

# NEXT GENERATION NEEDED TO FEED THE WORLD

**Young, bright, passionate all-round high achievers are a few chosen words to describe the horticulture and agriculture scholarship winners we've celebrated over the years.**

The calibre of young people we've met through our scholarship programme has been remarkable - their passion and motivation for our industry is inspiring, and most have gone straight to paid employment in their chosen fields.

Our association has provided scholarships for students studying agriculture and veterinary science for almost two decades. Their backgrounds and reasons for choosing agriculture as a career are as varied as the goals they set out to achieve.

Some chose the career path to help others. Our 2014 scholarship winner, Yvette Jones was driven to work on solutions for horticulture when her friends were forced to move away from her hometown in the Bay of Plenty after the PSA virus decimated their kiwifruit crops. Some recipients were inspired by those already working in agriculture and the fascinating stories they had to tell; others saw the potential of science and sustainability working together, and those more business-minded individuals claimed agribusiness as their chosen pathway.

Common to them all is a passion for agriculture; and embracing it as a desirable career for the variety, job opportunities and experiences that come with it. Being outdoors and even the science lectures were considered highlights.

Our agricultural scholarship winners have moved on to established careers, from vine managers to nutrient specialists, business managers and consultants. Some went on to complete overseas scholarships before taking on management positions in New Zealand.

So, it was surprising to find out that fewer students were choosing to study horticulture and agriculture at a recent Animal and Plant Health NZ leadership forum.



**ATTRACTING NEW STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE OF AG WAS DISCUSSED AT THE RECENT LEADERSHIP FORUM**

## Inside this issue

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It raises a sense of unease for the future, especially given the trajectory of the primary industries. Now, more than ever, we need progressive, smart and educated individuals to help innovate and drive change for growers and farmers - to enable them to survive in a changing climate, during a time of increasing political interference and escalating consumer demands.

New Zealand is touted as the food basket of the world, but with intense regulation from governments – both here and overseas, people are needed to seek solutions to meet these demands and drive productivity in farming. With pressures to slash emissions, be productive and support the economy, New Zealand farming is in a vise. It must find solutions to producing more with less – using fewer resources, emitting less, and on less available land. Managing these pressures requires innovative thinking and ideas.

Farming industries are crying out for Bachelor of Agricultural Science students to keep abreast and help manage the myriad of issues the sector faces. High demand also exists for horticultural graduates to keep pace with our booming horticultural industry.

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**NZ universities have experienced a downturn in student numbers in recent years, resulting in too few agricultural and horticultural graduates to meet industry demands.**

Tragically, New Zealand universities have experienced a downturn in student numbers in recent years, resulting in too few agricultural and horticultural graduates to meet industry demands. Associate Professor in Weed Science at Massey University, Dr Kerry Harrington, suggests some causal factors for this downward trend. The Covid restrictions created difficulties for secondary

school students. New Zealand is also in a period of low unemployment combined with a high cost of living, so the temptation for people to be lured into earning an income versus studying and accumulating debt could be a contributing factor.

Despite there being no fees in the first year of study, the cost of university education is a major turn-off for many. Student allowances have barely increased in many years. Universities have had few funding increases which, in turn, affects future fee structures for students.



Another thorn in the side of agriculture is the negative publicity that the industry endures, especially around issues such as methane emissions and leaching of nutrients into waterways. Schools can also put students off studying ag, for similar reasons. But perhaps what they're missing is the pathway to solutions. Trained professionals are needed more than ever to help farmers modify their practices to ensure the continued sustainability of agriculture.

Studying agriculture or horticulture at university doesn't require a string of prerequisites. Secondary students interested in either degree must only have studied some sciences at secondary school. It's not obligatory to have studied agriculture or horticulture.

Studying from home is one way of tackling the increasing costs of tertiary education - as it can make it easier for students to work and keep costs down. This is becoming increasingly popular, says Harrington. Massey University and other universities have developed expertise in distance education over the last couple of years. The pitfall is that students miss social interactions, one of the highlights of university life.

Scholarships are more important than ever to convince more people to study horticulture, according to Harrington. “Some of the larger funding bodies such as DairyNZ and Beef + Lamb have stepped back from scholarships, just when help is badly needed with attracting students into these programmes.”

Agricultural graduates are essential for our primary industries, as people with the vital role of producing food seek to front-foot the various challenges and pressures affecting them - now and into the future. Schools, industry, parents and universities need to encourage more people into these fields of study to ensure that New Zealand can continue to feed the world and support our economy.

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## Take-aways from the leadership forum

- o NZ has a reputation for high-quality food, and overseas jurisdictions are impressed with our candor.
- o NZ supplies food to the top five percent - we're interested in their concerns and values. This market is Informed, progressive, interested in animal welfare, their own wellbeing, and sustainability.
- o If the EU farm to fork policies come to fruition, a net reduction of 10-15% of food will result, so EU will look to NZ to provide food.

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### Messages from the youth panelists

- o The next generation is going to live with the consequences of what's decided now, so we need to share knowledge and bring young people on the journey
- o Food and fibre industry needs to portray social licence to operate
- o Ensure young voices are heard
- o Share talent across industries



Our inaugural Leaders' Forum was held in September to promote industry leaders, share knowledge and develop initiatives to help shape the direction of agriculture in New Zealand.

### Someone needs to make a stand for farmers

Either farmers, politicians or scientists. We need a political champion, but politicians are scared.

### We need to get science back in the room

- o Pseudo-scientists are getting airtime and driving the public debate.
- o Real scientists are not getting platforms.
- o Industry faces an automatic perception of bias.

### Without glyphosate farmers lose crops

- o A third of crops are lost without glyphosate.
- o We need to demystify spraying and explain facts to the consumer.

### Feeding a growing population

- o In the 1950s we used 1.2 ha of land per person to grow food, now it's 0.8 ha per person and that's going to halve again. This is not achievable with manual labour alone.

### Integrated Pest Management is a challenge for farmers

- o There are too many 'recipes' on Integrated Pest Management doing the rounds.





**animal  
& plant  
health**  
NEW ZEALAND

## Summer Conference & field trip *Cultivating Change*

Nelson 16-17 February 2023



**Join us to celebrate innovation in the Nelson region, and be part of the discussions on the solutions to disruptive challenges for ag.**

At our conference in Nelson in February, we are focussing on innovation and adapting to our changing environment (not just climate change, but our regulatory, political, and perception bias challenges too – while also thinking about our social licence). Come and learn about the innovations in food and farming, and how they can help with the disruptions that agriculture is facing.

Guest speakers confirmed include Volker Kuntzsch Chief Executive of the Cawthron Institute, Nelson Mayor and ex politician Nick Smith, Agrecovery Chief Executive Tony Wilson, and Katie Asplin of Animal Medicines Australia.

Our afternoon panel will incite discussions, with its focus on innovations from a farming, science and environmental perspective.

Meat the Need founder and Vice-President of Federated Farmers, Wayne Langford will represent farming; former board member, Blake Mackie of Plant and Food Research will cover science innovations in food and farming; and Guy Salmon will share his thoughts on environmental perspectives.

This is a free conference for members.

The conference will conclude with a half day field trip the next day, with a behind the scenes tour of Pics Peanut Butter's manufacturing plant and an opportunity to engage with food innovators at the Food Factory.

Find out more about the conference, programme, speaker information, how to register and what to do in the Nelson/Tasman region on our [website](#).



# Trends in pet ownership



**Pet numbers continue to rise, with the global pandemic leading to a boom in pet adoptions.**

The latest [Companion Animals New Zealand report](#) claims that there are 4.4 million pets in the country, including: 850,000 dogs, 1.2 million cats, 120,000 rabbits, 70,000 horses and 1.37 million fish.

The dog population is growing faster than the human population, according to Infometrics, largely due to pandemic adoptions - with a 3.1 percent increase in 2021 and a further 2.4 percent increase in 2022 – growth results that far outstrip the 0.4 percent and 0.2 percent human population increase.

Of kiwi cat and dog owners, 74 percent and 78 percent respectively consider their companion animals to be members of the family.

