

FARM ENVIRONMENT PLANNING – 2.0

Corina Jordan and Julia Beijeman

Beef + Lamb New Zealand, Christchurch

For approximately 15 years, sheep and beef farmers have been using B+LNZ's LEP templates to assess their natural resources, improve their understanding of soils, and manage critical source areas. More recently B+LNZ's regionalised Farm Environment Plan (FEP) templates have been provided to assess, optimise, and document the strengths and challenges of their farm's unique physical resources.

Increasing public pressure around agricultural land uses and environment impacts, changing consumer requirements around ethical sustainable food, and tightening domestic regulation, offer both challenges and opportunities for the red meat sector. In response, B+LNZ is shifting gears.

Under a newly developed Environment Strategy, B+LNZ is assessing its Farm Environment Planning programme, and shifting its focus from outputs to outcomes.

Through a series of projects including assessment of our current FEP resources, marketing, leading edge tools, revised resources, data collection, and the collective brute force of our farming leaders, we are revising our FEP programme. With our FEP 2.0, we plan to fundamentally change the conversation.

We aim to connect farmers to 'the why', to connect farmer actions with community values, and to understand how we are tracking against audacious goals around fresh water, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, and soil health.

Our vision for sheep and beef farmers is "*He kaitiakitanga mo te tai ao – world leading stewards of the natural environment and sustainable communities*". A second generation of Farm Environment Plans is fundamental to realising this vision.

Editor's Note: An extended manuscript has not been submitted for this presentation.