

# ACCELERATE

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OUR NEWSLETTER FOR GROWING BUSINESSES



New Zealand's farmers have weathered the storm in more ways than one over the past year, coping with extreme weather and a tough economy to continue their vital work up and down the country.

In this newsletter, we'll showcase some of New Zealand's best farmers and growers, and summarise some of the key legal changes expected under the new government.

Meanwhile, our digital snapshot highlights how internet connectivity can make your farm or orchard safer, more productive, and more efficient.

## IN THIS ISSUE

**NZ's best farms** **pg. 2**

**Farming law reforms** **pg. 3**

- Duty-free dairy exports
- Freshwater Farm Plan review
- End of the 'ute tax'
- Trustee tax changes

**Farming of the future** **pg. 4**

**Key tax dates** **pg. 4**

**CONTACT OUR TEAM**

Phone (09) 272-4000

Email: [harts@harts.co.nz](mailto:harts@harts.co.nz)

The annual Ballance Farm Environment Awards celebrate the best examples of Kiwi ingenuity on our orchards and farms, recognising great business models and land stewardship.

Here are three of this year's Regional Supreme Winners, including farmers who have branched out into tourism, and one orchard owner making a huge environmental impact.



### Auckland nursery goes native

Peter Rensen of Utopia Nurseries took home the Auckland award for his dedication to native planting.

Rensen's Pukekohe nursery produces orchids, chrysanthemums, Ruscus greenery, and miscanthus, grown and processed for their potential use as a biofuel.

Extensive riparian planting has been carried out since the early 2000s, and the property now boasts more than four hectares of native bush, including the Raupō wetlands, one of the few habitats of its type around Auckland.

Rensen has enhanced the natural environment through his native planting and reduced soil runoff. He also ensures excess water from glasshouses is filtered before it enters local streams.

His keen focus on freshwater extends to future planning. Rensen has installed new irrigation ponds to ensure future expansion is not reliant on external water sources.



### Diversifying income

High Peak Station, managed by eight members of the Guild and Dunbar families, received the Canterbury award.

The families were celebrated for building a diverse and robust farming business with several income streams, spanning multiple generations.

Almost half of High Peak Station's revenue comes from tourism, with the remainder from sheep, cattle, deer, and honey. Each arm of the business was credited for its high-end products and experiences.

The owners have made their eight-person partnership a roaring success, with a strong focus on diversification, sustainability, and long-term financial stability.

Judges were impressed with the owners' forward-looking approach to regulation, and vast knowledge of the property's soil, topography, and winter grazing.



### Land stewardship in Northland

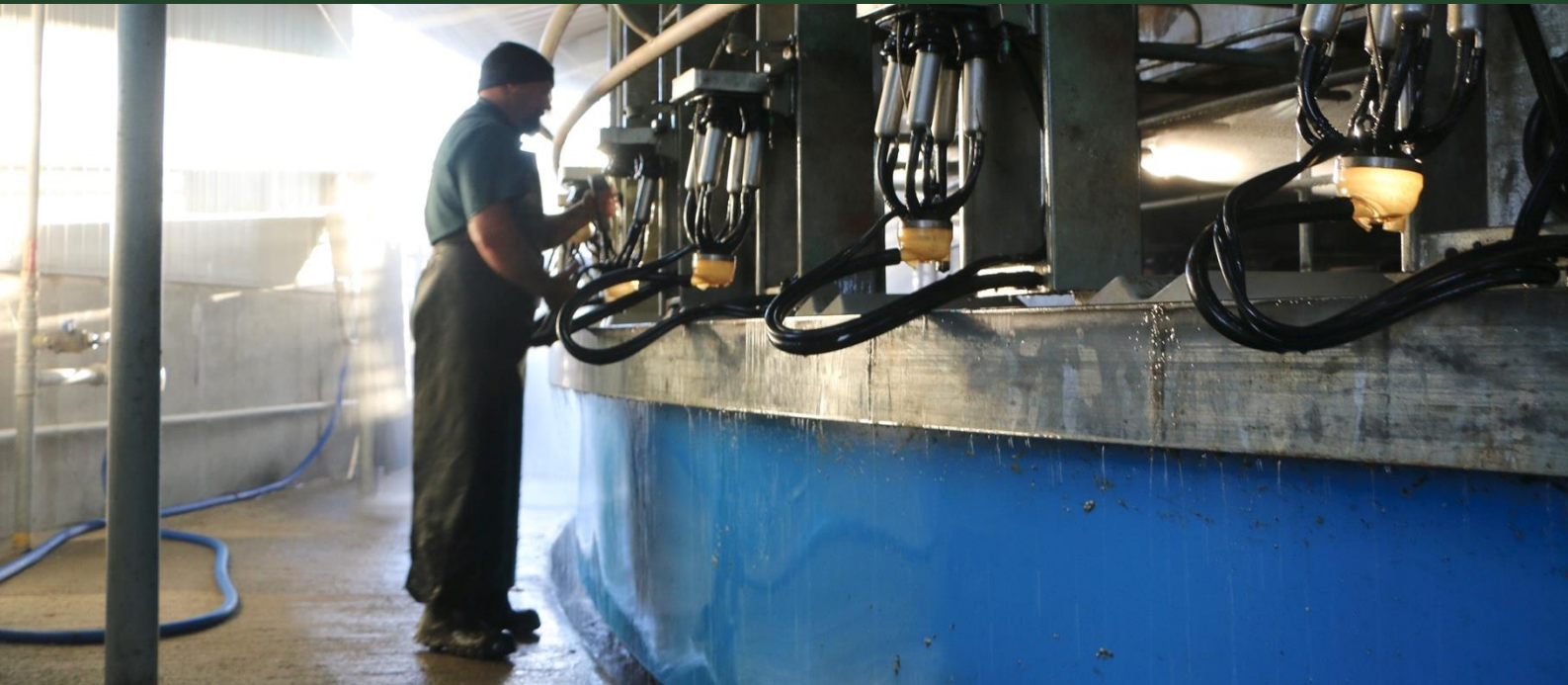
The 1,500-shareholder collective Oromahoe Trust, managed by Dean Candy, picked up the Northland award.

