

REALISTIC SOLUTIONS TO REAL FARM PROBLEMS

BEST STEPS FOR GOOD ON-FARM PRACTICE IN THE AORERE

3 key actions for the Aorere Catchment (AgResearch):

- stock out of waterways
- adequate effluent storage
- low rate effluent application to land

Implementing these 3 actions are key to help farmers meet water quality goals and compliance regulations.

KEEP STOCK OUT OF WATERWAYS

Every farm needs to plan to complete all bridges, culverts and fences required to keep stock out of water.

Every paddock needs a water trough.



WHEN SOILS ARE WET, STORE **IT!

Every farm needs sufficient storage to prevent the need to irrigate to saturated soils.

This is easier if ponds are emptied in the dry times.



IT'S GOTTA SINK IN!

Every farm needs to irrigate effluent to land at low rates to prevent run-off.

The bonus of low rate methods is an increase in the uptake of nutrients by grasses.



WHAT'S IMPORTANT

IT'S ABOUT NOTICING POTENTIAL FOR EFFLUENT LEAKAGE TO WATERWAYS

Ponding or run-off – the irrigator needs to be turned off.

Cows are in waterways – they need to be moved.



IT'S ABOUT THINKING, PLANNING AND ACTING

Ponds leaking or overflowing, seek advice and plan for a system upgrade.

Stream bank erosion – plan to reduce slope and plant



IT'S ABOUT CHECKING OUR SMALL TRIBUTARIES

A slimy warning of leakage – algae taking over the stream habitat.

Clean green rooted plant without algal cover (slime) is good.



IT'S ABOUT HEALTHY STREAM HABITATS

Drains full of clean rooted plants improve water quality and habitat.

Restoring fish passage for our whitebait.



IT'S ABOUT DEDICATING WETLAND AREAS TO ACT AS THE KIDNEY'S OF THE FARM – AREAS THAT ALLOW FOR SEDIMENT BUILD-UP AND NUTRIENT FILTRATION



IT'S ABOUT HEALTHY
HABITATS FOR US



IT'S ABOUT
COMMUNITY WORKING
COLLABORATIVELY
TOGETHER

"As someone whose livelihood depends on water quality, I really appreciate the efforts of all those involved in the Aorere Catchment Project. I think this project is a marvelous example of what can be achieved."

Matt Roundtree



Inanga/Whitebait.
Photo: Peter Hamill, Marlborough District Council

AORERE CATCHMENT PROJECT THE STORY...

Aorere dairy farmers love Golden Bay. We take pride in our farms and our sparkling waterways. In 2004 it came as a surprise to learn invisible bacterial runoff from our pastures was affecting water quality in our river and coastal marine farming harvest. This led to farmer action and the formation of the Aorere Catchment group. Then, supported by the NZ Landcare Trust, the dairying group sourced MAF Sustainable Farm Funding to identify best steps for the Aorere.

Our dairy farming community agreed that:

- We needed to reduce the levels of bacteria reaching our waterways.
- Our high rainfall environment presents a real challenge, and
- Our community has committed to protecting our special environment and lifestyles.

By working with scientists we have successfully faced the challenge of reducing bacteria leakage into the Bay. The shellfish industry can now harvest 79% of the year, only wild weather restricts harvest these days, but the risk is ongoing. We in the Aorere Catchment Group still need to remain vigilant and protect our industry for the future.

