

FACT SHEET

Meeting the He Waka Eke Noa milestones

June 2021

- New Zealand's agricultural sector has a role to play to contribute to meeting specific greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, as part of international commitments on climate change and in the Zero Carbon Act.
- The He Waka Eke Noa programme will develop a practical framework to achieve reductions across the sector. This will involve measuring emissions and offsets, and a farm-level pricing system will be developed (by 2025) that will incentivise changes and recognise action taken.
- The alternative would be for agriculture to face liabilities for biological emissions under the Emissions Trading Scheme. The He Waka Eke Noa partnership approach is better for farmers because it gives them input into the process and is likely to be more effective than a blanket tax at the processor level.



Why is B+LNZ involved in He Waka Eke Noa?

In 2019 we got Government agreement on a partnership to develop a New Zealand-specific agricultural emissions framework, which is a more tailored approach than bringing the sector into the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) through a tax at the processor. We're now working on delivering that opportunity and commitment, ensuring the framework will work for farmers.

There are milestones that must be met, otherwise the Government has the ability under legislation to revert to the ETS approach – it's therefore important we make the programme a success.

The Climate Change Commission has also acknowledged the important role for He Waka Eke Noa to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural sector - this makes having a seat at the table even more important.

Will it relate to my farm?

If your farm is 80ha or more, or if you have a dairy supply number or a cattle feedlot as defined in freshwater policy, you will need to know your annual total on-farm greenhouse gas emissions and have a plan. In practice this means a person responsible for farm management holds a documented annual total of on-farm greenhouse gas emissions – there's guidance about the detail required and how it can be calculated on the He Waka Eke Noa website.

www.hewakaekenoa.nz

The He Waka Eke Noa programme milestones set out what needs to be done, and when.

What has happened so far?

So far, the He Waka Eke Noa programme has developed guidance on measuring emissions and on farm planning. B+LNZ has integrated the guidance into its farm planning approach and will ensure its GHG Calculator meets programme requirements.

What are the remaining steps to get there?

B+LNZ will be supporting farmers to meet the following milestones:

By the end of 2021

- A quarter of farmers:
 - know their greenhouse gas numbers
 - have a written plan in place to measure and manage their greenhouse gas emissions.

By the end of 2022

- Every farmer and grower knows their farm's greenhouse gas numbers.

In 2025

- All farms know their numbers, and have a written plan in place to measure and manage their greenhouse gas emissions.
- A system for farm-level accounting and reporting of 2024 agricultural greenhouse gas emissions at farm level is in use by all farms by 1 January 2025.

We will be running workshops and webinars on our GHG Calculator and farm planning approach to help support sheep and beef farmers to 'know their numbers' including sequestration and have a plan to measure and manage their emissions.

As the programme progresses we will develop more support material to help you meet your obligations under He Waka Eke Noa.

What should sheep and beef farmers be doing now?

Farmers don't have to do everything at once. Over the next year you'll need to get a handle on 'knowing your numbers' – in other words understanding your farm's greenhouse gas emissions (principally methane [CH₄] and nitrous oxide [N₂O]) and any sequestration offsets you may have.



For farmers keen to get started on 'knowing your numbers' now, there are a range of tools already available.

B+LNZ's free online GHG Calculator for beef and sheep farmers will make calculating your GHG emissions relatively straightforward on the basis of a stock reconciliation. It will also enable you to estimate the carbon sequestration happening on your farm.

How does He Waka Eke Noa link with B+LNZ's new farm plans?

Farm plans will be the key tool for farmers to show how you're meeting your climate change commitments. The B+LNZ farm plan includes a climate change module, with guidance on estimating on-farm emissions and sequestration and developing a plan to manage these emissions in the future. The B+LNZ GHG Calculator will be incorporated into the B+LNZ farm plan.

For more information on the B+LNZ farm plan visit www.beeflambnz.com/farmplan

Why isn't more information available now?

We are partway through a five-year programme. A lot of the detail is still being worked out by the partners. B+LNZ will continue to seek farmer input into the process to ensure the framework works on the ground. We'll also provide information and support to farmers as the programme progresses.

What about the work sheep and beef farmers have already done - and are doing - to address greenhouse gas emissions?

Emissions from sheep and beef farming have decreased by 30 percent since the 1990s. B+LNZ has always strongly advocated for farmers to not be penalised and to be recognised for the progress

they've already achieved. One of the principles of the He Waka Eke Noa partnership is to recognise early adopters and the good work already done.

