

OROMAHOE 18R2B2B2 TRUST

Farm Managers Report for Annual General Meeting 2018-2019

Kia ora koutou katoa. Well what a year we've had.

As predicted the season started off with a drought, high temperatures and strong winds considerably slowed grass growth over the whole farm. Thankfully the previous year's supplemental feed stores paid dividends over this period. We did suffer one casualty during this time with the airstrip diesel pump catching fire due to heat build-up within the housing unit. We have since replaced this with a concrete floored corrugated shed and an electric pump. We will undoubtedly be making the same supplemental feed preparations this coming summer, with our soils already showing signs of weathering from the resulting dry winter and current high winds.

None the less our stock units remain in a healthy condition. We successfully completed ewe scanning on the 22nd of June with scanning percentages showing an increase from last year. This season our bulls have managed to keep and maintain consistent weight gains over what has been a relatively mild dry winter. Provided the weather gods continue to smile upon us, with a little more rain and warmer temperatures we are expecting to see them follow suit this coming summer. As a result of the drier weather we have been able to winter more bulls on average than usual for this time of year.

On Tuesday 6th July Johan Jooste from the Ministry for Primary Industries visited the farm for the purpose of a farm verification to confirm that we are showing evidence of following relevant farming practices and of having sufficient controls in place as declared in our Animal Status Declarations (ASDs). This essentially meant that he was checking on the relevant animal health & welfare practices, being followed on farm as per what we have stated. He also checked that all NAIT (National Animal Identification & Tracing) records are accurate and up to date, as well as all drench and antibiotics being stored, recorded and administered correctly and being appropriately locked away.

Independently from this standard review and subsequently from a bull purchased back in 2016, the farm has come under anew active surveillance for M. Bovis. This incident is completely unrelated and has no connection to the foregoing M. Bovis Notice of Direction received in 2018. We have been advised that presently MPI would like to carry out precautionary testing for the reason that they have traced an animal purchased in 2016 from a farm that is currently under a Notice of Direction to this farm. It's is relevant to note that to date, Mycoplasma Bovis has not been detected on around 95% of the farms placed under active surveillance and that testing is being carried out only as a precautionary measure, necessary to

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safeguard the productivity of our beef and dairy industries. We can continue with or normal day to day business.

The conversion of F section into techno grazing is nearing full completion with stock now grazing the vast majority of cells and a mere 7ha of steeper/slip prone area still requiring fencing. As expected with well managed stocking rates in this rats-tail dominated section of the farm, we are already seeing initial signs of it thinning in this poorer cultivar area.

The most sizable purchase this year aside from stock, has been the trade in of our John Deere Tractor for a 2019 Massey Ferguson. This purchase was required due to the costly repairs required to maintain the working order of the John Deere.

Tenancy requirements introduced this year has meant that all farmhouses have now be upgraded to meet the current living standards, with insulation being installed/upgraded in all ceiling cavities and underfloor.

As I'm sure you can see it has been an extremely busy year and on reflection our only pitfall has to date been employee issues. Staffing has proved to be our Achilles heel with two of our younger staff members leaving to pursue other interests further north. We have struggled to find suitable candidates to fill their positions, somewhat slowing down on farm progress as we are stretched a little thin. We have since hired a young farmer who will be trailed under a 90-day probation period.

In setting on farm goals and moving forward into 2020 we are hoping to focus more of our efforts on some areas such as the refencing and repair of all internal and boundary fences, the continued subdivision of larger paddocks and the upgrading of water supply in these areas and our continued endeavour to reduce our carbon footprint moving away for diesel water pump supply to electric along with increasing our replanting efforts.

Sam Kidd

(Farm Manager)