment while learning.

Other presenters at the Pasture Summit will include leading experts, scientists and farmers from New Zealand and Ireland. Topics will include sustainability, solutions to sector challenges, cutting edge science, resilient systems, genetics for tomorrow's cow, farm finances and young farmers talking about equity growth.

The Pasture Summit is being organised and run by a group of progressive and committed farm business owners and dairy sector experts from across New Zealand and Ireland. Up to 1000 farmers, researchers, dairy sector influencers, innovators and critical thinkers are expected to attend.

The North Island and South Island conferences mirror session titles and speakers; however, each will have a region-specific focus. The next Pasture Summit will be held in Ireland in two years' time with the 2022 event returning to New Zealand.

Media contact:

Anne Bird, Event Organiser

Phone : 021-1086591

Email: annebirdnz@gmail.com

Pasture Summit details

The theme of Pasture Summit 2018 is "Growing Dairy's Future".

The two conferences are as follows:

North Island – Hamilton 26-27 November 2018

- **Day 1:** Claudelands Event Centre followed by Gala Dinner (sponsored by Ballance Agri-Nutrients) with keynote speaker Jake Millar
- **Day 2:** Lye Farm, Waikato

South Island – Ashburton 29-30 November 2018

- Day 1: Ashburton Trust Event Centre followed by Gala Dinner (sponsored by Ravensdown) at Ashburton Hotel with keynote speaker Kevin Biggar
- Day 2: Ashley Dene Research and Development Station, Lincoln University

Pasture Summit registrations

To register, go to pasturesummit.co.nz/registration/

Registration options are available for farmers, rural professionals and media.

Sponsorship

The Pasture Summit has wide support across the primary sector with the following sponsors.

Gold Sponsors:

AGMARDT, ANZ Bank New Zealand, Ballance Agri-Nutrients, DairyNZ, Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited, Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC), Rabobank New Zealand, Ravensdown

Silver Sponsors:

AgriNet, Dairy Holdings Ltd, Ecolab, Farmlands, FMG Advice & Insurance, GEA New Zealand, NZ Dairy Exporter, PGG Wrightson Seeds & Agricom, Silver Fern Farms, Waikato Milking Systems, Westland Milk Products

Bronze Sponsors:

Allflex Livestock Intelligence, Farm To Farm Tours, Canterbury Grasslands Ltd, KPMG, Ray Mayne Hose & Fittings, Vetlife – Centre for Dairy Excellence