



good
farm

Your farm, your future, your way

**Taking an Integrated
Approach to Farm Planning:**

Module templates

OCTOBER 2024

Overview

Integrated Farm Planning (IFP) – Good Farm

This is all about making your life easier.

By bringing together all your farm's planning requirements, integrating them together, it will be easier to see things clearly and achieve your goals.

Every farmer, every business owner, juggles a huge amount. From freshwater, climate change, animal welfare, biosecurity, people management, health and safety... and so much more.

By bringing all this together in a whole-of-farm approach, you will be able to streamline compliance, reduce duplication, and provide a structured approach to better identify risks and opportunities that will help lift your farm and staff performance.

Integrated farm planning is not a regulatory tool, nor is it intended to duplicate work already undertaken by sector groups or individuals to develop farm plans.

Rather, it builds on those existing farm planning efforts to provide a single framework to incorporate regulated requirements into a wider farm planning process. IFP will also support you – our farmers and growers – to be prepared for future industry, regulatory and climate trends by strengthening your farm planning tools, building your already impressive knowledge, and by simplify reporting.

Still not convinced... read on

There are multiple benefits to adopting an integrated approach to your farm planning. In practical terms it can:

- reduce duplication of information and data entry
- help incorporate regulated requirements into a wider farm planning process
- identify risks and opportunities that can help lift performance
- build on existing industry assurance programmes and other farm plan initiatives
- grow your technological skills
- increase data collection for traceability, assurance, certification, and auditing processes while retaining control of personal data
- help collect information to highlight economic and environmental achievements
- recognise and embrace Te Ao Māori concepts, values, and knowledge systems, such as Mātauranga Māori
- be used to prioritise farm management issues
- support good animal health and welfare and ensure we mitigate biosecurity risks
- contribute towards meeting New Zealand's climate change commitments and managing adverse events
- support continuous improvement and resilience.

How this Good Farm Plan guide works

A series of module templates have been designed to help support your aspirations.

However, it's important to remember, the Good Farm Plan module templates are only one way to develop a farm plan. They are intended as a guide to an integrated farm planning approach, where you are looking at your whole farm system, from soils to staff, and emissions to earnings. They're also an opportunity to examine your farm system in a catchment context, understanding the challenges, aspirations and values of the whole catchment and community.

Most industry bodies have committed to ensuring Integrated Farm Planning principles are incorporated through their industry assurance programmes. If you're already part of one of these, it will likely be more helpful for you to work through the industry assurance programme and use this guide to supplement any gaps there may be in that programme.

You can find more information on relevant industry websites or through local representatives (see Appendix 1 for more information).



The framework for developing an integrated farm planning system has five steps:

Step 1: KNOW your farm

Gathering information and mapping your farm, recording core farm information, and your expectations for your operation. This is your story and needs to be captured.

Step 2: ASSESS

Complete a risk assessment and list what are the easy wins and what actions will require more resources over a longer time period. A risk assessment guide can be found in Appendix 2.

Step 3: DEVELOP an action plan

This helps you manage your risks and maximise opportunities. At the start it is better to have a simple plan than one where the actions are difficult and complex and are off-putting to complete. Important questions to ask yourself and the team are: Is the budget in place to complete the actions? Are the timeframes realistic? What are the easy wins? Does it fit with the farm management system?

Step 4: ACT and MONITOR your progress

Record actions and progress. What worked well and what went wrong and why? Take photos as part of your record keeping, making sure they are time and date stamped.

Step 5: REVIEW and update your farm plan regularly

It should be a living document.

The *Good Farm Plan* provides a high-level overview of the different modules that you can use when starting your farm plan. The modules currently cover:

1. People

The wellbeing of both you and your staff is important. People are both a resource and asset, and it makes sense to value and invest in the farm team.

2. Biosecurity

Good biosecurity management is critical to the farm business. Whether it is growing plants or livestock, managing a property's biosecurity reduces the risk of diseases, plant and animal pests and organisms from entering the property or being passed on to other properties. Biosecurity is about protecting your business – land, produce, livestock, and New Zealand's reputation as a safe primary producer.

3. Animal Welfare

New Zealand's reputation for strong animal welfare practices enhances our international reputation as an ethical food producer. Animal welfare can be described as when an animal is fit and healthy and coping with its environment. The Animal Welfare Act 1999 and associated regulations and codes of welfare set the regulatory framework for the management and care of farm animals.

4. Greenhouse Gases

The He Waka Eke Noa Primary Sector Climate Action Partnership, aims to equip farmers and growers to reduce emissions, maintain or increase sequestration and adapt to a changing climate. The He Waka Eke Noa Good Farming Practice Principles for greenhouse gas emissions were developed to guide each farm to understand its emissions' profile and what contributes to it, explore opportunities to reduce it, and keep good farm records.

5. Freshwater

Freshwater farm plans are being developed as a regulatory tool under Part 9A of the Resource Management Act. Over time, these freshwater farm plans will form a regulated module of integrated farm planning.

