

# Farm Manager's Report

## Oromahoe Trust AGM 2018

Kia ora koutou katoa. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the Trustees and beneficiaries for the opportunity to take on the Manager's role here at Oromahoe Trust.

It was somewhat of a testing start, receiving a notice of direction (M.Bovis) just 12 weeks into the role. The direction basically meant that nothing could go on or off the farm without being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. That doesn't sound like too much of an inconvenience; but when you factor in that we have a State Highway running down the centre of the farm and every time you needed to cross from one side to the other to pick up that reel you left in K section, said vehicle or footwear had to be thoroughly cleaned first, it soon became a bit tedious. And here's where I have to thank our staff for their vigilance and dedication to following the restriction guidelines. This also meant that any stock that had to be moved from one side of the farm to the other had to be trucked; and the truck then had to be thoroughly washed down and disinfected. The one saving grace for us in the M.Bovis saga is that it happened during a relatively quiet period and not a huge amount of stock had to be trucked over the farm. Permits also had to be obtained when trucking any stock to the works. We also had to erect a temporary electric fence 1m off all boundary fences and lock all gate access to the property with accompanying signage that informed people the farm is a restricted access area. Thankfully after two rounds of successful testing the notice of direction has now been lifted and the farm can return to normal practices. We will however be leaving all signage in place and will continue to keep boundary gates locked and closed, to reduce any potential for other stock or traffic unknowingly entering the property.

With the day-to-day farming practices returning to normal we have been able to move forward with the conversion of F section into techno grazing. This area is currently characterised as being poorer hill country that has areas dominant in rats-tail and other poor cultivars. The aim is that with using the smaller cells over this part of the farm, it will allow for a greater grazing pressure to be put on the rats-tail and in turn will transform and lift the fertility of the area and at least double the production on this section. With the conversion of F section, we will also be fencing of the steeper parts of the area that are starting to slip away, restricting heavy stock movements and allowing for planting to reduce these areas eroding any further. In addition, the plantings will contribute to mitigating the greenhouse gas emissions of the farm and move towards achieving the Trust's objective of having a zero carbon footprint.

As some of you may be aware on the 21st March 2018 all of the residential buildings on the farm underwent a full "warrant off fitness" style inspection. From this we now have a full list of matters that range from needing urgent attention, moderate attention to others that fit within a 5 and 10 year management plan. Work is currently underway to address the urgent matters as we speak.

We also have a new staff member Dan McCready who came on board to take over my position when I moved onto the Manager's role. I am very pleased to say he is performing well. He is very motivated, time conscious in that he achieves tasks on or ahead of schedule and pays particular attention to detail.