Kiwi families have welcomed nearly 70,000 extra dogs into their homes in the past few years. Top dog status, at least as far as purebreds go, belongs to the labrador, followed closely by New Zealand's own breed, the huntaway.

## **Socio-economics affects pet ownership**

Three-quarters of higher-income households are likely to own a pet, compared to half of lower income households.

The three biggest barriers to pet ownership are:

1. an unsuitable home or lifestyle (37%)
2. living in rented accommodation where pets are not allowed (33%)
3. cost (30%).

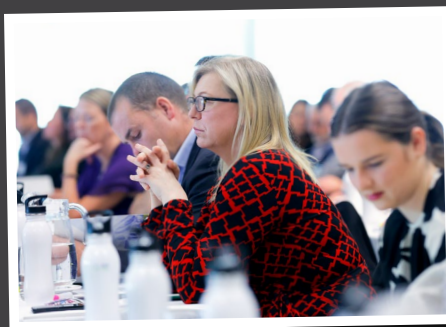
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**Kiwi families have welcomed nearly 70,000 extra dogs into their homes in the past few years.**





# Premier networking event: ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022







# Awards



At our Annual Conference in July, we celebrated some of the stars of our industry.

## Rafael Barbieri - Emerging Leader

Leading the discussion, challenging the status quo and providing innovative solutions comes naturally to Rafael Barbieri, Country Registration Manager for BASF, Animal and Plant Health NZ member and winner of our inaugural Emerging Leader Award.

Rafael takes the bull by the horns when asking the necessary questions of regulators - always aiming to raise the bar for robust regulatory outcomes that understand our industry's views.

“Rafael goes above and beyond to support our industry and our association - clarifying issues and providing expert advice on submissions and reports,” says Animal and Plant Health NZ Chief Executive, Mark Ross.

Rafael was honoured to be recognised and says there is still more work to be done.

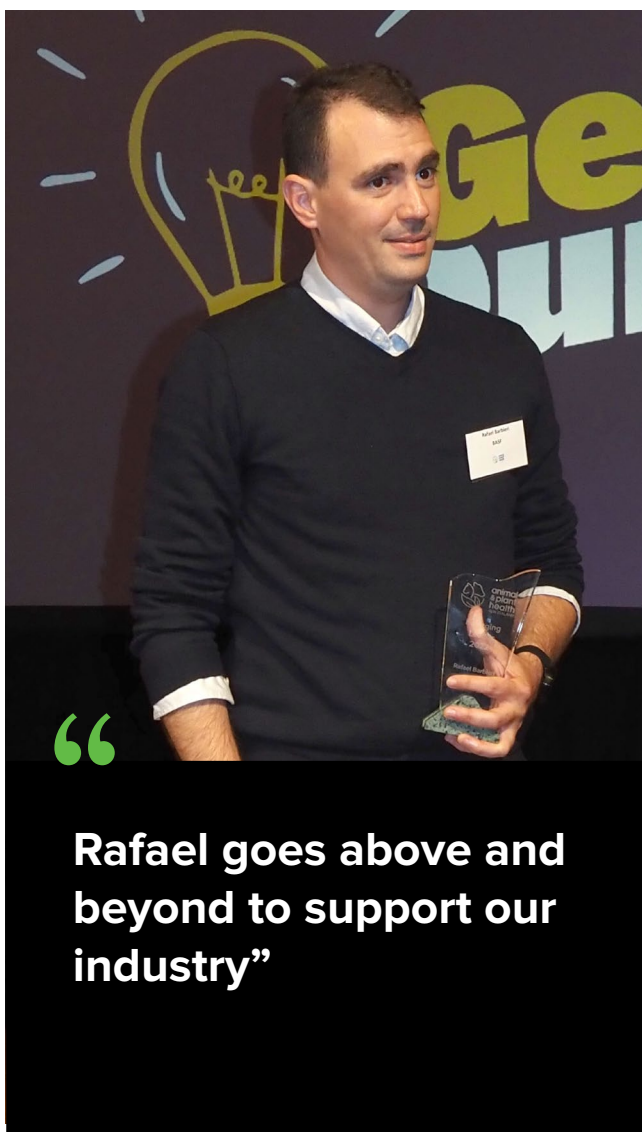
The food and fibre industry is facing challenging times. “The regulatory landscape has evolved and is a lot more complex nowadays. We need to advocate on behalf of science and risk-based approaches to enable the industry to flourish.”

