

New Zealand

- Facts:
- 26.7 million ha total
 - 10.17 million ha agricultural land
 - 3 million ha forest and protected land
 - 5.2 million citizens
 - 5.83 million dairy cows: 17.5 billion Liters of milk
 - 10,400 dairy farms



Key topics around sustainable farming: Water quality, Drought, Climate

Findings:

What is Biodiversity?

- “The role of conservation land in mitigating impacts on other land”
- “Biodiversity is the breath of species and the right plant in the right place, including native bush, plantation forests, and pasture”
- “Biodiversity is the diversity in pasture, species, and trees, which provides ecosystem services like water filtration”

Why is Biodiversity important?

- “For the benefits of biodiversity in improving water quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions”
- “The importance of habitat for native species at the national level”
- “Biodiversity can contribute to carbon neutrality through practices like planting pine trees”
- “New Zealand farms are highly multi-functional, we miss the lack of recognition and rewards for biodiversity efforts”
- “We need to differentiate New Zealand's pastoral system from industrial agriculture to address negative consumer perceptions”
- “We need more trees and the potential benefits for animal welfare”
- “Because of the balance between the impact of dairy farming on water quality and the dependency on biodiversity”
- “Climate is still the primary driver for sustainability, but biodiversity is gaining importance”
- “The potential for product differentiation based on biodiversity is growing”

Farm Environment Award

The awards focus on various aspects such as water management, soil health, and climate resilience, showcasing farmers efforts. The competition starts at regional level, allowing farmers from different parts of the country to participate.

The Farm Environment Trust, funded by various sponsors.

Judges involved in the assessment are experts in their fields, offering valuable feedback to participants. The awards provide a platform for farmers to showcase their achievements and improvements in sustainable farming practices.

www.dairyindustryawards.co.nz

- “The importance of catchment-specific approaches, as actions on one farm can affect a wider area”
- “The challenges of measuring and reporting biodiversity, including aligning metrics with international standards”
- “We need to quantify existing actions and identify co-benefits”
- “It is important to have data to set meaningful roadmap for targets”

Interviewed People:

Richard McIntyre, Fed Farmers Board,
DairyNZ Board

Andrew Hoggard, Minister for
Biosecurity, Food Safety

Nicola Schadbolt, Professor of Farm &
AgriBusiness Management, Massey
University

Analise Davies, Senior Manager
Sustainability Strategy Fonterra

Alison Watters, Director Fonterra,
Sustainability

Are there biodiversity targets for the dairy sector?

- “The UN targets are already signed, but they need to be translated into practical measures for dairy farmers”
- “Local measures are essential, because biodiversity varies significantly across different regions”
- “Yes, New Zealand's commitment to the Paris Agreement and its national objectives for water quality”

How should Biodiversity must be rewarded?

- “Measurement should be granular, starting at the national level due to government control over land”
- “New Zealand's grass-fed image and food safety credentials contribute to higher milk prices”
- “We need more business-focused biodiversity initiatives to complement existing conservation efforts”
- “We already use drones to map vegetation and the ETS scheme for carbon credits”

What are the biggest challenges?

- “The visual benefits of reducing emissions are less noticeable than such as planting trees or hedges”
- “The challenges faced by farmers who prioritize biodiversity over production, leading to financial struggles”
- “The lack of specific biodiversity premiums from companies like Fonterra”
- “Criticizes the reliance on modelling systems, which often change and become less meaningful over time”
- “The election cycle for politics in New Zealand should be longer than every three years, providing a more stable and long-term perspective”
- “The self-driven approach in New Zealand contrasting it with the EU's approach to rewarding farmers for environmental practices”
- “Share milkers can enjoy the benefits of biodiversity but do not have the same level of control or investment in it”
- “Data to support sustainability efforts”
- “The need for clear metrics and data to set meaningful targets”



November 2023, Fonterra announced a target linked to emissions , 30% reduction business

50% reduction in total emissions by 2030 for manufacturing sites and a 30% reduction in emissions intensity per kilogram of milk for farmers.

7% from on-farm efficiency, 7% from new technology, 8% from sequestration (planting trees), and 8% from land use change.

<https://www.fonterra.com/nz/en/sustainability/planet/climate.html>

Farm Data Collection and Integration for farmers.

www.figured.com

Takeaways/advice

- Reward farmers for biodiversity efforts to encourage more sustainable practices.
- Support local catchment groups in providing advice and support for biodiversity initiatives.
- Stimulated planting trees as corridors rather than isolated pockets.
- Biodiversity initiatives can also improve water quality, making them beneficial for both ecosystems and farming practices.
- Stimulated not only the farmers, but also the land owners of the contractor and share milking farms.
- Organize the need for knowledge, expertise, and funding to support environmental improvements on farm Organize the need for knowledge, expertise, and funding to support environmental improvements on farms.

DairyNZ:

