



**New Zealand Farm
Environment Trust®**

Championing Good Farming Practices

Annual Report 2024





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

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Chair & General Manager'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 2024.

"As I look back on my first year as Chair of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust, I am filled with a deep sense of pride and gratitude for the incredible work accomplished by our team, partners, and the wider farming community. This role has allowed me to engage more closely with the regional awards and it has been a privilege to witness the outstanding commitment to sustainable farming practices throughout New Zealand." — Brendon Cross, Chair



BRENDON CROSS
Chair



SARAH HARRIS
General Manager

Engaging with Regional Awards

One of the highlights of the year has been the opportunity to attend the regional awards across the country. These events are a testament to the innovative and resilient spirit of New Zealand farmers and growers, who are constantly seeking to improve their environmental stewardship while maintaining the productivity and profitability of their land. Meeting these dedicated individuals and hearing their stories has reinforced the importance of the Trust's mission and the impact we can have on the future of New Zealand's primary industry.

This year also marked a significant milestone with the celebration of 21 years in Canterbury and 20 years in Otago, highlighting the enduring commitment of these regions to the BFEA programme.

The number of entries remained strong through the regions, with a total of 65 sheep, beef, dairy, arable and growing operations represented across 10 regions.

The Regional Committee Charter, including a Committee Member Code of Conduct, continues to guide the regions in the governance of the Ballance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA). The Chairs have seen one change for the year (Northland), and have benefited from coming together on a quarterly basis, which has created a supportive network for collaboration and new initiatives. The regional coordinators and judging coordinators have also seen changes. The vast volunteer base and our contracted coordinators are the heart of our regions, and we are very thankful for the passion and hours of dedication they bring to the programme.

The Role of our Trustees

A special thank you to Joanne van Polanen, who stepped down as Chair of the Trust in October. Joanne had a long involvement with the Trust, starting as the Canterbury BFEA judging coordinator before joining the Trust Board in 2010. She brought her passion for the primary industry to both of these roles, and we are incredibly grateful for her dedication over the years.

We were delighted to welcome Rex Anderson, Rick Mannering, Karen Williams and Fiona Young to the board in August 2023.

Our trustees bring a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the agricultural sector. Their commitment to the Trust's mission is evident in their active participation in guiding our strategic direction, overseeing our programmes, and ensuring that we remain true to our core values of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

The trustees work behind the scenes providing valuable insights, fostering key relationships, and supporting the team in every aspect of their work. The trustees' leadership and vision are essential in navigating the complexities of our mission and ensuring that we continue to make a positive impact on the New Zealand farming and growing community.

A review of the Trust Deed was a significant focus over the past 12 months. A key driver behind this review was to ensure the Trust Deed remains current with laws and regulations and better reflects board and governance structure requirements. It also provided us with an opportunity to ensure our mission and strategic focus were accurately reflected in our guiding document.

Sponsorship and Support

Our success this year relied on the continued support from our sponsors and partners. The Trust's ability to function and thrive depends on these relationships, and we extend our deepest thanks to all our supporters. We particularly acknowledge Ballance Agri-Nutrients for their unwavering support. Their commitment to sustainable farming and growing aligns perfectly with our values, and their sponsorship has been instrumental to our work. We are grateful for their trust in our mission and for their partnership in advancing sustainable practices.

Promoting Sustainable Farming & Growing

Our team has continued to work tirelessly to promote sustainable farming and growing. This commitment is reflected in our awards, and other educational and outreach programmes. Sustainability is essential for the future of our industry and communities. We are proud of the strides we have made in raising awareness and fostering innovation in this critical area.

This year, with the backing of MPI's On Farm Support team, we piloted a new programme, (Farming for the Future), in four BFEA regions — Canterbury, East Coast, Auckland and Greater Wellington. Farming for the Future has a dual purpose: sharing sustainability stories with a wider audience and developing leadership and ambassadorial skills for our BFEA Regional Supreme Winners, who form an integral part of our alumni network.

We have expanded our media relationships to increase the reach of farmer and grower stories and boost brand awareness. We have increased our social media presence, with active BFEA Facebook pages in all 11 regions and Trust profiles on Facebook and Instagram. These platforms allow for greater reach with regional content. As these regional pages continue to grow, they will become valuable mechanisms for sharing stories and building community around the BFEA programme.

National Sustainability Showcase Success

The year culminated in a very successful National Showcase, where we celebrated the achievements of the best and brightest in New Zealand farming and growing. The event was a remarkable demonstration of what is possible when passion, innovation, and a commitment to the environment come together.

