



Welcome to Eyrewell Dairy Unit

About Eyrewell

- Dairy and dairy beef production
- Manager Mahraaz Hussein, five staff
- Dairy farm area: 316 ha effective
- Dairy beef farm area: 108 ha effective
- Target peak cows milked: 660
- Beef block: 520 animals
- Water: Waimakiri Irrigation Scheme
- Annual rainfall: 781 ml
- Altitude: 120m
- Contour: Flat
- Soils: Lismore stony silt loams



Eyrewell is a working dairy farm.

Your safety, and the wellbeing of our animals, is important to us.



Please note the following safety hazards:

- Electric fences
- Stock (unpredictable)
- Vehicles
- Trip hazards
- Machinery with moving parts

With thanks to our partners for their help today

Synlait

Synlait Milk Limited- doing milk differently for a healthier world.
We're a young, pioneering New Zealand-based company that is shifting perceptions and driving value through new thinking, and a new attitude. We combine expert farming with state-of-the-art processing to produce a range of nutritional milk products for our global customers.

We think a strong community is one of the best assets anyone can have, so we are proud to be a part of this NZ Open Farm Day 2024 at Eyrewell.

DairyNZ

DairyNZ

As an industry-good organisation, we help farmers lead the world in sustainable dairying by investing in research, new solutions and advocacy.

Our purpose: We believe that dairy has a bright and positive future and, that by working together with farmers and others, we can achieve purposeful change.

We exist to progress a positive future for New Zealand dairy farming.

Meet the boss - Farm Manager Mahraaz



Mahraaz was born and raised on the beautiful Pacific Island of Fiji. He came to New Zealand in 2015 and has been working with Pāmu since October 2015, progressing through the ranks from a Dairy Assistant to a Farm Manager. His background is in graphic design and welding, and he lives in Canterbury with his wife and two daughters.

He's been a Farm Manager for five seasons now, and both farms he has managed have become top farms for Pāmu.

Mahraaz has won several awards:

- Third place New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards – Farm manager of the Year North Otago/Canterbury 2021-2022
- Runner up New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards – Farm Manager of the Year Manawatu 2019-2021.

About Pāmu

Pāmu is the brand name for Landcorp Farming Limited. We are a State Owned Enterprise and the largest pastoral farmer in Aotearoa New Zealand with 110 farms and more than 600 staff around the country.

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to enrich our land, our people and the future of food and fibre for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Pāmu exists today to enhance the future of agriculture for generations of New Zealanders to come, return land under Treaty of Waitangi settlements, and produce a financial return.

We aim to nurture and enrich the land on which we farm, balancing performance and the environment. We seek to ensure our farming activities contribute positively to ecosystems and communities while producing high-quality food and fibre.

Farming excellence

Farming excellence lies at the core of our strategy. As we work to deliver on our performance and purpose targets, greater cohesion between dairy and livestock farms is required. We have a focus on reducing greenhouse gases and are moving to greater use of dairy beef to meet our ambition to increase the usage of surplus dairy calves.

Communities

Our farmers are part of the communities in which they farm. We support community events and activities from schools and sports teams to shearing competitions and dog trialling. We have three strategic national sponsorships: Meat the Need, the IHC Calf & Rural Scheme, and Rural Change (formerly known as the Will to Live Charitable Trust).

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Safety will always be at the heart of the way we operate. Nothing is more important than making sure everyone in our team gets home safely every night. The wellbeing of our people is of the highest priority, and we have programmes and systems in place to make sure safe behaviour is embedded in everything we do.





Dairy beef

The integrated future of farming

Dairy beef means rearing calves from dairy cows to produce meat.

Dairy and beef farming have evolved into different businesses in Aotearoa New Zealand. A large percentage of calves born on dairy farms - mostly the male ones - are surplus to needs for those farms. Meantime on livestock farms, beef breeds are selected and reared separately for meat.

At Pāmu we are combining the two types of farming, with the aim of rearing all surplus dairy calves for meat production.

Aotearoa New Zealand dairy products are valued as most of our cows live outside and graze on grass, rather than indoors as in many other countries.

One of the challenges of our more natural farming system is most calves are born in spring, and this means a lot of calves will need to be reared at the same time which means big changes to farm systems, and new skills to be developed, from calf rearing, to forage and finishing, to processing.

What are the reasons for moving to dairy beef?

People around the world are becoming more interested in where their meat and milk comes from. Dairy beef has advantages to both dairy and beef industries:

- We are using genetics to create a stock class with the best attributes of different breeds, apt for prime cuts and a lean manufacturing beef
- We can reduce livestock farms' greenhouse gas emissions intensity
- We can reduce system duplication as beef farmers do not need to breed their own animals
- We can sell traceable grass-fed beef from pasture to plate
- We can aim for better animal welfare outcomes as we select for robust and easy to calve animals
- We can create more opportunities for jobs in the regions like calf rearing.

Animal welfare

We love our cows! Pāmu practises five domains of animal welfare: nutrition, physical environment, health and behavioural interactions, and mental state.



Animal welfare is a non-negotiable at Pāmu and we strive to produce food and fibre with uncompromising care. Pāmu has ongoing training and extension for its farm teams across topics including animal welfare, and agreements with veterinarians to carry out random welfare audits on farms. There is one-on-one support for farms where required with our in-house veterinarian, with support from local vets when needed.





Sustainability at Eyrewell



The concept of Te Taiao reminds us of the interrelatedness and dynamic complexity of the environment we operate in.

Sustainability and climate adaptation

Achieving our goals through sustainable means is essential to meet our own, shareholder and customer needs. We have ambitious targets which focus on our material areas of impact: climate change adaptation, emissions reduction, biodiversity, water use, soil health biosecurity, and animal welfare.

We are planting more native plants along our waterways to protect biodiversity and water quality and provide a long-term carbon sink. This includes pioneer species that in the future will allow larger natives to regenerate.



Skink habitat restoration project

In 2015 we found some at-risk Canterbury grass skink in a corner of the farm.

We are near the Eyrewell Scientific Reserve, a protected 2.3ha remnant of kanuka forest managed by the Conservation Department. The area is also known to be a habitat for McCann's skink, the exotic golden bell frog, and the critically endangered ground beetle (only ten of these beetles were found in the last survey).

Canterbury grass skinks prefer dry open spaces to bask in, with hiding spaces from predators, and some damp areas.

Pāmu decided to restore the site with more rock piles and native plantings over time to slowly create a better habitat for the skink and other biodiversity. We started to work with Wildlands Ecological Consultants and Conservation Volunteers NZ, as well as local schools West Eyreton, Cust, Swannanoa, and Oxford Area School, to plan the planting of several thousand native vines, tussock grasses and small trees for the skinks, and to educate students about pest control and biodiversity.

This programme has now been running for seven years with more planting each year.



**Kids: When you go to the paddock,
try to finish this page and show it to a
helper in hi-vis orange!**

Can you see on your trip:

- A trough?
- A safety sign?
- Cow number 29?
- Tussock plants?
- Toe-toe plants?

Can you collect:

- A daisy?
- A four-leaf clover?
- A pinecone?
- A leaf of kanuka?
- A small white stone?

Can you draw some bugs that you find?

