

GOOD NEWS: A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN ANNOUNCED FOR NEW ZEALAND'S FORAGE INDUSTRY

Dear Forage Industry Supporter

Forages are key to the success of our \$20 billion pastoral industry. This is why the industry groups above came together to develop an integrated strategy for the forage industry. We wanted to create a strategy to ensure greater investment in forage research and development.

Our new unified plan also enables everyone to work together in more formal ways to benefit the whole industry. We consulted all parties, from research organisations to plant breeders to farmers. The objective of the strategy is to increase the value of forage grown on New Zealand farms so individual farmers are more profitable and sustainable.

This forage strategy has been funded by Dairy NZ, Beef+Lamb New Zealand, the New Zealand Plant Breeding and Research Association (NZPBRA), the Foundation for Arable Research (FAR) and the Fertiliser Association. Our initial steering group overseeing the strategy has evolved into an enduring governance group for the industry.

Several short-term projects are underway where we are:

- Agreeing on key forage research requiring development and funding each year
- Working with existing Government, industry and crown research funders to ensure the funding and our priorities align
- Expanding the Forage Value Index into sheep and beef regions
- Creating a more coordinated approach to biosecurity around forages
- Working with Government to update regulations around gene editing to enable these innovative breeding tools in the plant breeding industry

Collaboration is the key to making the forage industry much more successful financially and environmentally. This new strategic plan enables a unified structure and voice for the pastoral forage industry.

If you have comments on the strategy or have some issues regarding forage that you want to be considered by the Forage Strategy Governance Group please contact Thomas Chin at Seed Industry New Zealand on 03 349 8430 or Email: thomas.chin@seedindustry.co.nz . Links to the strategy and discussion document are also available on the Seed Industry New Zealand's website at <http://www.nzpbra.org/>

Yours sincerely

Richard Green
Chairman of Forage Strategy Governance Group