The evening serves as a prestigious platform for New Zealand's primary industry leaders to come together, celebrate achievements, and highlight food and fibre producers as global leaders. It provides valuable networking opportunities for farmers, growers, agribusiness professionals, community leaders, and representatives from regional and national governments, all of whom play a crucial role in the primary sector.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the 2024 Regional Supreme Winners who were recognised at the Showcase. They embody the future of New Zealand's primary industry, inspiring us all through their stories, dedication and achievements. A special congratulations to the Guild and Dunbar families of High Peak Station who were named as recipients of the Gordon Stephenson Trophy – a well-deserved achievement and a reflection of hard work and dedication over many years.

Brendon Cross

Sarah Harris

Looking Ahead

With the disruptions of recent years behind us, the Trust continues its mission of shining a spotlight on the inspiring stories of sustainable farming and growing, celebrating the people and practices leading the way toward a more resilient future.

As we move forward, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust. We are at a pivotal moment in the evolution of farming practices, where the integration of sustainability into every aspect of farming is not just a possibility but a necessity. The Trust will continue to play a key role in this transformation, supporting farmers and growers in their journey toward more sustainable practices and celebrating their successes along the way.

The Trust continues to be committed to showcasing great farming and growing stories, working with our sponsors and partners to tell these stories within both the rural and urban sectors. We will maintain a strong focus on inspiring the broader New Zealand audience through a dedicated marketing strategy. Partnering with the NZ Food Story will once again offer an exceptional platform to assist us with this.

Board of Trustees



BRENDON CROSS
Chair



TERRY OLSEN
Treasurer



FIONA YOUNG
Secretary



REX ANDERSON



WARWICK CATTO



RICK MANNERING



KATE TAYLOR



KAREN WILLIAMS



JOANNE VAN POLANEN

Board Members From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Rex Anderson, Rick Mannering, Karen Williams and Fiona Young joined the board in August 2023.

Joanne van Polanen (former Chair) completed her final term in October 2023 and was succeeded by Brendon Cross in the position of Chair.

Recognising our Support Base

The Trust is grateful for 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 present the financial results of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust for the financial year ending 30 June 2024.

The Trust's accounts have received an unqualified independent audit certificate.

For the 2023/24 financial year, the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust recorded a surplus of \$46,000. This outcome reflects the combined efforts of both the national team and the regions, with regions generating additional income and managing costs effectively in a challenging financial environment.

Financial Performance Overview

Total revenue:

- \$1,068,000 (2023/24), compared to \$1,249,000 (2022/23)

Total expenses:

- \$1,023,000 (2023/24), down from \$1,140,000 (2022/23)

While the Trust achieved a surplus this year, we are forecasting a deficit for the 2024/25 financial year, which will be funded from our reserves.

Acknowledgements

I would first like to thank the service providers who contributed to the preparation and review of the Trust's financial accounts:

- PKF Hamilton – accounting services
- Smith + Jack Chartered Accountants – audit services

Finally, the Trust extends special thanks to the many organisations and volunteers whose contributions have been instrumental to its activities. Their passion, energy, and time have made the Ballance Farm Environment Awards a success. Their commitment to sustainable farming and environmental stewardship is truly valued, and their ongoing support is deeply appreciated.

Terry Olsen
Treasurer, New Zealand Farm Environment Trust



Financial Report

Financial Performance

	2023/24	2022/23
Revenue		
Revenue from providing goods and services	1,042,146	1,224,116
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	17,352	21,754
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	8,896	2,890
Total Revenue	1,068,394	1,248,760
Expenses		
Costs related to providing goods or services	971,966	1,068,630
Other expenses	50,545	71,119
Total Expenses	1,022,510	1,139,749
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	45,884	109,011

Notes

1. Analysis of Revenue

Revenue from providing goods and services includes: national sponsor income, national partner income, regional partner income, regional sponsor income and income from ticket sales (regional function/national showcase).

2. Analysis of Expenses

Costs related to providing goods and services include: national personnel and related expenses, regional coordination expenses (including contractor fees), regional award expenses, communications and public relations expenses, prizes for regions, national award expenses, national coordination expenses, national showcase expenses, meeting expenses and project expenses.

Other expenses include: accounts and audit, administration, governance expenses, professional services, insurance and depreciation.

3. Prior Period Adjustment

Sponsorship for the 2023 Leadership Summit was not accrued as a receivable for the 2023 financial year. This has been included as a prior period adjustment for the 2023 comparatives. The impact of this adjustment is to increase the 2023 project income, surplus, accounts receivable and accumulated funds by \$20,000.



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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