



Conference “On-farm impacts of environmental policy”

Field trip: Irrigation, productivity and environmental stewardship

Wednesday 28 August

12.00 pm Bus pickup from Christchurch Airport
1.00 pm Bus pickup from Lincoln University (from APEN Conference venue)

John & Leo Donker’s dairy support farm near Burnham

The purpose of this field visit is to help delegates connect the research and policy development context of the NZARES Conference to the challenges and opportunities that these pose on-farm. The format will be interactive, with lead discussants initiating discussions among delegates on a range of topics as we tour the farm and surrounding area.

The 384ha farm currently operates centre pivot irrigation from groundwater. This is a typical situation in Canterbury and is also applicable to other irrigated parts of NZ. The specific location is within the Selwyn-Waihora Zone of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, where a collaborative process is nearing the stage of releasing a draft plan setting nutrient and water allocation limits. At the same time and also within the CWMS framework, Central Plains Water Ltd are seeking investor support for the development of stage 1 of an irrigation scheme that will eventually irrigate 60,000ha, while also reducing the groundwater abstraction pressure. These approaches are amongst those that have informed the recent Land and Water Forum process, and in the government’s recent *Freshwater Reforms: 2013 and beyond* document.

Specific topics and lead discussants are:

- the Canterbury Water Management Strategy and collaborative nutrient limit setting
Ian Brown, Environment Canterbury; Pat McEvedy, Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Chair
- future impacts on this farm of managing to limits
John & Leo Donkers, Farm Owners
- economics and policy settings for reducing over-allocation of water and nutrients
Simon Harris, Economist
- the future needs from the regulatory and industry extension systems.
Sue Cumberworth, The Agribusiness Group
- the economics of developing an irrigation scheme
Andrew Curtis, CEO Irrigation NZ; Derek Crombie, CEO, Central Plains Water Ltd

5.00 pm Return to Lincoln
6.00 pm Informal reception and dinner at the Famous Grouse Lincoln Hotel
(delegates own expense)

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