

Report for Marlborough Research Centre

Period Start project to March 2020.

The following described information generated this year can be found on this link
<http://www.landcare.org.nz/Regional-Focus/Nelson-Office/Managing-Biosecurity-Risks-Project-Links/Managing-Biosecurity-Risks-Project>

- A review of the latest scientific literature, reports and farmer practices – Karen McCallum 2018 has been completed in 2018.
- A case study was prepared on a farmer who is successfully farming his way out of CNG using high quality forages and double cropping.
- We have conducted 2 surveys to determine farmers need, one on nassella tussock and 1 on biosecurity plans. The biosecurity survey was analysed and was used to design the delivery of biosecurity plans and nassella tussock workshop.
- On 4 April 2019 a Nassella tussock workshop was held with 50 attendees. Notes from the workshop have been compiled and distributed widely. From this group We facilitated the creation of a group of farmers interested in Nassella tussock biocontrol which assisted Landcare Research to lodge their successful SFF application. Farmers in this group are now participating in a survey for biocontrol agents for Nassella in Marlborough along with farmers in other regions.
- On 5 November 2018 Janet Gregory attended the Earthquake Recovery Managers meeting. On 13 November Annette Litherland reported on the EQ Biosecurity project with other EQ projects at a meeting in Kaikoura. A display on the EQ Biosecurity project was presented at the Grow2019 conference on 10 April 2019.
- Seddon School participated in a CNG project for their students.
- We have mounted two major Facebook campaigns. They were presented on the CNG facebook page which went over 12 days in October 2018 with photos which presented the results of a year of cropping in a paddock to reduce CNG. From 14 January to 24 January 2019 a facebook post of key findings from the CNG review were posted each day for 10 days reached 34382 people and had 5192 engagements.
- Farmer health and safety and biosecurity induction sheet has been completed
- A biosecurity plan template was constructed, reviewed by farmers and is now complete and is being extended within the project and has been taken up by Beef and Lamb NZ.
- A description of ways to mitigate 5 biosecurity risks has been developed.
- A template for 3 different types of biosecurity planning workshops have been developed.
- 2 exemplar Biosecurity plans using the templates have been completed and 2 LEP3 plans have been completed and are made available on line and via workshops.
- On 12 June 2019 a field day was held at Tim Struthers property near Ward where an update was given on trial results, biocontrol work, NAIT update to help with Biosecurity, Contractors learnings and an update on the Pest Management Plan. This was attended by 45 people, including a high number of vineyard managers and staff.
- The project has combined with B+LNZ to deliver biosecurity plans and another LEP2 plus biosecurity planning workshops on the 9th and 10th of July 2019 at Waiau and Blenheim. These workshops were also supported by MPI and 17 attendees. Another was also another held in Cheviot on 27 November 2019. 5 farmers attended along with BLNZ, OSPRI, MPI and ECAN.

- We have developed a biosecurity workshop for AgriBusiness. And we trialled it with 13 AgriBusinesses in Blenheim on 26 February 2020.
- We continue to share all the resources, workshops etc we have developed with Beef Lamb NZ and Dairy NZ. They are being integrated into a national programme to increase biosecurity planning on farms.
- We have been struggling to get good interest from farmers in biosecurity planning. It is seen as low priority against healthy waters legislation, green house gas reforms and now biodiversity requirements.
- We have undertaken an independent review of the project and have come up with a plan to establish focus groups to come up with a strategy to assist in the further uptake of biosecurity plans.
- A newsletter presenting trial results has been sent in spring of 2017, 2018 to all Marlborough rural residents and in November 2019 one was sent to 8300 rural addresses in Marlborough and in Kaikoura and North Canterbury.
- We have developed a new A3 poster for identifying CNG both in its reproductive and vegetative state. It was included in the 2019 newsletter.
- We have now established 15 on farm demonstrations some with sub-trials (bringing total up to 24). Trials include spot spraying strategies for Nassella with either Taskforce+Roundup and just Roundup with and without hand seeding. Four demonstrations are under way of the use of Taskforce and Roundup in a drilled regrassing programme. Three demonstrations are underway of oversowing CNG or Nassella infested paddocks with TF or Roundup and sowing with either competitive TF resistant swards or competitive species. These cover double cropping versus grass to grass regrassing programmes. Drones for spraying and seeding on steep hills are being evaluated. Chemical topping of CNG is being demonstrated to suppress aerial seeding and seedbanks on hill country and in a vineyard. Hard mowing in vineyard at a strategic time is being trialled to suppress seeding of CNG with aim of reducing the spread of seed and reducing seedbanks. A system of killing the CNG and regrassing double rows leaving one row for machinery within a vineyard is being trialed. Oversowing of sulla in plots on hills on a vineyard is being trialled to find a strategy to reduce CNG in ungrazed hill country. Spraying alternative rows in vineyards to sequentially eradicate CNG while still maintaining machine access is being demonstrated. Cattle have been monitored to determine the risk cattle pose as a vector for carrying CNG during the CNG seeding season. And we about to start designing a washdown and farm systems modelling using the farm trials results to show a new farm system for Atacama using hill and vineyard grazing (commences in autumn). To manage this large trial workload we have contracted Heather Collins to assist with some of the farm trials.
- The final year of the project is on 31 October 2020.

Additional deliverables from 1 March 2020-19June

- Extension has been quiet over COVID and focused on the development of an online biosecurity workshop (see in next section).
- On 5 May20 Facebook posts (Top of the South Island, Chilean Needle Grass Facebook page) and email out to farmers with a [link](#) on how to look out for pathogens on nassella tussock and Chilean Needle grass. Seona Casonato from Lincoln University has a project looking for biocontrol agents for nassella tussock. Part of this involves surveying farms for biocontrol

agents for nassella tussock. If the farm has both nassella tussock and Chilean needle grass she will also look for biocontrol pathogens on Chilean Needle grass at the same time. Farmers were informed of this opportunity. Seona presented a summary of her work and how it could relate to CNG at the Governance meeting on the 15 April 2020.

- A Governance meeting was held on 15 April 2020 to flesh out plan for washdowns.
- The farm biosecurity template was adapted to include human biosecurity and health due to the COVID outbreak
- An online biosecurity planning workshop that can be completed at home was developed that included 9 subunits taking approximately 20 minutes to complete. These can be easily distributed by email (loaded on the template). The workshop focuses on learning material from the resources we have developed and linking with existing resources including Youtube clips provided by BLNZ and DairyNZ while at the same time the farmer is developing their own biosecurity plan using the template and exemplars. It was sent out to a sheep and beef discussion group in Golden Bay (Joyce Wyllie) and also sent out via Rural Women NZ on 29 April 2020 in Marlborough and Canterbury to trial and give feedback. I have yet to receive any feedback.
- The biosecurity template has also been shared via Alan McDermott to the BLNZ Red Meat for Profit Partnership and they are converting the biosecurity template into a PDF editable version. They also have received a copy of the online biosecurity workshop.
- Conversations have been held with Catherine Wilson from MPI regarding the biosecurity planning survey MPI are currently conducting which will be finished in mid June 2020. Once the findings of this are known we will progress a plan for focus groups to be held to both in Canterbury and Marlborough to examine how to get uptake of biosecurity plans. The focus groups are a substitute for the end of project survey.
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