



AMURI IRRIGATION CO

## ENVIRONMENTAL COLLECTIVE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3: MAY 2018

### Membership Update: Part of Something Big!

AIC Environmental Collective membership currently totals 174 farms which includes 32 independent members (2 being processed).

Nearly 84,731ha of farms are covered by an AIC Collective FEP. This includes 56,424ha for AIC Shareholders and 28,307ha for Independents members.



### Auditing Update: A Big Thank You

We completed our third round of FEP Auditing in March this year auditing 106 farms, which is more than twice the number audited in previous rounds. For this reason, we have contracted auditors for most audits.

A lot of planning and coordination was done to ensure auditors were well briefed and prepared. As well as farmers are aware of when the audit will take place and what information they need. After the audit reports are prepared and sent out to farmers in a timely way and everything is recorded and logged. Renee Dampier-Crossley, AIC's Environmental Administrator did a terrific job ensuring the campaign was completed on time, to budget and met expectations.

To all those farmers audited, thank you for your cooperation and time. We all know how busy you are and that audits, particularly first audits can be a bit stressful, but we hope you felt the audits we conducted professionally, and you felt they were constructive. If you

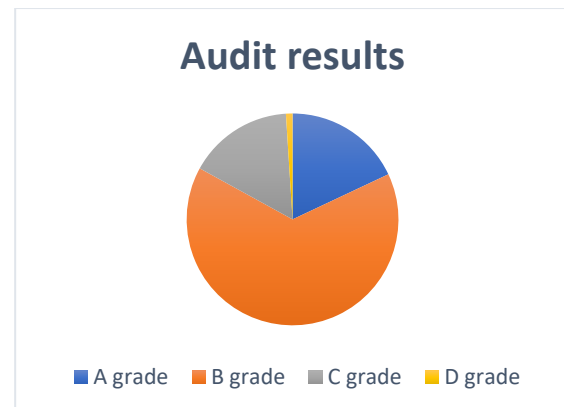
have any feedback from your audit (positive or negative), we'd love to hear it.

### Auditing Results

We gather a huge amount of information on the environmental performance of farms from auditing and it is not possible here to report all of it.

But here are some highlights:

- Farms audited: 61 Dairy, 23 Beef and Sheep, 18 Dairy Support and 4 Other.
- Most farms (with only 3-4 exceptions) had a nutrient budget available for auditing, with many taking advantage of the AIC/The Agribusiness Group Nutrient Budget service to get cost effective budgets prepared.
- Audit Grades: A: 19 (18%), B: 69 (65%), C: 17 (16%) and D: 1 (<1%).



Well done! That's 83% of all farms audited at GMP or 'on track' to reach GMP.

For more information on the latest audit results, please go to our website: [www.amuriirrigation.co.nz](http://www.amuriirrigation.co.nz)



## Soil Moisture Monitoring – What do I need to Know?

The auditing results show that more and more farmers are adopting some form of soil moisture monitoring probe, tape or service to help them manage their irrigation as efficiently as possible. The feedback we get is almost always positive and that the data helps make better decisions. To turn on later and off sooner delivering more consistent production. There are some issues, particularly around getting accurate and reliable data right to your phone or PC and a good back up service.

Irrigation New Zealand recently produced a technical manual on using soil moisture monitoring and this concluded that:

- Irrigators must choose the right equipment for their soil, land use and irrigation system;
- Locating probes in the right place and installing equipment correctly is critical; and
- Being able to access and manage data or using a reliable service to provide this is just as important as the gizmo in the ground.

A soil moisture probe is becoming an essential piece of kit for efficient irrigators that will pay back its value many times over. Consider investing in quality equipment and a reliable data management and support service.

AIC can help with a list of providers that can help you make the right decision.

## Events in Your Area

Please note the following events are coming up in our area:

**Wednesday 23 May** Hurunui Waiau Braided River project Community meeting.

**Wednesday 13 June:** BFEA Supreme Winner's Field Day.

**Hurunui Waiau Braided River Project**

## Community meetings

You are invited to hear what's happening in your area and talk about how you or your community might want to be involved.

<b>Wednesday 23 May</b> 6 pm-7:30pm Culverden Rugby Club	<b>Thursday 24 May</b> 6pm-7:30 pm Chevlot Trust Hotel
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Canterbury's braided rivers are unique. They support many important fish, animals and plants. The birds that depend on these rivers are declining.

The Hurunui Waiau Water Zone Committee\* has funded three projects to help the rare bird species living in the Hurunui and Waiau rivers. The projects are in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Environment Canterbury.

**Black-fronted tern**  
Nationally endangered

**Black-billed gull**  
Nationally critical

Black-billed gull chick

Black-fronted tern chick

\*The Hurunui Waiau Water Zone Committee is a community-led committee supported by Environment Canterbury and local councils.

**Ballance Farm Environment Awards**  
Whāiaho Sustainability Whāiaho Sustainability

## 2018 Canterbury Ballance Farm Environment Supreme Winner's Field Day

Hosts: David & Brenda Hislop, Mark Daly and Janet Girvan

Medbury Farm Limited  
34 Dalzells Road South, Hawarden 7385

Wednesday, June 13, 2018  
Registration: 10am

## Environmental Collective contacts:

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