



NOIC NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

Welcome

In this month's newsletter we remind you that this Friday, Aug 30 is the last day to get your Application and deposit in to ensure you secure some of the last of the NOIC Shares; we summarise the 18/19 Farm Environment Plan Audit, remind you about new manager training and meter readings will be required again for the new season

Important Notices

NOIC Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 16th October
7.30pm at the Opera House

Irrigation Season 2019-20 Commences 1st September

You do not need to call the office or have an operator visit your property to start this year; however, if you require assistance don't hesitate to call and make an appointment for someone from the team to visit. We are excited to be starting the new year! We wish everyone the very best for it and, as always, if you have any concerns, please call the NOIC team at 03 433-1201.

General News

Offer of Shares

You will be well aware by now, that the last of the NOIC shares are available to buy. We say **last** because they really are. These shares represent the last of the water we hold a consent for, the last 2,848 hectares that can be irrigated using that water. After that, we simply have no more. The good news is there has been strong interest and if all the shares are sold then you can expect to see savings, perhaps as much as \$125 per share (i.e per hectare) on your future charges. So, if you even THINK you need a few more, please get your Application for shares and your 10% deposit in by Friday. Yes, this Friday Aug 30th. If you haven't got a copy of the IM (inside which is the Application Form), then give us a call on 03 433-1201.

Irrigation NZ, NOIC, WIC and the Otago Regional Council

The INZ and NOIC CEO's along with the Policy Director (WIC) met with Stephen Woodhead (Chair of ORC) and staff to discuss a proposed INZ-lead initiative "Building Trust". The aim of this is to co-ordinate the gathering of water quality data and its analysis in order to tell "the story" about environmental changes (ideally improvements) in the Waitaki region. This is a Ministry for Primary Industries-funded project and while it is early days, we are pleased to see a high level of support for it from the ORC. More on this as it develops.

Operations Update

Winter maintenance has progressed well and even though a few tasks are still being completed, the scheme is ready for irrigation. This week the team started de-winterising offtakes.

Helpful Hints for the coming irrigation season:

- Check infrastructure before starting up for the season, particularly pivot gear boxes (moisture), electrical terminals (tightness) and valve condition (gaskets, on/off working and position).
- Confirm system performance, particularly application rates (bucket test)
- Assess soil moisture requirements before irrigating

Remember that much of your on-farm infrastructure will have drained over the winter months so please fill your pipelines and irrigators **SLOWLY**.

Environmental Update

Plan Change 6A Limits Delayed

On the 14th August Otago Regional Council voted for two water plan changes, to be notified in October this year and March next year. The first relates to a change in timing and implementation of the contaminant thresholds in water discharges (Schedule 16) and the nitrogen leaching limits calculated by Overseer. These will now move from **1 April 2020 to 1 April 2023**. The second is a revised plan change that will strengthen and align ORC water quality regulation with central government policy.

NOIC will continue to engage with ORC to best prepare our shareholders for whatever rules may come from this process.

For more detail please see the ORC media release here:

<https://www.orc.govt.nz/news-and-events/news-and-media-releases/2019/august/otago-regional-council-approves-proposal-to-extend-6a-deadline-strengthen-water-quality-framework>

Environmental Excellence Awards

Congratulations to those shareholders that were audited in the 2018 – 2019 season and achieved an A Pass with high grades across all areas of farm management.

- ❖ Arnmere Dairy Farm Ltd – Bryan Moore
- ❖ Clydesdale Dairy Ltd – Francois Tillard
- ❖ Waiareka Dairy Ltd - Pine Hill Farm – Ronal Bhagat

Note that all these farms are owned by Craigmere Farming NZ Ltd Partnership. Congratulations to Ed von Randow and Pierre du Preez who are also associated with the running of these properties. Thanks to their hard work, these shareholders are now welcome to apply for a \$1,000 grant to put toward riparian planting.

Farm Environment Plan Audit Outcomes

41 properties were audited in the 2018 – 2019 season with 36 properties ‘passing’ the audit by receiving an A or B grade. 5 farms failed the audit and are now working through action plans.

Irrigation management was the weakest area – please ensure staff are trained, you have an irrigation scheduling procedure, you record major maintenance and you complete bucket tests at least once every three years.

There were also a number of properties who didn’t have a nutrient budget at audit or who were in excess of the nitrogen leaching limits. Even though the timing of these limits has now been extended, it is critical that you understand your leaching number in order to manage your risk going forwards.

If you wish to get some help in any of these areas, please contact the office on 03 433 1201.

New Manager Training - Register now!

It is compulsory for all new managers to attend new manager training. If the person managing your irrigation hasn’t attended the course previously, then they need to attend.

Learn how to get the best out of Irrigation Scheduling to maximise your grass growth and minimise runoff. Tony Daveron from SWIMS consulting will be guiding us through the day.

Date: You have a choice of two dates - 25 or 26 September. We are running the same event on two days. You just need to attend one of the days. There is space for a maximum of 20 people per day – so book early to get your preference.

- ❖ 25 Sept – Enfield Hall, 11am – 2pm, or
- ❖ 26 Sept – Five Forks (Location TBC) – 11am – 2pm.

This is a free event AND lunch will be provided.

Register with the NOIC office – office@noic.co.nz or text 0274 815 2845

If you have any questions, call Nicola McGrouther on 0274939500

Meter Readings

With a new season around the corner it’s time to remind you all that from the **end of September** meter readings need to be sent to Kathy by the end of the **2nd day of each month.** eg September readings in by 2nd October.

If you have not used any water, then please say: “nil used”. Early readings are fine too.

If readings are not supplied a fee to read the meter may be charged at \$125+GST.

Please send in the reading together with your offtake number by

- Logging in to the Shareholders’ areas of the website www.noic.co.nz/shareholders; or
- Texting - 0274 815 2845 ; or
- Emailing - office@noic.co.nz, or
- Phoning - 03 433 1201

If you have any problems reading the meter or accessing the website, please let the office know and the team will be glad will help.

Community

Scholarship

Each year NOIC calls for applications for our scholarship, which is an award of \$1,000 given to a student who intends to extend their studies to include aspects of sustainability, environmental management, and/or agricultural community participation. If you know of a North Otago Year 12 or 13 student studying at a high school, who may be interested in applying, the application forms are available from a North Otago school careers advisor, on our website www.noic.co.nz , or by contacting us here at the office.

Applications close on the 27th September.

Helpful Hint

Not Meeting Minimum Employment Standards?

Many employers have faced fines for failing to meet minimum employment standards. A number of these employers run small to medium enterprises. In 2018, labour inspectors found that 28% of inspected farms were not meeting their record-keeping obligations. This resulted in total fines for \$11,000. Employees did not have agreements and employers had missing wage, time, holiday and leave records.

Every employee *must* have an employment agreement. There is no substitute for a professionally drafted one. You can go on-line at business.govt.nz and use the Employment Agreement Builder. This will generate free, standardised agreements designed to reflect key employment factors. This is a useful tool and a good starter, but you should still have your lawyer confirm it has all the necessary requirements and can do the final touches to customise it to your particular organisation.

We hope the coming season will be great for you – all the best from the NOIC team

Shares Available

Up to 80 Shares available for sale and/or lease
Contact: Derek Chalmers
027 496 7177

Shares to Lease:
Brenda McLeod 100-130 shares please call 027 513 1100

22 shares for sale
Contact: Doug Rodgers 027 609 9071