Good Farm Plan for Freshwater will be developed once the regulations are finalised. Once Freshwater Farm Plans (FW-FPs) become operational in Taranaki, some of the information you provide in your basic farm plan can be pulled through for your FW-FP.

In the meantime, requirements, information and guidance for intensive winter grazing are outlined [here](#). On this page, you will find the intensive winter grazing **Module** and **Template**, which are useful resources to help you develop a plan for your intensive winter grazing practices.

How to use the Good Farm Module Templates

Firstly, it's important to point out that these modules don't all have to be completed at once. They can be done in stages. Involve your whānau, staff, neighbours, rural professionals, or your local catchment group.

It's possible you may not need some of the modules. Their contents could already be covered by your industry assurance programme or another farm planning scheme. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) modules can be used to supplement areas of the programme that might have missing modules and can be put together in a way that best suits you and your farm, using your preferred software or tools.

These module templates are not designed to explicitly meet regulatory and market requirements; rather they provide guidance around what might be required and how to incorporate the *Good Farm Plan* into farm planning.

Once farm planning regulations, such as freshwater farm plans, become operational, the information provided in these modules can be pulled through. These modules could also be useful for audits and certification.

These modules can also be a good starting point if you are new to farm planning and are looking at ways to think about catchment challenges, values and context, risk assessments and action planning in an integrated way. Considering the catchment context, challenges and values is a requirement of a freshwater farm plan and these templates can be used as a stepping stone to begin thinking about farm planning in this way.

These modules are only designed as a base – they can be changed and developed depending on your farm, with more detail added to meet auditing and regulatory requirements.

The plan you develop using the module templates needs to be bespoke so that you can manage your specific risks, and ensure your focus is directed towards ensuring the wellbeing of the people, animals, and land. Each module includes links and further resources to you along your farm planning journey.

Where to go for help

These modules are designed to provide practical support. Should you require further help or assistance, options include:

- levy organisations
- processor/industry assurance programmes
- catchment groups
- MPI On Farm Support
- Taranaki Regional Council
- private primary sector advisory services.

Opportunities Analysis / Risk Assessment Process

Carrying out a simple risk assessment for different activities on your farm is a good way to identify and prioritise areas for action. In each of the farm planning modules, you will find a set of questions that will help you to identify areas of risk and opportunity.

1. Each risk is identified and quantified using the simple Risk Assessment Matrix (See below).
2. Consider the best actions available to mitigate each risk.
3. Prioritise actions by identifying which risks (or opportunities) present the widest impact across your farm system (e.g., an activity that affects not only freshwater, but also has risks for climate change goals, and animal welfare), and that is the highest priority to you.

This risk assessment process is only one way you can assess risks and opportunities on-farm. Your industry body may have a different process, or a more complex risk assessment may be required to meet market and regulatory requirements. Use whichever risk assessment suits you and your farm best.

The Risk Assessment Matrix

The Risk Assessment Matrix assesses an activity against how likely and significant an outcome may be. Essentially, the more significant and likely an outcome, the higher its risk is.

| | Low Range: Green Acceptable, OK to continue | Medium Range: Orange Apply mitigation measures | High Range: Red Unacceptable, change is required |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Risk Matrix Rating Key | | | |

Impact

| | Negligible | Minor | Moderate | Significant | Severe |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Very likely | Low-medium | Medium | Medium-high | High | High |
| Likely | Low | Low-medium | Medium | Medium-high | High |
| Possible | Low | Low-medium | Medium | Medium-high | Medium-high |
| Unlikely | Low | Low-medium | Low-medium | Medium | Medium-high |
| Very unlikely | Low | Low | Low-medium | Medium | Medium |

Existing Farm Planning Initiatives:

Industry Assurance Programmes

A range of planning initiatives such as industry and processor assurance programmes, sector and council-led farm environment planning activities, catchment groups and irrigation schemes provide support to farmers and growers with farm planning.

All of these initiatives are an important part of integrated farm planning.

Many of these programmes support farmers and growers to develop and implement farm action plans, report relevant measures, monitor results, and drive improved practice. Most provide templates and checklists to assist decision-making, and some include advisers to provide extra support. The list below contains links to some of the main industry assurance programmes.

Dairy

Dairy Tomorrow is the dairy sector's strategy for meeting the challenges of today and the future. As part of this, the sector has committed to all farms implementing and reporting under a certified sustainability plan by 2025. Instead of having a single industry assurance programme for the dairy industry, each dairy company has its own system:

- **Fonterra – Tiaki**
- **Synlait – Lead with Pride**
- **Miraka – Te Ara Miraka**
- **Westland – Farm Excellence**
- **Tatua – Tatua 360**
- **Oceania Dairy – First for Milk**
- **Open Country**

Red meat (sheep, beef and deer)

