

# news 7.

## Adding to the toolbox

**The response to the recent Hurunui District Landcare Group's 'Adding to Toolbox' women's event was overwhelmingly positive, with a great mix of rural women coming together to socialise, be inspired and to learn.**

Adding to the day was a fantastic lunch prepared by the Greta Valley School (see beef recipe below) with bubbles provided by Allan Scott wines.

The highly entertaining and engaging Two Raw Sisters were first up. They inspired the crowd with their plant-based recipes - including a Lime Miso Noodles and Broccoli Salad and Condensed Milk Caramel Slice and challenged us to think about vegetables as the heroes of our meals rather just as a complement to meat and fish.

## Spreading the regulatory load

**Catchment Farm Advisor Rebecca Hyde was joined by Waiau farmer Tracey McDonald to talk about the regulatory environment farms are now operating under and ways in which partners can support the Farm business.**

Rebecca pointed out that farmers were facing an overwhelming number of new regulations and it was difficult to know where to start. BUT everyone has a skill set they can add to the business.

*"A good plan now is better than a perfect plan later".*

*So what is behind this tsunami of regulations?*

- **The RMA - the driver of regulation**
- Sitting under the RMA are **National Environment Standards** and **National Policy Statements**.

**National Environment Standards** come directly out of Government and provides a unified set of rules eg Intensive Winter Grazing Rules.

**National Policy Statements** are a framework and a direction set by Government which Regional Councils then have to make plans and implement them eg; The National Policy Statement on Fresh Water.

## First Steps

### Gather information

Farmers need to demonstrate that they know their farm better than E.Can, the Government or any other regulatory organisation.

There is a lot of farm information now required beyond the farm gate including for farm assurance programmes, supply contracts, business plans, regulatory requirements such as health and safety and employment contracts.

Tracey McDonald says she always ensures she is present and part of conversations with the many agribusiness professionals who come on to the farm. These include bankers, livestock agents, fertiliser reps etc. This way she knows what is going on in the business and aware of any requirements for information.



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Farm Resources -  
Repositories Of Farm Information

These include;

- |  |   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Farm Environment Plans</li><li>■ Farm Maps</li><li>■ Winter Grazing Plans</li><li>■ Nutrient Budgets</li><li>■ GHG Number and Plan</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Land Use Capability Maps</li><li>■ Biodiversity Assessments</li><li>■ Carbon Assessments</li><li>■ Irrigation Reports</li></ul> |
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Tracey has found the Land Use Capability Map to be particularly valuable. It is a central repository of a huge mount of detailed farm information.

Social Media - a good way to stay informed and keep up-to-date

Examples to follow on social media are:

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Hurunui District Landcare Group</li><li>■ NZ Landcare Trust</li><li>■ DairyNZ</li><li>■ Beef + Lamb New Zealand Northern South Island</li><li>■ Federated Farmers North Canterbury</li><li>■ Hurunui Biodiversity Trust</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Farmers Weekly</li><li>■ The Country</li><li>■ Managing Wetland as an Asset</li><li>■ Silver Fern Farms</li><li>■ Freshwater Online</li><li>■ Farming Mums NZ</li></ul> |
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Stay in the Loop

Set up a farm email address or, as a farming partner, get your email address added to membership organisations to ensure you also receive emails and newsletters.

Share the load of the farm related emails. Many of these can be dealt with by the farming partner (Tracey takes care of 95% of the farm related emails and then has the remaining 5% lined up for her husband to deal with at night).

As a farming partner - see yourself as another communication channel into the farm.

Farm Map

As a landcare group, HDLG organise farm maps for members.

These are a hugely valuable farm management tool which can be used in a number of different formats for a number of uses (contractors, farm staff, visitors, compliance, planting programmes etc).

Below are examples of a printed map and whiteboard - contact your CFA for more information



## Take Photos

Photos are becoming increasingly important. Photos can be used as evidence and are an easy way to prove practice change or record changes over time.

When walking or driving around the farm, take the opportunity to take photos of winter grazing (better for you to have the evidence - both good and bad), waterways, storage facilities, stock crossings, good and bad practices (better for you to have the evidence).

Don't underestimate the value of photos!

## Winter Grazing Plans

These will help the farmers identify any risks associated with their grazing practices and have plans in place to mitigate them.

HDLG and Beef + Lamb New Zealand have templates available to help put together a winter grazing plan. They can be very simple or more detailed, they just need to capture how stock will be managed to reduce risk to the environment while ensuring high standards of animal welfare are maintained. A plan can be shared with the farm team so everyone knows what is required when intensively grazing winter forage crops.

