

The Deer Industry Environmental Management Code of Practice 2018



Start

Acknowledgements

This handbook was produced by Deer Industry New Zealand (DINZ) as part of the Passion2Profit (P2P) strategy. P2P is a Primary Growth Partnership joint venture between DINZ and the Ministry for Primary Industries.

We would like to acknowledge the time and input by the people who have contributed to this edition of the New Zealand Deer Industry Environmental Management Code of Practice.

Lead authors and editors: Janet Gregory, NZ Landcare Trust; and Edmund Noonan, NZDFA.

Committee: Janet Gregory, NZ Landcare Trust; Edmund Noonan, John Somerville, Bob Kingscote, NZDFA; Tony Pearce and Lindsay Fung, DINZ; Leo Fietjes, ECan; Dave Connor, Environment Southland; Bala TikkiSETTY, Waikato Regional Council.

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Production: Phil Stewart, Words and Pictures and Brandt Ashley, Click Create.

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Scope

An Environmental Management Code of Practice for New Zealand deer farmers to mitigate potential environmental adverse effects from farming systems.



Mission statement

A code of environmental practices for deer farmers to assist in minimising or eliminating any adverse environment effects of deer farming and to enhance the long-term sustainability of the New Zealand deer farming industry.

The purpose of this Code

Deer farmers are strongly encouraged to read this Code and to apply it to their farm.

It is a practical guide to good environmental practice, based on farmer experience and the current state of environmental knowledge. As such, it is an essential resource for drawing up a Farm Environmental Plan (FEP) to meet the requirements of a growing number of regional councils.

The way we farm our deer is increasingly important to our fellow New Zealanders, the customers who buy our products and to the visitors who come to our beautiful country. They all expect our deer to be farmed responsibly - without harm to our land, lakes and waterways.

Having an FEP based on this Code and putting it into action is the best way to ensure that you are doing that.



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



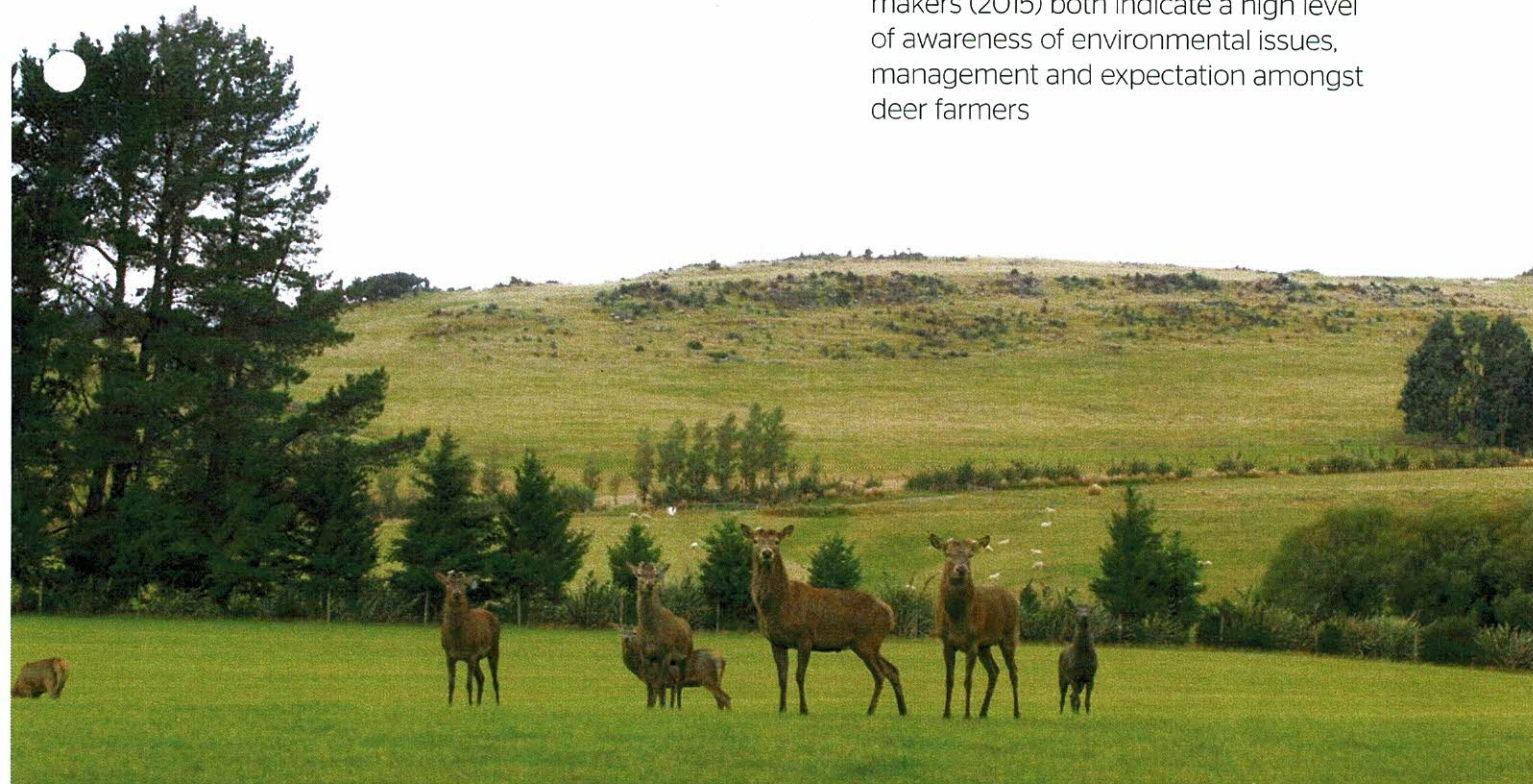
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Foreword

