



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# Government supports new science for agriculture

New Zealand's primary sector is one step closer to accessing new agricultural products due to government's support for increasing timeframes around data protection.

The Primary Production Select Committee report, released yesterday, favours increasing the protection of research and commercial data required to register new crop protection and animal health products in New Zealand.

The increase will allow 10 years protection for innovative products and five years for new uses, new formulations and reassessments.

Agcarm chief executive, Mark Ross says, "This is very exciting news for our industry. The changes will encourage greater innovation and new science which is vital for New Zealand's farmers and growers. It will ensure that our country has access to the latest technology and can remain competitive alongside other agricultural nations."

The increase will encourage new products to address harmful pests like New Zealand's grass grub problem – which costs farmers and growers up to \$90 million a year in lost production. A pest treated by a product which is soon to be phased out. A more environmentally-friendly option is needed and increased protection will bring products such as these to our market.

As a supporter of agricultural productivity and improved animal health, Agcarm has been advocating for an increase in data protection for more than 15 years.

"We value the backing of the Primary Production Select Committee and Minister Jo Goodhew for continuing to support the progression of the Bill through Parliament," says Ross.

The report supports increasing protection in the Agriculture Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Amendment (Data Protection) Bill and was submitted to the House of Representatives yesterday.

The Bill's progression through Parliament is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

### **About Agcarm**

Agcarm is an industry association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving. Industry initiatives led by Agcarm include providing safe and sustainable animal health and crop protection technology for the future of New Zealand, and educating the community about the industry's contribution.

### **ENDS**

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