



Information for Canterbury Horticulture Growers

Farm Environment Plan Workshops (March 2020)

Workshops sponsored by Horticulture New Zealand, Vegetables New Zealand, Onions New Zealand, and Potatoes New Zealand.

Horticulture New Zealand is offering two FEP workshops to Canterbury growers that will step through a Farm Environment Plan (FEP) under the GAP framework.

These workshops are open to all commercial horticulture (fruit and vegetable) growers in Canterbury regardless of the farm plan system or template you are using, e.g. irrigation scheme, FAR, NZGAP, G.L.O.B.A.L.GAP, or Environment Canterbury.

In these workshops we discuss a range of good and best management practices to manage environmental risks identified for your individual growing operations, from managing soil and nutrient losses, to maintaining natural assets on your property like native biodiversity and mahinga kai.

Why do you need a Farm Environment Plan?

In Canterbury, the Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) has undergone several plan changes in recent years. The latest, Plan Change 7 (PC7), requires commercial horticulture operations to have a Farm Environment Plan (FEP) in order to apply for resource consent (in most cases). Additional sub-regions in PC7, specifically for Waimakariri and Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora (OTOP) zones, have new provisions and additional requirements to manage freshwater, for example, where water quality is degraded, reducing nitrogen loss is a high priority. In these areas best management practice (BMP) is like to be a minimum requirement, in addition to good management practice (GMP).

Environmental risks from horticulture production are assessed and managed through FEPs, whether the operation is run by an enterprise or individual farmer, leased or owned land.

An audited FEP documents the good practices you are already doing, and what you plan to do in the future to continually improve your practices over time. Having an audited FEP will put you in a strong position when applying for resource consent from regional council.

What is the EMS?

The Environmental Management System (EMS) is an add-on to NZGAP and GLOBALGAP, and is available to all NZGAP and GLOBALGAP certified growers. As part of the assurance framework of the GAP programmes, FEPs developed following the EMS are subject to independent, third-party audit.

The EMS adopts a risk and outcomes based approach, and as such, your FEP will be unique to your growing operation, will reflect the local climate and soils, and your aspirations. The good and best management practices in the EMS are based on industry-led research and are captured in our industry Codes of Practice, developed specifically for horticulture.

ECan has formally recognized and accepted the latest EMS templates and checklist (version 1.6), which have been benchmarked to ECan's requirements.



Information on the EMS, including templates, checklists, and technical codes of practice are available online at the NZGAP website (<https://newzealandgap.co.nz>) under Environment ([link to website](#)).

Workshop programme

We will host two workshops in three locations to cater for the spread of growing operations across the region, and to minimise your travel time to workshops. Please see details below.

Workshop 1: Introduction, farm mapping, erosion and sediment control

Location	Lincoln	Ashburton	Timaru
Venue	Lincoln Events Centre	Hotel Ashburton	Southern Trust Events Centre
Date	Tuesday, 17 March	Tuesday, 17 March	Wednesday, 18 March
Time	2-4 pm	6-8 pm	4-6 pm

Workshop 2: Nutrient management, water management, biodiversity and mahinga kai

Location	Lincoln	Ashburton	Timaru
Venue	Lincoln Events Centre	Hotel Ashburton	Southern Trust Events Centre
Date	Monday, 30 March	Monday, 30 March	Tuesday, 31 March
Time	2-4 pm	6-8 pm	4-6 pm

Registration costs

Registration costs are provided in the table below.

Activity	Cost (\$)	Notes
EMS registration	\$250	Includes help digitally mapping your property (up to 50 ha).
Each FEP workshop	\$200	Cost per business. Additional attendee from each business at no extra cost.
EMS audit	TBC	Depends if stand-alone or as add-on to GAP audit. Grower will be invoiced after the audit.
Expert review of final FEP, prior to initial audit (Optional)	\$150	Up to 1 hour, high level overview of FEP content and gaps.

In addition, you can request a one-on-one expert review of your final FEP with Andrew Barber. Andrew has over 20 years' experience in the horticulture industry developing and testing research, and contributing to the industry codes of practice. Andrew can help you identify gaps in your FEP evidence that an auditor would expect to see.