



**New Zealand Farm
Environment Trust®**

Championing Good Farming Practices

Annual Report 2023





The New Zealand Farm Environment Trust is a charity established to champion farming and growing practices that protect and enhance the environment for all.

Contents

Chair & GM's Report	4
Looking Ahead	6
Board of Trustees	8
Recognising our Support Base	9
Treasurer's Report	10
Financial Report	12

Chair & GM's Report

This annual report is prepared by the Chair and General Manager for the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust (Trust) and covers the year to 30 June 2023.

During the year the Trust has continued with its mission to promote sustainability through championing good farming and growing practice. The dramatic effects of cyclones Hale and Gabrielle, as well as the ongoing impact of the Covid pandemic, have highlighted the importance of sustainable food and fibre production and the significance of the sector to New Zealand.



JOANNE VAN POLANEN
Chair



SARAH HARRIS
General Manager

Trust Board

The Trust Board welcomed Sarah Harris to the General Manager role in November 2022. The Board is confident that Sarah will continue to move the Trust forward bringing strong leadership and new energy to the organisation.

The Trust wishes to acknowledge four Trustees who retired from the Board during the year. Michael Jamieson, who was appointed in 2016, Mike Scarsbrook, who was elected in 2017 and held the role of Treasurer for his Trustee term, David Boone, who was appointed in 2019 and provided Regional Council representation, and Mark Brough, who was elected in 2020. The Trust wishes to thank Michael, Mike, David and Mark for the time, energy and commitment they have given their Trustee roles.

Earlier this year the Board completed an appointment process focussing on farmer and grower representation, succession, skills and experience. A trustee skills matrix has been developed and implemented to ensure the Board maintains a balance of skills into the future and an Appointment Committee has been working to support the appointment of four trustees.

National Sustainability Showcase

After Covid-related disruptions impacted activities early in the year, the Trust was delighted to finally complete the 2021/22 season with its National Sustainability Showcase in November 2022. The event, held in Christchurch for the first time in many years at the newly completed Te Pae Convention Centre, was stunning and our community was elated to be able to bring our Regional Supreme Winners together for the first time in over 18 months. The buzz of networking in the room was a testament to the value of these gatherings.

Just a few short months later in May, the Trust hosted its 2023 National Sustainability Showcase. Running two national showcase events in six months was a mammoth undertaking for the team and the Trust would like to acknowledge the efforts made by all in this achievement. Within this short space of time, we have celebrated two cohorts of Regional Supreme Winners and Trust Ambassadors, helping us to champion good farming and growing practices.

The 2023 Showcase re-established itself as a "must attend" for the who's who of the primary industry, and was a sold-out event. The evening provided a valued platform for celebration and showcasing NZ food and fibre producers as global leaders evident through our Regional Supreme Winner stories. In addition, the networking opportunities for agribusiness professionals, community leaders and representatives from regional and national governments proved valuable. We are looking forward to hosting the 2024 Showcase back in the Waikato.

Congratulations to all Regional Supreme Winners and to the recipients of the 2022 Gordon Stephenson Trophy, the Everest Family from Canterbury, and 2023 Gordon Stephenson Trophy, the Nicholls from Otago.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards

The Ballance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA) continue to be the key programme run by the Trust.

We have placed a lot of emphasis on strengthening the regional programme. A review of the regional committees and contracts will serve to ensure seamless and smooth succession into the future.

To assist this a BFEA Regional Committee Charter has been developed, including a Committee Member Code of Behaviour. The Trust would like to thank Environment Canterbury, Governance NZ and the Regional Committees for their input into this process. The Charter aims to support committees to deliver and uphold effective governance.

The Regional Awards functions and Open Days (field days) provided the Trust and BFEA committee, sponsors and partners the opportunity to network and achieve our vision of celebrating sustainability through championing good farming practice.

This year there were ten Regional Awards functions held. In total 1260 people attended the regional ceremonies and over 1500 attended the regional Open Days. In addition, 350 attended the 2023 National Sustainability Showcase.

Regional Teams

There have been six Regional Chair changes. We farewelled, Jo Carr and Claire Bekhuis (co-chairs for Bay of Plenty), Alison Worth (Waikato), Steve Wyn-Harris (East Coast), Bede Kissick (Taranaki), Derek Daniell (Greater Wellington), and Janet Gregory (Canterbury). We thank them all for their dedication and commitment to the BFEA programme. We welcome all the new Chairs and look forward to working with them through 2024 and beyond.

The Judging Coordinators and Regional Coordinators have also seen some change. A special thanks to Regional Coordinators Liz Stolwyk and Becci Lampard, and Judging Coordinators Russell Plank, Sheila Russell, Paul Evans, Mary Hopkins, Abby Moseby and Julia Christie for all the dedication and hard work through their time in their respective roles. All the roles have been filled and we are excited to have a new team of coordinators as we head into 2024.

Sponsors and Partners

The Trust is very appreciative of the ongoing commitment and support of our family of BFEA Award Sponsors and National and Regional Trust Partners. This year we had new partners join the Trust – Landpro, Goldpine, UBCO Bikes and Performance Beef Breeders.

