

## Making Your Irrigation Water Go Further - Field Day

**Date** April 2010 (Thu 15, Fri 16, Tue 20, Wed 21, Thu 22)  
**Time** 9.45 registration, 10.00am - 1.00pm, BBQ lunch to follow  
**Venues** 5 Canterbury focus farms - farm shed/dairy and farm walk

**Objectives** Demonstrating how farmers can make their irrigation water go further:

1. To demonstrate and discuss irrigation efficiency tools (for water & energy), their costs and benefits, using focus farm data/examples/experiences
2. For irrigated farmers to increase their awareness and understanding of the relevance, costs and benefits of the tools available to them
3. For focus farmers and the community to have discussion and get feedback from 'experts' on their local issues

### Programme

<b>STOP 1 Farm shed</b>		
9.45	Handouts / registration	
10.00	Welcome, Programme & Introductions, Project Background, Last year, This year....	Sue / Geoff / Nicky
10.10	Farmer experience – what changes have been made	Farmer & facilitator
10.20	<b>Seasonal Allocation – implications of the proposed ECan rules</b> Background, WQN9 & IrriCalc, 3 farms actual results, management strategies to help including soil moisture monitoring Regional/Irrigation Scheme update Questions & discussion	Ian McIndoe, Aqualinc  Irrigation Co. or local group representative
<b>11.10 BREAK – juice and biscuits</b>		
11.25	<b>Benchmarking Water Use</b> Identifying performance indicators to reflect productive water use Questions & discussion	Dairy NZ
<b>11.45 GROUP SESSIONS – 2 groups of 30mins each</b>		
Group 1 11.45-12.20	<b>DIY: Spray Irrigation Performance Evaluation</b> Farmer DIY guide, 6 step process, with farm example	Joe Powers, Aqualinc & facilitator
Group 2 12.30-1.00	<b>Short vs long pivots &amp; Improving K-line performance</b> Results of focus farm demonstrations, & research	Ian McIndoe, Aqualinc
<b>1.00</b>	Close, return to shed	
<b>Farm Shed BBQ and tea/coffee provided</b>		

This event is being organised with funding from Sustainable Farming Fund – Climate Change (SFF-CC), Dairy NZ, PGG Wrightson, EECA, Meridian

## **Making Your Irrigation Water Go Further – 5 Farm Field Days - April 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010**

Five field days are being held in Canterbury and North Otago as part of a project to assist irrigated farmers to better manage increasingly scarce and unreliable irrigation water supplies.

The project emphasis is on the demonstration and technology transfer of currently available information and tools to improve the use of water and energy by farmers. Improved practices can generate improved farm financial returns and enable farmers to better cope with changes in irrigation water availability today and in the future.

Each field day will discuss and demonstrate how farmers can make their water go further to save water, increase production and increase profit:

- Seasonal Allocation – Implications of ECan's WQN9 rules
- Feedback on last year's activities and changes
- Benchmarking water use
- DIY: Spray Irrigation Performance Evaluation – On-farm examples with \$ profit
- Short vs long pivots
- Improving K-line performance

Speakers: Aqualinc, Dairy NZ

Time: 9.45am - 1.00pm followed by BBQ lunch

Mid Canterbury (Slee)	Thursday 15 April
North Canterbury (Benton)	Friday 16 April

Central Canterbury (Litchfield)	Tuesday 20 April
South Canterbury (Caird)	Wednesday 21 April
North Otago (Van't Klooster)	Thursday 22 April

**The project is funded by Sustainable Farming Fund, Dairy NZ, EECA, PGG Wrightson and Meridian.**

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