"Deer farmers in New Zealand have a proud history of being proactive."

These are the opening words to the Foreword of the 2012 edition of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Landcare Manual. As the youngest pastoral industry in New Zealand at almost half a century, the deer industry can point to a number of environmental activities that demonstrate this proud history:

- The deer industry environmental awards were established in 2000 and are held every two years
- The publication of the first New Zealand Deer Farmers' Landcare Manual in 2004 based largely on the advice and practical experiences of 150 contributing deer farmers and regional councils and other sources of environmental expertise across the deer industry throughout New Zealand. This 3 year project was funded via the Sustainable Farming Fund, DINZ and the NZDFA
- The establishment of the first (Sustainable Farming Fund) industry focus farms in 2006 looking at water quality management. Key messages and principles were developed from this project
- Key research undertaken by AgResearch in 2009 confirmed deer farmer observations that managing wallowing and fence pacing as two 'critical source areas' would provide significant reductions in contaminant losses to water bodies
- The New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association (NZDFA) collaborated with Greater Wellington and other primary industry groups to produce "A Guide to Managing Stock Access to Waterways" in 2011
- The industry was involved in the creation of the "Industry-agreed Good Management Practices relating to water quality" published in April 2015
- A 2009 survey of high country deer farmers as well as a recent Landcare Research survey of rural decision makers (2015) both indicate a high level of awareness of environmental issues, management and expectation amongst deer farmers



- NZ Landcare Trust has produced a series of 15 videos showcasing deer farming practices for environmental management and actions to improve water quality
- Through the Passion2Profit programme (P2P) the industry has produced a series of Deer Fact Sheets including three environment topics (Wallowing and Feed Pad Run-off; Fence Pacing; Nutrient Management)
- P2P also facilitates farmer-led environment-focused Advance Parties. These groups are in addition to NZDFA Branch activities and community catchment groups in many areas
- In 2017 the deer industry via AgResearch commenced a five-year study on five deer farms, which aims to relate water quality and stream health to deer farming “good management practices”

All of these initiatives and those carried out by individual farmers have put the industry in good heart and provides confidence in our ability to farm profitably and responsibly. To date these have been focused and promoted within the industry. In our current social and political settings we now need to demonstrate to others how we manage deer sustainably. In many parts of the country this has already become a requirement under regional plan rules.

This Environmental Management Code of Practice is the next step for the industry on a path of continuously pushing ourselves to do better across all facets of deer farming and builds on our past successes.

This code uses material from the Landcare Manuals and the Fact Sheets, is organised consistent with the 'Industry-agreed Good Management Practices relating to water quality' booklet and is intended to be fully compatible with the Beef+Lamb New Zealand's Land and Environment Plans or equivalent regional council Farm Environment Plans.

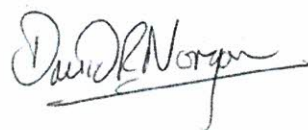
The code is about more than water quality management and is our industry statement about expectations of what our farmers need to be doing to minimise or mitigate farmed deer impacts on the environment as a whole.

We do not claim to have all the solutions and we do not expect that the code will be perfect from the outset. As with every other aspect of deer farming we fully expect to add to and refine the code over time as new technologies open up opportunities and previous “top end” approaches become standard practice.

We therefore welcome farmer feedback on how the code can be improved, what works well and what else should be covered in future editions.

However much we find ourselves facing increased challenges in today's world, the message that the industry promoted in the first edition of the Landcare Manual remains as valid and as prescient today as it was then:

“Farming New Zealand's land resources are a privilege that commands responsible management and stewardship for the future. We must perform. We must manage for sustainability.”



David Morgan, Chairman
New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association.



Dr Ian Walker, Chairman
Deer Industry New Zealand Board.