

Farm Environment Plans

A non regulatory tool to help farmers
meet regional council requirements
without resource consent

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A confident
and profitable
sheep and
beef industry

Supporting informed business decisions

- + Investing in Research and Development that meets the needs of farmers and the sector

- + Developing farm and farmer capability

- + Delivering knowledge that drives farm performance

Supporting informed business decisions

- + Investing in Research and Development that meets the needs of farmers and the sector

- + Attract and retain talent for the sector

- + Developing farm and farmer capability
- + Delivering knowledge that drives farm performance

Promoting collective interests

- + Advocating for farmers ability to operate

- + Supporting the sector's market opportunities

- + Building our sector's confidence and profile within communities

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Help farmers
make informed
business decisions
and promote their
collective interests

PURPOSE OF B+LNZ

Know our farmers

Build partnerships to deliver

Opportunities for farmers

Support

Advocate

Build

Support



FOR THE
SECTOR

VISION

VALUES

PRINCIPLES

PURPOSE

OF

B+LNZ

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ABOUT ME



- Environment Extension Manager for the North Island
- Based in Hastings
- Role involves working with farmers to help them improve environmental practices on farm.
- Involved in the development and implementation of Farm Environment Plans.
- Prior to working at Beef + Lamb, held roles in policy, farm consultancy and in dairy effluent compliance at Waikato Regional Council.



"All I'm saying is now is the time to develop the technology to deflect an asteroid."

RISK MANAGEMENT & PLANNING

A HISTORY OF LAND ENVIRONMENT PLANS IN NZ



- Land environment planning techniques adapted from USA in late 1940s
- Identify most productive and profitable system of land use according to farm unique characteristics and capability of land, soil and other resources
- Large uptake between 1950 and 1990
- Today a wide variety of approaches to land environment planning

FARM ENVIRONMENT PLANS



- Manage environmental risks within the farm business
- Focus on water quality
- Manage nutrient and sediment loss from the farm
- Improve farm efficiency, by reducing environmental losses
- Assist with development planning

ECAN'S DEFINITION OF AN FEP



- *“A farm environment plan (FEP) is a key environmental risk-management tool which helps farmers recognise on-farm environmental risks, and set out a programme to manage those risks. FEPs are unique to a property and reflect the local climate and soils, the type of farming operation, and the goals and aspirations of the land user. The level of complexity of a FEP will largely depend on how much farm system change is under way or being considered”.*

LANGUAGE OF FARM PLANS



- LEPS
 - FEPS
 - FEMPS – Hawkes Bay
-
- F = Resource required to meet the rules in that region

- Farmers are already doing great environmental work on farm to manage the key contaminants of:
- Nitrogen
- Phosphorus
- Sediment
- Bacteria

FARM PLANS AROUND NZ



- Northland Regional Council – Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan
- Horizons – SLUI (Sustainable Land Use Initiative)
- Taranaki Regional Council – Comprehensive Farm Plans
- Greater Wellington Regional Council – Farm Plans

BEEF + LAMB IN THE REGIONS



- Delivery of Land Environment Plans (LEP) across NZ, funded by farmer levies
- Beef + Lamb have developed specific Farm Environment Plans for Canterbury, Southland, Hawkes Bay, Gisborne
- Currently working on Waikato and Northland FEP's
- These plans are developed in conjunction with the Regional Council and meet the specific Regional Council's requirements for a Farm Environment Plan

WORKSHOPS



- 4-5 hours in length
- Run by an experienced environmental consultant with nutrient management qualifications
- Approved B+L facilitator
- Sometimes include a farm visit to look at and discuss land management elements

Land & Environment Plans

Managing environmental assets



- Stock-take of land, soil and water
- Assessment of production opportunities and environmental risks
- Response plan outlining specific actions – encourage annual review
- Farmer makes plan to meet farmer needs and resources



3 LEVELS



- **Level 1:** Farm Map – identify key strengths and weaknesses, Risk Assessment – series of Yes/No with options to address issues.
- **Level 2:** Land Management Units – break farm down into units and assess each unit within whole farm system
- **Level 3:** Builds on Land Management Units, uses LUC and soil survey data, develops Land & Environment Works Programme validated by a specialist.



www.beeflambnz.com/lep

HAWKES BAY

Farm Environment Management Plan



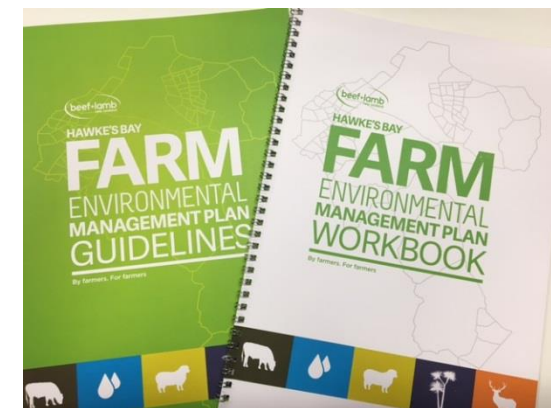
- Developed in late 2015, First workshop February 2016
- Number of workshops to date - 6
- Number of farmers to complete an FEMP - 20
- Number of farmers who have attended to date - 114



WHATS IN THE FEMP?



- Prepare a farm map
- Break the farm into land management units (LMU's)
- Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the property
- Nutrient Budget
- Environmental objectives
- Actions
- Implement, monitor and review



LESSONS FROM HAWKES BAY



- Getting farmers involved – this is how we help them meet compliance by inviting them to attend our workshops
- B+LNZ don't have the advertising resources to get the message out to every farmer to attend
- When working with the Council being clear on what both parties want to achieve

- B+LNZ are not a compliance outfit, but we will help farmers to achieve compliance
- Our levy payers are your rate payers and pay both sets of wages so we want a sustainable outcome
- It is not an easy task to get farmers to complete an FEMP in a workshop, however the more prepared they are when they come, the more likely they are to complete the plan

- Regular meetings with the Land Management Team to track progress and numbers completing an FEMP
- FEMP provider workshop provided by HBRC to update providers on key aspects of FEMP to focus on with farmers

- Collaboration, co-ordination, communication, compromise
- Encourage farmers to recognise and be proud of what environmental work that they have already completed on the farm

QUESTIONS