Originally from Brazil, Rafael moved to New Zealand to complete his PhD at Victoria University, before working within the ACVM group at the Ministry for Primary Industries.

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**The Emerging Leader Award recognises a member whose leadership has positively contributed to our association.**

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**Rafael goes above and beyond to support our industry”**



# Awards



## Rebecca Fisher - Outstanding Contribution

With a background in agrichemical regulation and a knack for tapping into valuable government and industry intelligence to benefit members, Rebecca Fisher is a worthy recipient of the 2022 Animal and Plant Health NZ Outstanding Contribution award.

Rebecca has been an asset in her four years as a board member of our association – contributing at every level of the organisation, from offering innovative ideas and solutions to providing hands-on support to the team.

Rebecca is the Special Projects Manager for Horticulture NZ, and previously worked with crop protection companies and growers for Market Access Solutionz and within the ACVM group and at the Ministry for Primary Industries on crop protection product registrations.

She is driven to make it easier for growers to do what they do best – get on with growing, not red tape. She believes that reviewing the disabling

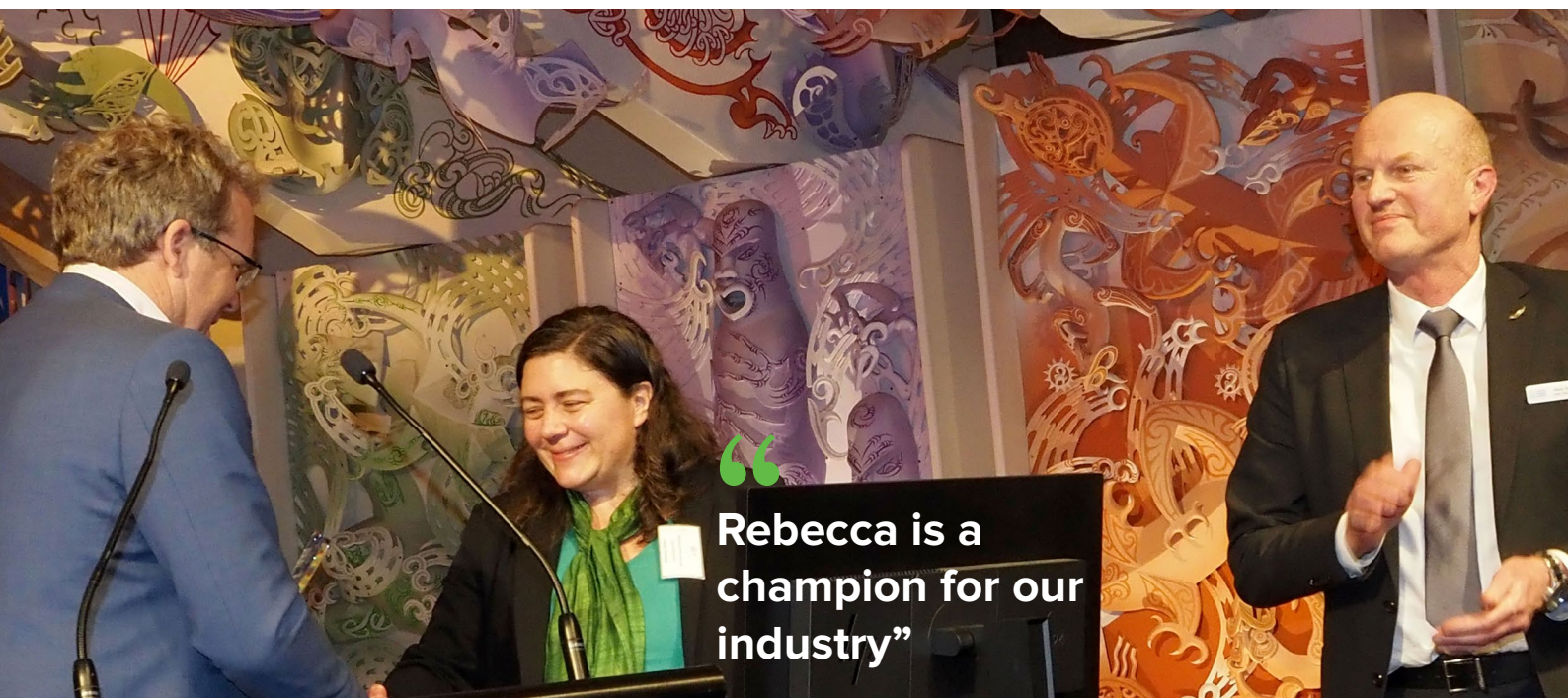
policy settings will empower New Zealand to be competitive in offering fruit and vegetables to locals, and the global market alike.

