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Time is money, see how the latest research and developments can save you time and make more money!

A presentation by farmers and industry specialists with ideas that have greatly improved efficiency and working conditions for a more resilient business.

Chaired by Debbie Kinder - Farmwise Consultant, LIC



Callum Eastwood

DairyNZ Scientist (People in dairy, effective use of new technologies in dairy systems)

Callum is a farming systems scientist at DairyNZ and has previously worked at the NZCPA and Melbourne University. After originally studying Natural Resource Management at Massey, he completed a PhD in precision dairying at Melbourne University. His areas of interest include: effective use of new technologies in farming systems, technological innovation systems, improving coordination between farmers and technology developers, design of social research in agriculture, integration of data into farm decision making, and adult learning processes as applied to agriculture.

There are technologies to help you save time and make more money on farm, but not all technologies provide value. We will discuss farmer-ready tools that can automate or aid tasks for the pasture manager (pasture measurement, decision support software and apps). We will also cover those technologies on the horizon, here and overseas, and provide advice on how to assess the applicability of the technologies to your farm system. To finish, we will briefly discuss what is needed in terms of future technology and knowledge to achieve your pasture potential.



Rhys Roberts

GM Align Farms

Rhys is the General Manager for Align Farms; a large family owned farming business in Mid Canterbury, self-contained on 1600 hectares of owned and leased land milking circa 4000 cows. After graduating from Telford in 2004 he embarked on his career in the dairy industry firstly in the Waikato then in Canterbury where he took on several management and sharemilking opportunities, including a dairy conversion in Tasmania.

Rhys's current role has broad framework from business and operations management and analysis. He views continual innovation and executing simple repeatable systems as key to pastoral farming remaining profitable and sustainable.

Innovation to allegedly improve efficiency and reduce time is appearing for farmers quicker than ever before and this looks like this will be increasing. We will discuss how to firstly, understand the issue or problem you want to overcome and then discuss how Align Farms have come to the decision to invest in various innovation. We will then cover what can be expected of new innovations in terms of getting the best out of your investment. To conclude we will compare some numbers on work hour efficiency within Align Farms and how this relates to innovation investment within the individual properties.