At a regional level, the NZFET has agreements in place with 11 regions (11 Regional Councils and one District Council) who share the Trust's commitment to sustainable farming and growing. The Trust values the important contribution that Regional Councils provide to the Ballance Farm Environment Award programme. Over the year, we have focused on strengthening the connection with our sponsors and partners, and this will continue to be an area of focus into the future.

As we reflect on a busy year, we are grateful to all those who contribute to the smooth running of our Trust programmes across the country. The passion and enthusiasm evident among our wider Trust and BFEA family elevates our work within the primary sector, and we look forward to continuing to promote sustainability through championing good farming and growing practice with your support in the coming year.

Joanne van Polanen

Sarah Harris

Looking Ahead

After four years of disruption, the Trust is looking forward to a return to its normal annual programme.

Strategy review

Early next year the Board will undertake a strategy review. This will look to shape the Trust's direction into the future to ensure we remain current and are well placed to progress our Mission of championing farming practices that protect and enhance the environment for all.

Trust Board appointments

The coming October sees the commencement of a new triennial term for three elected trustee positions. Ahead of this, there will be a call to our grassroots community seeking candidates who may be interested in being involved at the trustee level. The election processes ahead will involve nominations by our Regional Chairs and our Regional Committees and interested parties will be invited to put their names forward.

Alumni

A small working group representing the Alumni (former BFEA RSWs) has been established to work with the Trust when required. In the coming year, the GM will continue to work closely with this group on a dedicated project to further connect our Alumni with the Trust.

Regional Ambassador Programme – Farming for the Future

Farming for the Future is a Trust initiative piloting the opportunity for some of our Trust's Regional Ambassadors (a select group of our Alumni) to visit other regions to share their stories and insights into environmental sustainability. MPI's On Farm Support Team partnered with the Trust in this initiative, with the regional events providing an opportunity for connection and networking among farming and growing communities.

Board of Trustees



JOANNE VAN POLANEN
Chair



TERRY OLSEN
Treasurer



DAVID BOONE
Secretary



MARK BROUGH



WARWICK CATTO



BRENDON CROSS



MICHAEL JAMIESON



MIKE SCARSBROOK



KATE TAYLOR

Notes.

Michael Jamieson and Mike Scarsbrook finished their terms in October 2022, with Brendon Cross being elected to join the board at this time. David Boone and Mark Brough both finished as Trustees in May 2023 after seeing through the 2022/23 season.

Recognising our Support Base

The Trust is grateful of the generous support that it continues to receive from its partners.

We would like to thank our sponsors and partners for their ongoing generosity and support. We look forward to continuing to work together to promote sustainable farming and to showcase the country's amazing farmers and growers.

We would also like to acknowledge our regional teams who remain the bedrock of the organisation. It is the contribution made at the grassroots, with passion, humility, knowledge and good humour, which makes the work of the Trust, including the BFEA programme, such a success.

NATIONAL SPONSORS



NATIONAL PARTNERS



REGIONAL PARTNERS





Treasurer's Report

It is my pleasure to be reporting on the financial results of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust for the year ended 30 June 2023.

These accounts carry an unqualified independent audit certificate.

The New Zealand Farm Environment Trust recorded a surplus of \$89k for 2022/23. This result has been as a consequence of managing income and expenses across two years (from July 2021 to June 2023), with several activities from the 2022 season being delayed into the 2023 financial year. Income in advance was recorded between 2022 and 2023 to allow for delayed regional functions and the delayed national programme. The combined result for the last two financial years saw a loss of \$18k, which was achieved through prudent expenditure in the context of lower season-related income.

In 2022/23, total revenue was \$1,229k compared to \$686k in 2021/22, which included \$352k of income in advance from the 2022 year to the 2023 year. Total expenses increased from \$792k in 2021/22 to \$1,140k in 2022/23. This increased expenditure reflected the delayed 2022 events held in 2023.

For the year ahead, the Trust is anticipating a further deficit that will be funded out of reserves.

I would like to acknowledge the significant in-kind contribution made to the activities of the Trust. Many organisations and volunteers have contributed a huge amount of time and energy to support running the Ballance Farm Environment Awards because they are passionate about sustainable farming and growing. I would also like to thank the Trust's bankers ANZ, accountants PKF Hamilton and auditors Smith + Jack Chartered Accountants.

Terry Olsen
Treasurer, New Zealand Farm Environment Trust



Financial Report

Financial Performance

	2022/23	2021/22
Revenue		
Revenue from providing goods and services	1,204,116	679,846
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	21,754	5,703
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	2,890	
Total Revenue	1,228,760	685,550
Expenses		
Costs related to providing goods or services	1,068,630	739,705
Other expenses	71,119	52,523
Total Expenses	1,139,749	792,228
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	89,011	(106,678)

The New Zealand Farm Environment Trust is a Charitable Trust incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 and a registered charity under the Charities Act 2005.

The summarised financial figures provided here have been extracted from the audited financial statements of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust as audited by Smith + Jack Chartered Accountants. A full copy of the financial performance report may be supplied on request.



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www.nzfetrust.org.nz

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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