Rebecca is a leader for [women in horticulture](#) and is passionate about the sector.

She is a true champion of our industry.

Having grown up on a 50ha deer farm in Katikati, Rebecca went to university in Palmerston North to do a BSC major in Hort Science, working with kiwifruit, and strawberry picking during school and uni holidays. Rebecca was drawn to horticulture because it's about "growing healthy nutritious food for people."

"It's a wonderful career, with so many different career paths, and you meet passionate and inspiring people". They are supportive too, she enthuses, - sharing information, contacts or referring people into jobs or networks. There is also strong demand for people with a wide range of skills.



“Rebecca is a champion for our industry”

# Awards



Her career has given her “endless opportunities to be a part of meaningful change and exciting projects, and travel extensively around the globe”.

Some of the highlights of her career so far include representing NZ’s hort industry at five Codex committee meetings on pesticide residues in China, speaking to 250+ delegates at the Minor use Summit in Montreal, being Executive Manager of the citrus industry for five years, registering new actives and label claims for a range of crops, and helping growers register new crop protection tools.

## Dave Lunn - President’s Award

In recognition of Dave Lunn’s expertise and willingness to offer advice on the use of crop protection products, he was awarded our inaugural President’s Award.

As a leader in the field for more than 40 years, most recently as Programme Manager Exports Standards for the Ministry for Primary Industries, Dave’s contribution has been pivotal for enabling access to innovative products to manage pests and diseases.

Dave’s knowledge of agricultural practices, food safety, international trade, and regulations has been vital for the market access of New Zealand produce.

His international connections through the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues, Codex, World Trade Organization, and his work for horticulture and agriculture have enabled the growth of New Zealand exports. Dave is respected for his humble, down-to-earth, and practical approach as well as his commitment to, and expertise in, New Zealand’s primary sector.

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**The Outstanding Contribution Award recognises a member who supports the organisation through:**

- o **championing the needs of fellow members on industry issues;**
  - o **promoting the industry to the wider community;**
  - o **participating in working groups and sector committees;**
  - o **developing innovative ideas and solutions for industry good; and**
  - o **responding to secretariat requests for input into policy/submission development.**
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**This award recognises someone within the primary sector and/or government who has provided significant support to our members. The winner shows consistent rural sector support and ensures that our members are recognised for their key role within our economy and environment.**

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# Pricing ag emissions

**The Government's proposals on pricing agriculture emissions are not fit for purpose. It must prioritise the registration of new agrichemicals, animal medicines, inhibitors and other related innovations to mitigate climate change.**

A small portion of the \$340 million allocated to climate change mitigation research in the 2022 budget should be ring-fenced for accelerating the new product applications for crops/livestock that are currently 'stuck' in queues within the Ministry for Primary Industries and Environment Protection Authority assessor teams.

Mitigation, adaptation and resilience are crucial for tackling agricultural emissions. Keeping our animals healthy with animal medicines, improved breeding, and good farm management can help achieve this.

Read our [submission](#) on the proposals.



# Scholarships



## A tale of two Sarahs

**Veterinary science student Sarah Fannin and agricultural student Sarah Wilson have each been awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from Animal and Plant Health NZ to help their studies at Massey University.**

Born and bred on a sheep (Romney stud) and beef farm in the rural town of Taihape, Sarah Fannin has always desired a career in farming. Her family have farmed for over a century, fuelling her passion to be a production animal vet.