Most of the extensive vegetation on sheep and beef farms doesn't currently qualify for inclusion in the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) because it doesn't meet the definition of a forest. Sequestration is part of the He Waka Eke Noa programme remit and while there's still work to be done to agree the details, we're making progress.

There is no expectation that every single farm will need to reduce their emissions from current levels.

How can sheep and beef farmers have confidence in the pricing mechanism that's eventually developed?

Farmer input is crucial throughout the process and we're discussing and testing approaches with farmers including through the B+LNZ Environment Reference Group and farmer reference groups from other industry partners. There's nothing like hearing the blunt truth from a farmer video-calling into a meeting from a shearing shed!

A key principle behind our work on He Waka Eke Noa is designing something that's practical and easy for farmers to integrate into what they're already doing, and that aligns with other environmental requirements (such as freshwater and biodiversity).

We're also working hard to ensure the framework can adapt to new technologies and scientific advances.



How will this be economically sustainable for sheep and beef farmers?

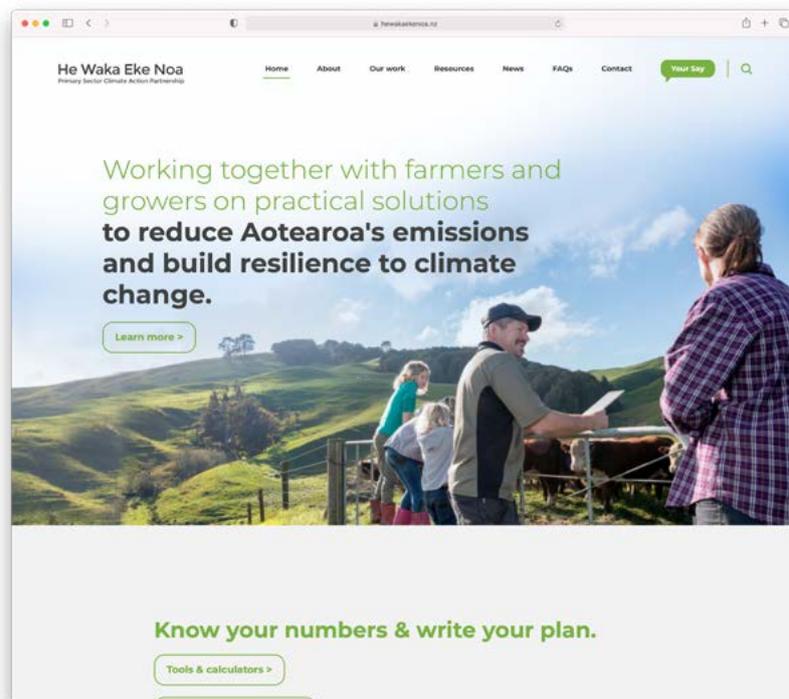
Ultimately, there will be a price on agricultural greenhouse gas emissions from 2025. Details for the pricing are currently being worked through, including on who pays. There's time to plan for this and, like other business costs, there will be ways to reduce the price. We'll help farmers understand these.

It's also worth noting B+LNZ is working with processors to align our farm plan with the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme (NZFAP) so we can try to extract a consumer premium for our climate change work.

How does He Waka Eke Noa fit with other climate change work?

We work behind the scenes to proactively engage with the Government and Ministries to influence policy that works for farmers (testing that on the ground, especially through B+LNZ's extension programme) while making a meaningful difference for New Zealand's climate change commitments. The He Waka Eke Noa partnership approach was just one example of achieving a better outcome through work like this and we're involved in a range of connected areas of work such as with the Climate Change Commission.

We gather insights and commission independent research to support this advocacy. Research and insights also support our efforts when we're telling sheep and beef farmers' stories to New Zealand and the world. Research we commissioned about sequestration on sheep and beef farms helped move the conversation along, and we can point to tangible examples like the He Waka Eke Noa programme when showing the public we're making progress on climate change - those stories are important to tools like our Making Meat Better website (www.makingmeatbetter.nz).



Where can I find out more?

There's more information about He Waka Eke Noa online www.hewakaekenoa.nz including a FAQs section and a list of the tools you can use to know your numbers. You can sign up to the monthly programme e-newsletter via the website.

The AgMatters website www.agmatters.nz also has a number of useful resources on climate change.

You can also contact your local B+LNZ Extension Manager.

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