



Media release

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### **Making safety records from fertiliser**

South Island employees of fertiliser manufacturer and distributor Ballance Agri-Nutrients are making more than superphosphate – they're making safety records.

The whole South Island team of the company – its six southern-based service centres and the Awarua superphosphate manufacturing site – has achieved a whole year Lost Time Injury free.

A Lost Time Injury is an injury that results in a person having to take time off work.

Ballance Chief Executive Larry Bilodeau says the accomplishment is reward for a tremendous positive shift in attitude towards health and safety within the company over the past five years.

'We place a huge emphasis on health and safety in the workplace, and we are thrilled to record such a significant milestone. We are starting to see the benefits of the efforts being put in by all in the team.'

'It is to our employees' credit that they have made the effort to ensure our working environment remains a safe place for themselves and their work colleagues, as well as contractors, customers and the community.'

The Awarua superphosphate plant is aiming to beat its own personal best of 438 days Lost Time Injury free. At 19 October they were up to day 397 and counting.

'Through involvement in reward and recognition processes such as the Ballance Environment, Health and Safety Awards, sports sponsorship and health and safety audits we have aimed to encourage and foster a culture of proactively looking after our workmates and ourselves,' says Awarua Operations Manager Hayden Mikkelsen.

'These processes have resulted in some impressive results which, in time, will help move us further toward the long-term goal of zero injuries.'

He says there have been many health and safety initiatives implemented at the site that have positively contributed to this achievement. It is pleasing to see that front line staff have proposed a large proportion of these initiatives that, with appropriate management support, yield results.

Lower South Island Distribution Manager Jerard Stock says the South Island distribution team has developed a strong culture of health and safety over the years, and has been leading the way for the entire distribution network, with the team having achieved more than eight years LTI free.

'Divisionally, the South Island has always worked well together and we have banded together to fill training courses and ensure staff are adequately trained. This has been one of the major factors contributing to the strong result.'