The Trust was praised for making environmental issues a central part of its business decisions on its sheep and beef farm. The approach has had a positive impact on farm freshwater.

Extensive riparian fencing and native planting have complemented the redevelopment of paddocks for cell grazing, ultimately reducing nitrogen levels, judges said.

The Trust's environmental stewardship continues to reap rewards. Multiple wetlands on the farm have been protected for many years and have now returned to their natural states. Active pest management has enabled native plants and wildlife to flourish.

Images: NZ Farm Environment Trust



### Duty-free dairy exports

The turn of the year brought a welcome change for New Zealand dairy farmers: all New Zealand dairy products can now enter China duty-free.

Duties on milk powder no longer apply following China's decision to remove dairy tariffs due to the New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement.

The new arrangement, effective from 1 January 2024, will save the local dairy industry millions of dollars.

According to government estimates, removing tariffs will save Kiwi exporters roughly \$350 million annually.

Dairy exports to China have averaged 1.4 million tonnes, or \$8 billion, over the past three years, most of that being milk powder.

If your farming business exports dairy to China, learn more about the China Free Trade Agreement [here](#).

### Freshwater Farm Plan review

If you have struggled with the Freshwater Farm Plan system, changes are underway to make the regulation more cost-effective and practical.

What do we know so far? Ministers want to simplify the current model, saying it's 'too costly and complex, and too broadly applied'.

The coalition is considering whether existing requirements to complete Freshwater Farm Plans should be paused during its review.

Ministers will also consider how existing environmental programmes and industry assurance programmes could be recognised within Freshwater Farm Plans.

Several regions have started implementing Freshwater Farm Plans, including Waikato, Southland, the West Coast, Otago, and Manawatū-Whanganui.

Please contact your local council to find out how you might be affected by the government's plans.

### End of the 'ute tax'

If you're planning on buying a new ute for work this year, you'll benefit from the end of the previous government's 'ute tax' and 'clean car discount'.

Under the old system, people purchasing high-emissions vehicles like the Ford Ranger were hit with a fee to fund rebates for cleaner electric cars.

The ute tax ended in December, meaning you'll no longer face these extra charges if you need a new vehicle.

### DON'T FORGET: TRUST CHANGES

The trustee tax rate has just been increased from 33% to 39% for the 2024–25 and later income years (with exceptions for 'de minimis' trusts).

If your farming business has a family trust, please contact us to discuss the implications for your tax planning.

Digitisation is transforming how farms and orchards operate, leading to more innovation, efficiency, and productivity across New Zealand.

In this edition’s Digital Snapshot, we’ll look at the Internet of Things (IoT), what it means, and how it can help farmers and growers.

### What is IoT?

IoT refers to local networks of internet-connected devices and appliances that share useful information and data.

The face of farming is set to change as IoT devices make life more efficient, safer, and productive on-site.

### IoT on the farm

IoT is changing how farmers and growers use land and track their stock, assets, and equipment.

Many New Zealand farmers already use IoT solutions such as sensors. IoT sensors can be deployed across a farm to measure anything from soil moisture to fuel levels.

For example, sensors can send alerts when valuable equipment is taken off-site, when a pipe is leaking, or locate a lost quad bike.

They can also notify fuel suppliers when diesel or petrol tanks are low.

IoT devices also have huge health and safety benefits. Sensors can be attached to tractors and heavy equipment to send instant notifications in the event of an accident.



### Discover more

IoT solutions can automate tasks and give you more data to make better decisions.

As a farmer or grower, you’ll gain more visibility over your business with a host of sensors and devices feeding information to your mobile phone or computer.

Companies including [Levno](#) offer water, fuel, and milk vat monitoring services through their IoT-enabled sensors and devices.

Levno’s sensors provide real-time information on fuel and water management, feed monitoring, and milk processing.

Several New Zealand rural broadband providers, including [Spark](#) and [Farmside](#), also offer advice on how to get started with IoT. Get in touch with your internet provider to find out more.

## TAX CALENDAR – JUNE 2024

Date	Category	Description
5 June	PAYE	Large employers’ payment due. File employment information within two working days after payday.
20 June	RWT	RWT return and payment due for deductions from dividends and deductions of \$500 or more from interest paid during May.
20 June	NRWT / Approved Issuer Levy	Payment and return for May.
20 June	PAYE	Small and large employers’ payment due. File employment information within two working days after payday.
1 July	Provisional tax	Third instalment of provisional tax due for May balance date taxpayers. (Normally due on 28 June, which falls on Matariki in 2024)

Note: the provisional tax due dates apply to clients with a May balance date. Different dates will apply for those clients who have different balance dates.

*Disclaimer: This publication has been carefully prepared, but it has been written in general terms only. The publication should not be relied upon to provide specific information without also obtaining appropriate professional advice after detailed examination of your particular situation.*