No Regrets Farming: How To *Futureproof* Your Farm

A Waiora Manuherekia Panel Event on 28 April 2025 Presented by Kim Reilly, Otago OFS Regional Manager





What are 'No Regrets' actions?

They're smart, practical steps you can take now that benefit both your farm and the environment.

These actions:

- Support both your business and environmental goals
- Align with good farming practice and industry expectations
- ▶ Boost your farm's resilience to weather, regulation, and market changes
- ► Solve more than one problem and deliver multiple benefits
- Still make sense even if things change later
- ► Keep your options open for the future
- ► Help build trust with customers, councils and the community



What are some big picture 'No Regrets' approaches?

Keep your whole team involved

- ► Involve them in planning
- ▶ Bring them on the journey
- Make sure staff get training opportunities

Look to the future

- Start succession planning early
- Consider how diversification could support greater resilience
- ► Try to see challenges as opportunities

Be proud of achievements

- ► Celebrate successes as a team
- ► Farm with pride and confidence
- ► Ignore social media vitriol
- ► Back yourself and enter BFEA or other awards

Have a multi-generational vision for your property

► How will you finish your time on farm and leave it better for those that follow?

Be open to change and new learnings

- Make time to get off farm for workshops, field days or events
- ► Connect with others to learn what's worked, or hasn't worked, for them

Keep tabs on funds & expertise on offer

► There may be resources and funding available through catchment groups, councils, QEII, environmental organisations and government departments

Make the most of support available

- Keep connected with local catchment groups
- Keep tabs on industry groups' resources and websites
- Check in with RST, Farmstrong, GP or others
- ► Contact On Farm Support for help

Small changes add up

- Don't feel you have to overhaul your whole operation
- ➤ Start by trying out 1-2 actions this season and build from there

Farm like you're in a glasshouse

- ► Lead by example
- ► Call out poor practice and encourage better standards

Visit mcg.org.nz/resources for more guidance