



AMURI IRRIGATION CO

ENVIRONMENTAL COLLECTIVE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4: AUGUST 2018

2018/19 FEP Auditing

Although it's only August, we are already planning the 2018/19 round of Farm Environment Plan (FEP) auditing which will start in early November. This year's campaign will be similar to last year, auditing about 70 farms before the end of March 2019. Of these, 50 will be repeat audits and 25 will be first time audits, mostly comprised of independent members of the Environmental Collective (non-AIC shareholders).

First time FEP Audits can be a bit daunting, but we hope you find the experience positive, fair and constructive. Being well prepared for your FEP Audit makes the process much easier. Here are three important steps you should take to prepare for your FEP Audit:

- **Get an Overseer nutrient budget:** Ensure you have a 2017/18 season nutrient budget. We are again offering a nutrient budgeting service through The Agribusiness Group (TAG) to provide cost effective, short form nutrient budgets. If you'd like one, please get in touch with Renee.
Fonterra suppliers should check their Nitrogen reporting pages and let Fonterra know of any changes to their farming system to ensure the budget is as accurate as possible. If you intend to use another certified nutrient management adviser you will need to book in early to ensure your nutrient budget is ready at your audit appointment (please note that some companies can take 6-8 months to complete a budget due to heavy workloads).
- **Review your FEP:** Dig out and review your FEP, in particular any actions that need to be completed before the audit.

- **Get the necessary paperwork together:** A good FEP audit grade is dependent on providing evidence to the FEP Auditor. A list of information required for your audit is sent to you with your audit notification.

If you have any concerns or questions about your FEP Audit, please give Renee or Alastair a call. We are here to help and want you to get the most from your audit.



ECan requests for FEP Audit information from Environmental Collective Members

Some Collective members have received requests from ECan to provide FEP Auditing information as part of their Resource Consent compliance monitoring.

All Collective members' FEPs are audited and managed by AIC as part of our Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) with AIC providing an annual summary report to ECan of audit results and grades on behalf of the Collective. Neither AIC shareholders nor individual members are, under normal circumstances, required to report individual FEPs nor FEP Audit Reports to ECan.

ECan should not have requested this information as part of their routine compliance monitoring. We have spoken to ECan about this and they agreed that the requests should not be made.

If any other members have had similar requests they please let us know and we will follow this up with ECan. As a reminder, we've attached is a briefing that was circulated to both ECan and our Collective Members in 2016.

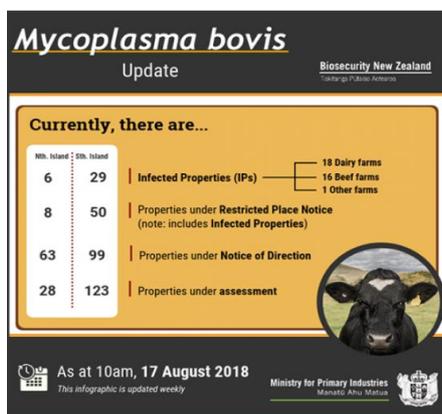
FEP Updating

As the Collective has grown, we have ended up with a range of FEP formats. This makes data management and keeping FEPs up to date very time consuming. To resolve these problems, the Environmental Subcommittee approved a programme of work to transfer all member FEPs onto one of two formats:

For Fonterra suppliers: FEP data will be transferred to the new Fonterra FEP platform. Fonterra will be contacting all its suppliers (who are Collective members) to arrange preparation of new FEPs. AIC is working with Fonterra to ensure all necessary information is shared between the two organisations.

For non-Fonterra suppliers, we have developed a new FEP template which has been approved by ECan. Once this is operational, any farm needing a new or updated FEP will have a visit from an AIC contractor to prepare a new or revised plan. For those that don't need an updated FEP, existing information will be transferred to the new format. We may contact you to check information as part of this transfer to ensure the new FEPs are as up to date as possible. We hope to have the task completed by November.

Biosecurity Policy



The Mycoplasma Bovis outbreak has prompted us to formalise a biodiversity policy for staff and contractors involved in any FEP or FEP Auditing work, although this is a general policy that will be effective for any biosecurity risk. A copy of the policy is available on the website: www.amuriirrigation.co.nz/shareholders/

The first principle of the policy is to check with the farmer before we visit. Farms under M. bovis investigation by MPI are not required to display any signage nor disclose information to show that they are suspected of having the disease. To allow implementation of the policy, we need cooperation from farmers to let us know if there are any biosecurity risks they should be aware of before they make an on-farm visit.

Independent Membership Fees

Membership fees for independent members of the Environmental Collective were considered by the Environmental Subcommittee in July and it was agreed to keep fees at their current level. They will be reviewed annually.

Service	Fee
Annual Membership Fee:	
Members who are part of a Local Irrigators Group	\$1400 plus GST
Individual Members not part of a Local Irrigators Group	\$1800 plus GST
Preparation of a FEP up to 500ha	\$1000 plus GST
Preparation of a FEP 501ha and above	\$1200 plus GST
Repeat or Additional FEP audit not covered by annual fee	\$1000 plus GST

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