## GHG Number

Under He Waka eke Noa (which is the primary sector partnership formed as an alternative to farming entering the Emissions Trading Scheme) all farms need to have calculated their greenhouse gas emissions number by the end of 2022. They also need to have developed an action plan to reduce their emissions number by 2025.

The key driver of your ghg number is stock numbers.

Tracey keeps a record of stock numbers at the start of each month, working off invoices so she knows at any given time how many stock is on their farm.

## Planting Sites

Often a female part of the business takes the lead in planting trees for environmental, biodiversity and aesthetic benefits. Trees can also generate a profit under the ETS. Work required includes;

- Site preparation and maintenance
- Applications and grants for planting (HDLG can help with this)
- Liaising with contractors
- Setting up stock exclusion
- Taking photos
- Updating the Farm Environment Plan

Through HDLG, Tracey was put in contact with a carbon and ETS expert who came and assessed the farm and offered advice about a planting programme. The information from this assessment was used in a submission for funding from the Ministry for Primary Industries. The McDonald's Land Use Capability Map was useful to determine where to plant poles to help with land stabilization.

## Other opportunities to support the business

- Attend workshops and webinars (such as those run by HDLG, B + L NZ and DairyNZ)
- Gather weather station information (this will be available from HDLG-funded weather stations)
- Draw up and implement a farm Health and safety plan
- Keep biodiversity records (this could include regular bird counts - which is a requirement of some farm assurance programmes).
- Keep a macroinvertebrate community index. These are indicators of water quality and overall stream health (talk to a HDLG Catchment Farm Advisor).
- There are numerous farm-related courses available - do what interests you!
- Tracey McDonald started a Diploma in Primary Industry Business Management which she has found invaluable, but she also attended a Silver Ferns
- Farms Know Your Number (ghg) workshop, worked through various on-line learning modules on the B + L NZ Health and Safety Workshops.

## More regulations to come!

### Coming down the pipeline are

- Freshwater Farm Plans
- National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
- GHG
- Farm Assurance Programme Premium Plus

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Make use of the support offered by HDLG through the Catchment Farm Advisors. They offer one-on-one advice to members irrespective of where they are on their environmental management/regulatory compliance journey.

Other organisations that offer information and or events include:

- 🚩 Beef and Lamb New Zealand | <https://beeflambnz.com/>
- 🚩 DairyNZ | <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/>
- 🚩 Hurunui District Landcare Group | <https://hurunuilandcaregroup.co.nz/>
- 🚩 NZ Landcare Trust | <https://www.landcare.org.nz/>
- 🚩 Hurunui Biodiversity Trust | <https://www.hurunuibiodiversity.org/>
- 🚩 Environment Canterbury-Farmers' Hub | <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/farmers-hub>

## BALSAMIC ROAST BEEF

SERVES 4-6 | TO PREP 10 minutes | TO COOK 8-10 hours

This recipe is so simple and delicious. No browning of the meat, just simply utilise the power of a slow cooker and you'll have tasty, tender pulled beef in eight to ten hours. Set and forget! Reduce the cooking liquids down for a slamin' balsamic gravy, and serve with my creamy potato and cauliflower gratin.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 Cup beef stock
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon dried chilli flakes
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 kg roasting beef (topside or chuck)
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- chopped chives to serve

### METHOD

Mix together the stock, balsamic vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, honey, chilli and garlic in a medium sized bowl. Place your roast beef in the slow cooker and pour over the liquid. Cover and cook on low for 8-10 hours. If you don't have a slow cooker, place all the ingredients in a casserole dish, cover and bake at 150°C for 3-4 hours basting occasionally.

When your beef is cooked, remove it from the slow cooker or oven and shred, using two forks, in a serving dish.

Transfer the cooking liquids into a medium-sized saucepan and bring to a boil. Cook for 5-6 minutes until the sauce has thickened slightly. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Drizzle the sauce over the shredded beef and serve sprinkled with chopped chives.

