



NEWSLETTER – March 2017

Dear Members

Branch AGMs

All NZGFA Branches hold their AGMs in May. This is your opportunity to have your say about how your industry association is managed and what will benefit your company through your membership. Look up your member directories to contact Branch chairs and secretaries for your Branch Annual Meeting date and make sure you attend.

National Conference.

Mark your diaries for a winter break in Napier. NZGFA National Conference will be held from Sunday the 9th of July to Tuesday 11th July. The conference will be held in the Napier Memorial Conference Centre and accommodation is available in the Scenic Te Panier Hotel across the road. The Conference theme is 'Profitability' 'Making a Buck for the Spreader Truck' and the Annual General Meeting will be held on the morning of Monday 10th of July followed by conference business for the rest of the day. A trip away is planned for Tuesday 11 July.

Review of Spreadmark: Council has proposed to the Fertiliser Quality Council that a review of the Spreadmark scheme be undertaken. The reasons for this are the establishment of a Farmer Spreadmark scheme and the changed environment surrounding a quality assurance scheme for fertiliser spreading. Issues that need to be looked at are:

- 1 The increased need to demonstrate nutrient loads.
- 2 Need to show greater benefit to processors and Regional Councils
- 3 Need to show benefit to farmers about the way Spreadmark can help through raising everyone's understanding of the value of even spreading.
- 4 Driver training is of great value to the total industry.
- 5 Need to consider the integrity of the Spreadmark test, including tray configuration and spacing.

- 6 Farmer Spreadmark development driven by food processor
- 7 Demonstrate operational excellence offering an audit trail through to the consumer.

High Court Copyright Declaration.

Members will be aware of the recent High Court hearing and the judgement decision handed down 19 December 2016. NZGFA Council sought legal advice on the potential cost implications to the New Zealand fertiliser groundspreading industry. At the time of writing the judgement is under appeal so the copyright liability on many recently New Zealand built fertiliser spreaders is not established.

N3. NZGFA has made available to all members the discount service provided by N3 for purchases by using an N3 trade card. The subscription to N3 has been paid by Branches. North Island Branches have declined to pay their share of the N3 subscription because of lack of support from members who have access to N3 through their RTA subscription. Accordingly, the Association will discontinue its association with N3 for North Island Branches, but will continue to pay the subscription for South Island members.

NZGFA website revision. The refresh of the NZGFA website is being undertaken by a website building company called Hypercube. The launch of the renewed site is planned to be at the at the end of March. The URL will continue nzgfa.co.nz. This website will be stand alone and will have a link to FQC and Spreadmark. Information will include cost benefits of Spreadmark and “Find a Spreader near you”.

I wish you all safe happy and profitable spreading.

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