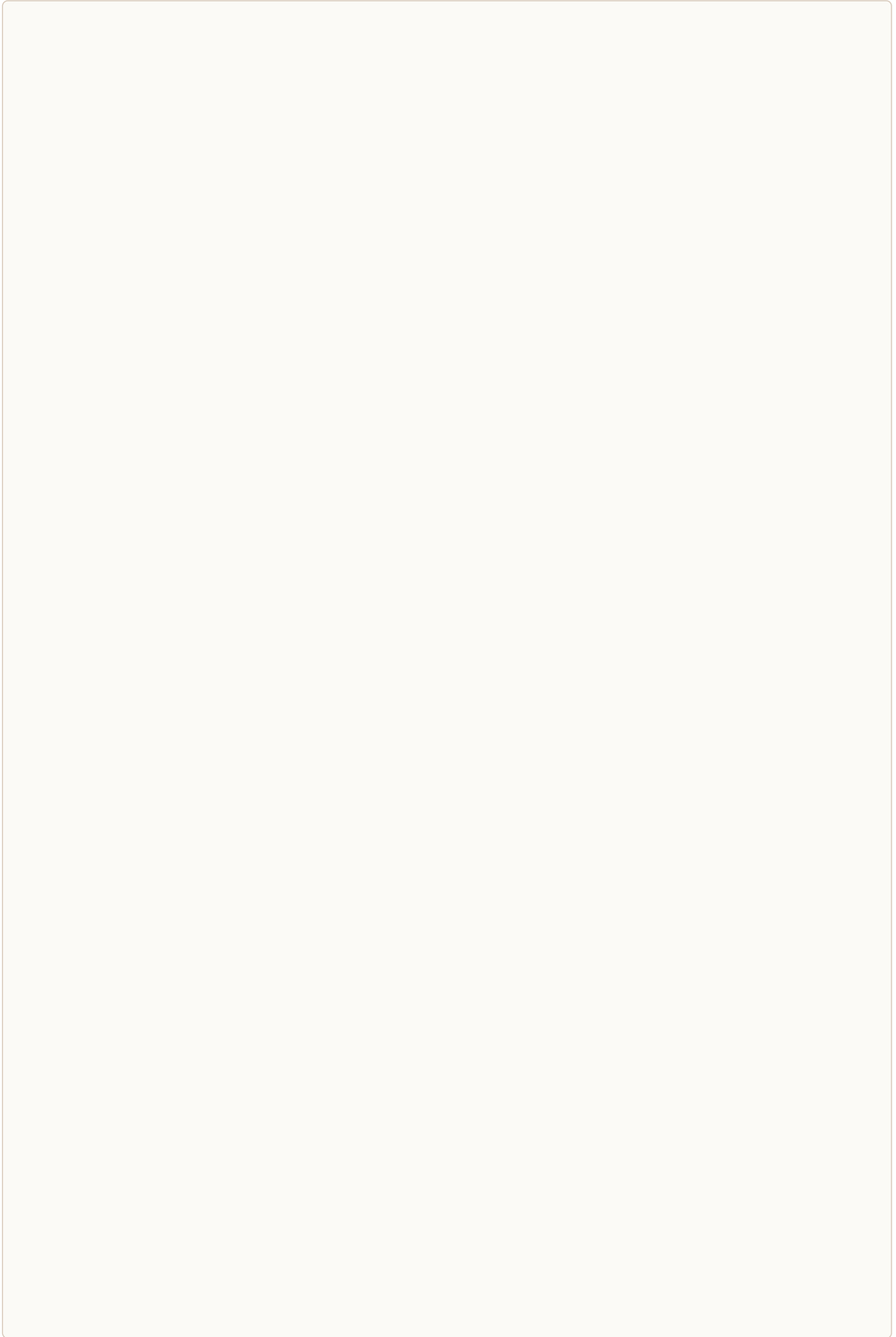
The red meat sector has several farm plans and farm assurance programmes available:

- Beef+LambNZ wants to help all commercial sheep and beef farmers to have a farm plan by 2025. **Beef+Lamb's NZ Farm Plan** provides a modular farm plan. The first module covers the environment, including biodiversity, climate change, and waste management.
- **New Zealand Farm Assurance Programmes** (NZFAP, NZFAP+) are voluntary nation-wide farm assurance programmes that collectively provide assurances regarding integrity, traceability, animal health and welfare, people, farm and natural resources and biosecurity. NZFAP+ underpins both the *Taste Pure Nature* and *Cervena Pure Freedom* brands.
- **New Zealand Merino** have ZQ and ZQRX contracts available for long-term supply agreements. Suppliers must meet ZQ fibre quality, animal welfare, environmental and social responsibility standards. ZQ and ZQRX also supply brands with Responsible Wool Standard Certification, which establishes best practice for the wool industry.
- Deer Industry NZ has resources, including related to velvet and farm planning in its **Deer Hub**.

Horticulture

The horticulture sector adopts **Good Agricultural Practice** (GAP) schemes to promote safe and sustainable production of fruit and vegetables in New Zealand. Certification to one of the schemes is necessary for supplying many local and international markets. GLOBAL G.A.P. and NZGAP are the main schemes.

Notes





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