The third-year veterinary science student says her goal is to work alongside farmers. “I’m interested in the overall health of the herd.” The outdoors and each day being different also appeal.

If being a vet wasn’t on the cards, Fannin would have chosen another vocation in agriculture. “I come from a small town, and I’ve always seen myself coming back to a small town. I’m drawn by the community spirit.”

The 22 year-old says the win will ease her financial stress - as she can only work in weekends or during semester breaks at the Brown Sugar Café in her home town. “Every

spare moment, I’m studying or working,” she says. Paid employment will become more difficult due to her study workload and the veterinary placements she needs to do as part of her studies.

Fannin is dedicated to helping others, especially the disadvantaged. At Feilding High School, she helped junior students with their homework and dyslexic students with their reading. As part of the World Challenge Programme, she went to Costa Rica to help develop conservation and sustainability practices at a coffee plantation and to Nicaragua to help underprivileged children build the foundations for a library.

Animal and Plant Health NZ Chief Executive, Mark Ross, says the association is pleased to contribute towards the future of someone so dedicated to following her dream of becoming a vet.

“We were impressed with Sarah’s work ethic, her compassion, resilience and commitment to animal welfare,” Ross says.

Animal and Plant Health NZ offers two scholarships a year to support education and raise awareness of careers in related industries.

The scholarships are an example of industry initiatives led by Animal and Plant Health NZ to provide safe and sustainable animal health and crop protection technology and educate the community about the industry’s contribution.





# Scholarships



**Sarah Wilson says studying agribusiness is the best decision of her life.**

The 19 year-old attributes her enthusiasm to “an awesome ag school teacher, people working in the sector, and growing up in the heart of horticulture” in Te Puke - where she’s seen people in her part of the world “do cool things”.

The outbreak of the bacterial kiwifruit vine disease in 2011 gave her an appreciation of the tools needed to protect crops from harmful pests and diseases. The “sickening hum of chainsaws” echoed in the district as orchardists “chopped down their vines and consequently livelihoods”, says Wilson - who is now in the third year of an agribusiness degree.

“It is important that consumers understand the value of agrichemicals and the effort that the industry goes to in order to keep consumers safe,” says Wilson.

“Each product has been thoroughly researched and industry bodies are always looking at how they can use agrichemicals more efficiently”. Their value spans far beyond the orchard gate. “If we

cannot get our products to market due to pest and disease incursions, we have the potential for economic collapse”.

The student contemplated a career in business “as a safe option” before settling on agribusiness and horticulture. Reflecting on her choice, she says, “it’s the best decision of my life”, due to the extensive opportunities and “awesome career pathways”.

Once she’s completed her studies, Wilson wants to add value and make a positive difference to horticulture.

When she isn’t studying, Wilson leads the Massey Horticultural Society and works as a social media guru for Grassroots Media. She also completed a summer internship at Zespri, analysing product issue notifications from world markets, where she gained “insight into how a world leading company uses the innovation, research and development of the agrichemical sector to produce a quality product in a sustainable manner,” says Wilson.

As President of the Horticultural Society, she organises events that connect industry leaders with the students who might one day work with them. “I believe the events play an important role in encouraging Massey students to work in the industry where there is both a labour and skills deficit,” she says.

She loves sports including netball, basketball, and volleyball, although she’s had to “calm down on sport” during her studies.

Animal and Plant Health NZ Chief Executive, Mark Ross, says the association is pleased to contribute to the future of someone with so much enthusiasm for the primary industries.

“We were impressed with Sarah’s drive and the commitment she showed to enhancing the primary industries,” Ross says. “It’s clear that she will be an asset to the industry, and we wish her well with her career”.

# New members

We celebrate the new members who've joined us over the last eight months, including 10 manufacturing members, 2 distributors and 6 individual/corporate members.

## Manufacturers



A locally vet-owned supplier of production animal health products to veterinary clinics throughout New Zealand.

[agilis.nz](http://agilis.nz)



AgriHealth's mission is to help local vets help NZ farmers improve herd health and productivity. As a locally-owned animal medicines company, it uses kiwi drive and ingenuity to ensure vet medicines are used to best effect on NZ farms. Key focus areas include lifting in-calf rates, improving mastitis management to produce more milk of higher quality, reducing lameness, and cow and calf care.

