



Media release

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## **Grass grub in Canterbury worst in years say Ballance fertiliser experts**

Heavy rains in Canterbury have delivered mixed blessings to farmers in the area who now face accelerated grass grub problems throughout the region. While farmers have welcomed the weather that has regenerated pasture for this winter's feed, at the same time patches of extremely dry land where grass grubs have been feeding have been revealed.

Ballance Agri-Nutrients Sales Representative Raymond Williams says it's important to evaluate levels of winter feed for stock and to address grass grub problems now.

"If winter feed levels are looking low – particularly if you have been hard-hit by grass grub - you need to consider heavy rolling or spraying to control the grass grub, then apply nitrogen to boost the pasture production. If you have a serious grass grub problem at this stage in the season, it may too late to be applying bioshield grass grub.

"Farmers should get in touch with their local Ballance reps to establish whether bioshield grass grub would be suitable for use in their circumstances. Next season farmers who have been badly affected by grass grub and are seeing serious non-growth areas of pasture should consider using bioshield as a preventative not a curative measure."

Williams says that the number of farms in Canterbury that have been affected by grass grub this year have been very high, with increased numbers of incidents on each farm.

"The farmers in the region have experienced very dry weather over the past 12 months, with below average rain falls in winter and spring and long dry periods in summer and autumn. In March we had some rain but unfortunately that rain actually has helped the survival of grass grub in the affected farms. Farmers are saying it's the worst year they can remember for some time."

Ballance R&D shows that even if you cannot visibly see any damage caused by grass grub, it can still be causing economic damage. Because of this, treating grass grub-affected pasture before damage becomes excessive can prevent future loss of earnings. For further information or advice on how to address grass grub please contact your local Ballance Agri-Nutrients Sales Representative.

**ENDS**