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Ray's Thoughts

There are four seasons in a year - yeah right! Even nature seems to like the Tui ads!

Many farming regions around the country have gone through the year (agricultural year) completely missing one season, the missing season happened to be the most important season of them all. Wet, wet winter then within a week 30°+ days with no rain! That was it, if you blinked you missed it (Spring). The flow on effect of a lack of spring flush of grass will be with many farmers still. Care will be needed to ensure capital stock are fed well through autumn and winter.

I recently caught up with a very experienced livestock truck driver and his comment summed the year up. "The first load of milk lambs for the season were the lightest I have ever carted and nothing has improved since. This is the

worst year I can recall as far as condition, weight and quality of lambs is concerned."

Autumn is looking promising so hopefully the hardship will be behind us now and we have next season to look forward to.



Funnels set up, ready to filter the next run of soils

Autumn is a busy time of year here at Qlabs. The team in the lab have been hard at work processing Soils, Feeds and lots of Dry Matters.

Waters

Please remember that if you are doing a water test you need to pick up a container from us. We can't accept water in any other container. Thanks.



In February we attended the bi-annual Southern Fieldays in Waimumu, just out of Gore. We had a great time and met lots of interesting people as well as catching up with some of our clients. The weather was pretty good with only one coldish day and a record turnout of visitors attended - 41,000 ticket holders and this excluded children under 16 and school children! It just keeps getting better. If you get the chance to go to these fieldays we highly recommend you do, it's a great three days.

Focus Points - Look at the next key elements that drive your profitability

- Soil testing - do you need to have a new soil test done before you apply your autumn fertiliser?
- Have you ordered your autumn fertiliser?
- Rotation length.
- Winter pasture covers.
- Animal condition score.
- Planning feed tests to balance electrolyte levels pre-calving/lambing.

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Ray and Donna on a client's farm.

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the farm to use in our newsletter/s.

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