[agrihealth.co.nz](http://agrihealth.co.nz)



Provides antiparasitics, nutritionals and antibacterials to veterinary practices, designed for New Zealand farming conditions.

[alleva.co.nz](http://alleva.co.nz)



A wholly NZ-owned business which produces teat spray, dairy detergents, mineral supplements and products for bloat control.

[deosan.co.nz](http://deosan.co.nz)



The team in NZ aims to deliver improved milk quality and can help optimise Clean in Place (CIP) performance through:

- o Custom solutions based on decades of CIP and udder health experience
- o Troubleshooting assistance
- o Support from scientists and experts

[en-nz.ecolab.com](http://en-nz.ecolab.com)



# New members



A New Zealand owned animal health company that develops and manufactures veterinary medicines for the agriculture sector.

Glenmark Veterinary Limited (GVL) works closely with veterinarians and feed suppliers to provide product support to farmers.

[glenmarkvet.com](http://glenmarkvet.com)



Sipcam Australia's parent company, Sipcam Oxon, is a large, privately owned chemical manufacturing company based in Italy. It was founded in 1946 with a charter to become a commercial link between chemical research and the expanding requirements of agricultural markets worldwide.

Today, the Sipcam-Oxon Group is a global leader in the manufacture of farm chemistry. It is one of the world's largest manufacturers of triazine herbicides, chlorothalonil and is a basic manufacturer of a number of other key molecules.

[sipcam.com.au](http://sipcam.com.au)



Supplier of crop protection and animal health products in New Zealand, focussing on solutions to combat weed, disease and insect pest problems in crops and pasture.

[orionagriscience.co.nz](http://orionagriscience.co.nz)



A New Zealand owned and operated manufacturer and distributor of animal health and animal care products for the veterinary profession. The product range includes nutritional animal supplements, calf scour products and treatments, productivity enhancing products, along with a range of sanitation and herd hygiene solutions – varying in size from sachets to 1,000 litre IBCs.

[vetpak.co.nz](http://vetpak.co.nz)



Virbac offers a wide portfolio of products for veterinary surgeons, nurses, farmers and pet parents.

[nz.virbac.com](http://nz.virbac.com)

# New members

## Distributors



Supplies vaccines and veterinary immunology products to the poultry industries in New Zealand and the South Pacific, and provides advice on the use of immunological veterinary products.

[pacificvet.co.nz](http://pacificvet.co.nz)



An independent New Zealand distributor established over 38 years ago, offering quality animal health care products for production, equine and companion animals.

[phoenixvet.co.nz](http://phoenixvet.co.nz)

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## Associate members



BioCell Corporation is a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) approved New Zealand biotechnology company. It contract manufactures a wide range of vaccines and sterile injectables – formulating, trialling and registering new products, as well as providing additional services such as packing, filling and product regulatory documentation.”

### **Gina de Nicolo, Animal Pharma NZ Ltd**

Veterinary and clinical research

[animalpharma.nz](http://animalpharma.nz)

### **Michelle Hickman, Cohesive Office and Regulatory Services**

Michelle runs a consultancy targetting minor variation applications, additional manufacturing sites and change to co-formulants (excipients).

### **Jeff Smith, Ahikouka Consulting Ltd**

Jeff is the Technical Lead for the agroecology projects of the SFFF Programme: A Lighter Touch, through Horticulture NZ.

Jeff joined Animl and Plant Health NZ to keep abreast of activities, work with us and connect with the wider industry to address common issues.

[a-lighter-touch.co.nz](http://a-lighter-touch.co.nz)

### **Jason Smith, Horteye**

Jason is the director of Nelson-based Horteye Ltd, a horticulture consulting and research company.

### **Pasture First Research**

An independent contract research company, providing scientific field research studies to the seed, agrichemical and fertiliser industries in NZ and Australia.

[pasturefirst.co.nz](http://pasturefirst.co.nz)

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**[aphanz.co.nz](http://aphanz.co.nz)**