



Media release

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Environmentally friendly farming equals big success for farmers in Ballance Farm Environment Awards in Horizons region

Palmerston North farmers Jeff and Janice Williams were recognised for their innovation in nutrient management and professional environmental practice at the Ballance Farm Environment Awards in the Horizons region this year.

Winners of the Ballance Nutrient Management Award, Jeff and Janice Williams, say entering the Awards gave them the opportunity to demonstrate that high-input farming can be environmentally friendly, good for animal health and good for business.

Their 120ha dairy farm has 440 Friesian cows with calves being born daily. Between 300 and 400 cows are milked through their 40-bale rotary shed up to three times a day. The high quality of their product means they supply much of it to Kapiti Fine Foods.

An advanced knowledge of soil fertiliser and intensification of the operation has seen the Williams' farm production and the size of their stock rise markedly in recent years. In the season just ended the Williams achieved 2200 milk/solids per ha and 620 milk/solids per cow, with their best season standing at 2400 milk/solids per ha.

Ballance Technical Sales Representative Don Pescini says the Williams' use of fenced riparian strips to protect the waterways and reduce nitrate leaching, coupled with good farming practice won the farm points.

"This is an area Ballance Agri Nutrients invests much time and research into and the Williams' practice was exceptional in this regard. Ballance has worked closely with Jeff and Janice for four years. Their passion for innovation and knowledge was what made the difference in the end. Jeff's knowledge for fertiliser use and interest in environmentally sound practice has made him a great client to work with."

The Ballance Nutrient Management Award is one of a number of awards made at the annual Ballance Farm Environment Awards. This year's supreme winners in the Horizon's region are Shane Carroll and Nicola Shadbolt for their 1100ha property Westview, north of Ashurst.

They also won the PPCS Best Livestock Farm award, the Livestock Improvement Best Dairy Farm award and the Horizons Regional Council award for integration of trees.

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