



Healthy crops : Healthy animals : Healthy business

THE VOICE OF Crop Science and Animal Health





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ABOUT US

Agcarm is the peak industry association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving.

Our mission is to protect and enhance the health of crops and animals through innovation, development and responsible use of quality products.

We represent and advocate for the crop protection and animal health industries in New Zealand, and have done so for 70 years.

Agcarm members distribute and sell the majority of veterinary medicines and crop protection products in New Zealand, including vaccines and agrichemicals. Members promote the responsible use of their products right through the product life-cycle, from research to disposal, and are committed to safe and sustainable agriculture.

OUR INDUSTRY

The crop protection and animal health industries are important to New Zealand agriculture, a \$38 billion export industry, because they protect crops and animals from damaging pests and diseases.

Crop protection and animal health products are an important part of sustainable food production. They allow farmers to maximise crop yields and help keep production animals disease-free and manage unwanted pests.

WHAT WE DO

We take a lead role in managing issues of importance to the crop protection and animal health industries. We engage with politicians, regulators, and stakeholders to ensure that decision-makers take account of our industry's views.

We are a positive voice for our members and lobby for progressive and sensible policy. We work with governments and stakeholders from around the globe to shape policy and meet the shared goals of health and safety to people, the environment and the food chain. Our ability to source information from international experts gives legislators access to the best advice.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

Agcarm and its members are committed to the product stewardship or life-cycle approach to product management.

Product stewardship is the responsible and ethical management of a product from its discovery or development through to its ultimate use and disposal.

Stewardship begins at the research and development phase of a product, going on to distribution and use, through to eventual phase-out and disposal of any waste.

Our members support product stewardship in a range of ways including:

- The **Agrecovery** container recycling programme and chemical disposal scheme.

We are one of the founders, and a trustee, of the Agrecovery programme which recycles plastic containers and collects surplus agrichemicals. Members fund the programme by paying a levy on the sale of their products.

- Agcarm is a trustee of the New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust, also known as **GROWSAFE**, which provides training on the safe, responsible and effective use of agrichemicals.



SPRAY DRIFT

We create awareness of the science behind spray formation, deposition and drift, to reduce off-target movement of agrichemicals. This means making sure applicators have the appropriate training, communicate with neighbours, calibrate equipment regularly, and take weather conditions into account - especially wind speed and direction as well as atmospheric stability.



BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE

We produce industry guides to help crop protection and animal health manufacturers and distributors comply with legislation.

We are committed to ensuring that the labelling of products is clear and concise, as it provides directions on how to mix, apply, store, and dispose of a product. It tells you, for example, where the product can be used, what pest it controls, and how soon the food product can be eaten after an application.

We prepare industry guidance on appropriate packaging for crop protection products including suitable materials, strength, durability and regulation. We also produce guidance on what to wear when using crop protection products and how to use and store them.

We work with the New Zealand Grain and Seed Trade Association to produce best practice guides promoting the safe handling and management of treated seed, for the benefit of safety to people, insects, animals and the environment. The guides help mitigate risks to pollinators, animals, and waterways, as well as minimise dust and pesticide drift.



BIOSECURITY

New Zealand has one of the strongest biosecurity systems in the world.

We work with government to manage and respond to biosecurity incursions.

We provide the means to eradicate both new and established pests - such as the brown marmorated stink bug.



RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT

Pests and micro-organisms can become resistant to the treatments designed to manage them. This can lead to the loss of products vital to farmers and growers.

We support programmes which prolong the effectiveness of crop protection and animal health products liable to encounter resistance problems, and limit losses should resistance appear.



ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

We issue guidance on antimicrobials and work with human and animal health experts from industry and government to help manage antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

We host forums with international contributors, for industry and government, to discuss the implications of resistance and how to best manage it.

We helped develop New Zealand's AMR plan which was submitted to the World Health Organisation in May 2017.



ANTHELMINTIC RESISTANCE

We are part of the Wormwise® management group, a national initiative to provide farmers, vets and rural retailers with information and services to manage internal parasites in farm animals.

The initiative began in 2005 after a national survey of farms revealed significant levels of anthelmintic resistance to internal parasites.



PESTICIDE RESISTANCE

Like bacteria with antibiotics, resistance to crop protection products can develop over time.

We issue guidance and host forums on avoiding resistance. We work with industry, including the Plant Protection Society, on managing products that are at risk of developing resistance.

Practices for managing at-risk products include threshold monitoring of insect populations, non-exclusive use of specific chemistry, and restricting the number of applications per crop per season.

BEE HEALTH

Bees are extremely good pollinators of crops and contribute substantially to New Zealand's multi-billion dollar agricultural economy.

Pollination is essential for plants to produce fruits and seeds and to assist with nitrogen regeneration in clover pastures.

Healthy bee populations need to be protected to ensure the productivity of New Zealand agriculture.

We work with applicators of crop protection products and the apiculture industry to raise awareness of the importance of keeping bees safe by using agrichemicals responsibly.



SAFE FOOD

New Zealand leads the world in the production of safe, healthy and sustainable food.

We argue for the sensible regulation of food and create awareness of how our food system is managed.

Our members work hard to satisfy the stringent requirements set by regulators. They also work with food chain partners to achieve the lowest possible residues in food.

The Ministry for Primary Industries tests food for residues of hundreds of agricultural compounds, veterinary medicines and environmental contaminants - and confirms that we follow good practice in using agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines.





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