

Agronomy in the News

The newsletter of the Agronomy Society of New Zealand



Food security and safety continues to be a topic of global significance. As competition for resources increases agronomists have a critical role to play in ensuring the profitable and sustainable production of food and feed products.

In New Zealand that includes making the most of new opportunities associated with irrigation. Recent Statistics NZ figures show a substantial rise in the area of land irrigated since 2007 (approximately 102,000 ha) which has unlocked further productivity gains across our primary industries. During this time there has also been a heightened awareness of the potential impacts associated with intensification, especially those relating to nutrient losses and soil degradation.

This year our conference theme is "Sustaining agriculture and horticulture - new science, technologies and practices". We look forward to a range of papers on these topics during our 3-day joint event (November 5-7) with the NZ Grasslands Association.

More details will be available on our website in the coming months, including a full program outlining the mix of plenary speakers, technical sessions and field visits.

Conference Early bird registrations now open

Early bird registrations for the joint NZGA and ASNZ conference are now open. As in previous years online registrations are available via the [Grasslands website](#).

The cost for the 3-day event is:

Category	Early bird registration	Late registration
Full registration (NZGA or ASNZ member)*	\$ 385	\$ 470
Full registration (non-member)	\$ 495	\$ 595
Student registration	\$ 220	\$ 250
1-Day registration	\$ 150	\$ 180

*Membership to the Agronomy Society costs \$60 per year, so sign up now to receive the discounted Conference rate for members.

A list of accommodation options is also available [online](#).

The conference is being held at the [Trinity Wharf Hotel and Conference Centre](#) in Tauranga.

Maize Industry Forum



Due to the full conference programme this year we have decided to cancel the maize forum that was being considered. In the months ahead the society will work with industry groups to identify other opportunities to co-host events.

2010 Proceedings published

In July we finalised the 2010 Agronomy New Zealand proceedings (Vol. 40) - we appreciate your patience! Hard copies of the proceedings are currently being printed and will be sent to members. Copies of the individual papers can be downloaded from our [Agronomy Society website](#). We have also made good progress uploading other proceedings (the list now includes 2005-2012) with further additions planned in the coming months. Online access ensures that published papers get wide and quick exposure both nationally and internationally.

Student travel award

This year the Society will again be offering a travel award for student presenters to attend the joint Grasslands-Agronomy Conference. The award will be valued at up to \$1,000 and can be used to cover the cost of registration, travel and accommodation. To apply please register your interest with the secretary (secretary@agronomysociety.org.nz) by September 30.

Visitors to the Agronomy Society website

Since re-launching the Agronomy Society website last year we've seen steady growth in visitor traffic. In July the 'top five' number of hits came from NZ, USA, China, Japan and Great Britain. Close behind was Australia, France, Canada and Russia. The most downloaded paper since our April newsletter was "Fodder beet revisited" (Matthew et al, 2011). If you have new ideas for the website please email the webmaster (webmaster@agronomysociety.org.nz).



Upcoming conferences and events



International Grassland Congress 2013

The XXII International Grassland Congress will be held in Sydney, Australia from 15-19 September 2013. Further information including details on registration is available at <http://www.igc2013.com>.

Joint NZ Grasslands Association and Agronomy Society Conference

The joint NZGA-ASNZ Conferences will be held in Tauranga from 5-7 November 2013. Further details will be available in the coming months at www.agronomysociety.org.nz.



International Horticulture Congress 2014

Brisbane, Australia will host the 29th International Horticulture Congress from 17-24 August 2014. The congress theme is 'Horticulture - sustaining lives, livelihoods and landscapes', with numerous aligned international symposia. Further details of the event are available at <http://www.ihc2014.org/>