

Caring dairying - An opportunity to enhance sustainable dairy farm management

Hamish Lowe ^A, Hugh Jellie ^B, Jenny Massey ^C, Jeremy Savage ^D

^A CPG NZ Limited, PO Box 562, Palmerston North

^B Dairy Concepts

^C HR2GO

^D McFarlane AgriBusiness

ABSTRACT

Large scale dairy farming operations require a range of collective skills to enable the functioning of a viable business. There has been a transition from family farming operations to large scale commercial farming enterprises which require a business approach to be adopted. The range of expertise required to optimise production is extensive, and the coordination of knowledge and conflicting views can be problematic.

The Caring Dairying Pilot project has been jointly established and funded by Dairy NZ, the Sustainable Farming Fund and Caring Dairying to allow the development of a professional services model to provide skills to farming businesses. This includes integration of the four key areas of human resources, farm production and animal husbandry, environment and infrastructure, and business and financial management.

Subject matter experts have been identified for each of the key areas, and their collective assessment of individual farming operations allows for rounded management and operational advice to be provided.

This paper reports on the initial development of the Caring Dairying Pilot concept, including the production of an impact report trialled on 8 pilot farms in Canterbury and Southland. The paper will concentrate on the Environmental and Infrastructure work, including land application of wastes, and how integration with the other key areas can assist with increasing farm production and delivering a sustainable farming operation.