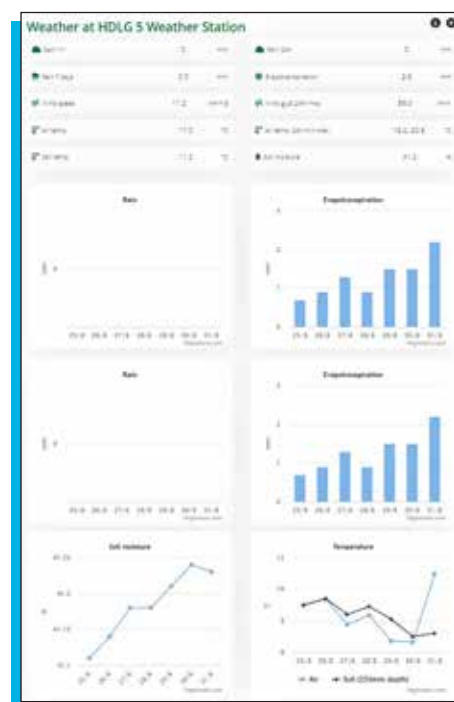
**PALEO** Substitute soy sauce with coconut aminos, or, at a pinch, add a squeeze of lemon juice instead.

P GF DF

## Weather Stations

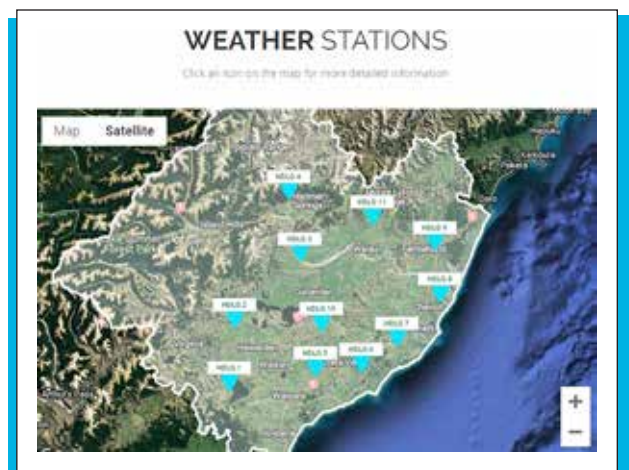
The Hurunui District Landcare Group is pleased to announce that we now have real-time soil and weather stations live and available on our website **Hurunui District Landcare Group** ([hurunuilandcaregroup.co.nz](https://hurunuilandcaregroup.co.nz))

These weather stations have been made possible with the funding from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).



HDLG has installed 11 weather stations on members' farms around the Hurunui District. These will provide HDLG members with easy access to localised weather and soil data including rainfall, wind speed, air temperature and soil moisture.

The scientific grade weather stations were purchased from and installed by Carrfields. The host farms are spread throughout the district, predominately in areas not covered by publicly available weather stations.



While these are now live, we are still undertaking some minor adjustments, but jump on and have a look. We welcome any feedback.

<https://hurunuilandcaregroup.co.nz/#weather>

# Native Plant Maintenance - Little and often wins the day

**Many of you have been planting natives over the last few years and as we head into spring, here are a few tips for giving your native plants the best chance of survival:**

- 🌿 For native plants planted in the last 18 months, grass suppression is the key. When the ground starts to dry out you don't want your natives to be competing for water. Getting on top of spring growth grass before it gets away will save you time, money, and give your plants the best chance of success. Other weeds can also be an issue (e.g. cocksfoot can form a canopy over plants if given a chance) so again, prevention is the best strategy.
- 🌿 There are a few spray options for weed control and we would recommend talking to one of the contractors below to guide you for what is best for your site and weed profile. If you are spraying, use a tracer so that you know where you have been.
- 🌿 If you have plant guards around your native plants, it is a good idea to ensure the guards are sitting on the ground, then carefully spray up to and around the guards. Check if there are weeds coming up through the guards and hand pull these to remove the competition.
- 🌿 If you don't want to use chemical, you can use a weed whacker but be aware that cutting weeds will not stop them from absorbing water and nutrients.
- 🌿 Hand clearing around native plants should be kept to a minimum as it can open-up a seed bed for more weeds.
- 🌿 Ultimately, native plant survival comes down to pre-emptive weed and pest control. If you have new native plantings, we strongly recommend organising a contractor ahead of spring to come in and undertake the maintenance. This means that when you are busy lambing and running the farm at a busy time of year, you know that your native plantings are being looked after. Plant maintenance through a contractor may also be cheaper than you think. Below are a few contractors that we recommend:

- Hurunui Natives - Jamie McFadden **027 321 8747**
- Riverside Horticulture - Ferg Dartnall **021 853 612**
- Native Solutions - Morgan Townsend **027 203 3587**
- Active Earth - Daniel Murphy **027 221 8617**
- Outright Property Services - Sam Macpherson **021 158 3478**
- Longridge Contracting - Ben Forsyth **027 7727 996**

