

THE FUTURE OF PASTURE FED DAIRY

B/ Where is farming & research at when it comes to the environment and where does it need to go?

Chaired by Leonie Guiney, Dairy Farmer, Canterbury



Dr Bruce Thorrold

Strategy and Investment Leader at DairyNZ

Bruce is the Strategy and Investment Leader for New Systems and Competitiveness at DairyNZ.

Bruce has a long history of being part of initiating and leading major projects focused on the future needs of the pastoral industry. Projects include the development of OVERSEER, long-term studies on farm systems and catchments in hill country (Whatawhata Catchment Project) and dairying (Best Practice Dairy Catchments) that continue to provide valuable economic and environmental data to the industry and stakeholders.

On joining Dexcel (now DairyNZ), Bruce took a leadership role in the Holstein-Friesian Strain Trial. This work provided valuable insights into genetic progress and evaluation systems. He developed a keen interest in the dairy industry animal evaluation system from this work, and spent 5 years as a Director of NZ Animal Evaluation Ltd. Notable recent projects include the Pillars project on cow fertility, Forages for Reduced Nitrate Leaching, the Forage Value Index and the development of the Sothern Dairy Hub.

Bruce graduated from Lincoln College in 1984 with B Ag. Sci. (Hons 1), and returned to Lincoln University to do a PhD in Soil science, graduating in 1994. Bruce spent 15 years with MAF and AgResearch where he worked in soil science and catchment management including hill country and lowland studies.

Dairy farmers in New Zealand and Ireland face ambitious environmental targets. Farmers can make gains by implementing good practise, but also need new technology for nutrient management and methane reduction, and large scale thinking for water quality and biodiversity. Our research pipelines have potential solutions but we need to work together to speed up delivery.



Dr Pat Dillon

Head of Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Programme at Teagasc

Prof. Pat Dillon is currently Head of Teagasc Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Programme, Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, Ireland. Teagasc is the semi-state authority in the Republic of Ireland responsible for research and development, training and advisory services in the agri-food sector. Teagasc is recognised nationally and internationally as the knowledge provider of choice for Ireland's agri-food sector. Prof. Dillon provides a strong national leadership

role to the Irish dairy industry, with considerable liaison with the industry and vision for the future. His research in dairying has both strong national and international recognition.

In 2020, the Irish government set an ambitious target to reduce GHG emissions by 51% by 2030 and to be climate neutral by 2050. Similarly, the DAFM published the Ag Climatise roadmap, which aims to develop a climate neutral food system by 2050. The use of current technologies can significantly reduce GHG emissions; however, new additional technologies will be required to meet these ambitious targets.
