

APARIMA COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT (ACE) PROJECT

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FARMERS LEADING CHANGE AND TAKING ACTION

ACE is building and supporting the Aparima community and its environmental resilience through on the ground action, while maintaining profitable businesses.

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ACE IS SUPPORTING FARMERS

- Helping farmers understand water quality issues and the options available to improve water quality
- Supporting all farmers to obtain a Farm Environment Plan
- Facilitating the understanding and implementation of good farming practice (GFP)
- Assessing the benefit good farming practice adoption has on water quality

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WHAT CAN THE FARMING COMMUNITY DO?

- Find out about good farming practice opportunities applicable to your farm, which are often low-cost options
- Rapidly and voluntarily adopt good farming practices, especially around wintering stock
- Obtain a Farm Environment Plan

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WHO IS SUPPORTING ACE?

Aparima catchment groups (Pourakino, Lower Aparima, Orepuki, Mid Aparima, Upper Aparima and Waimatiku), Beef + Lamb NZ, DairyNZ, Environment Southland and Fonterra.

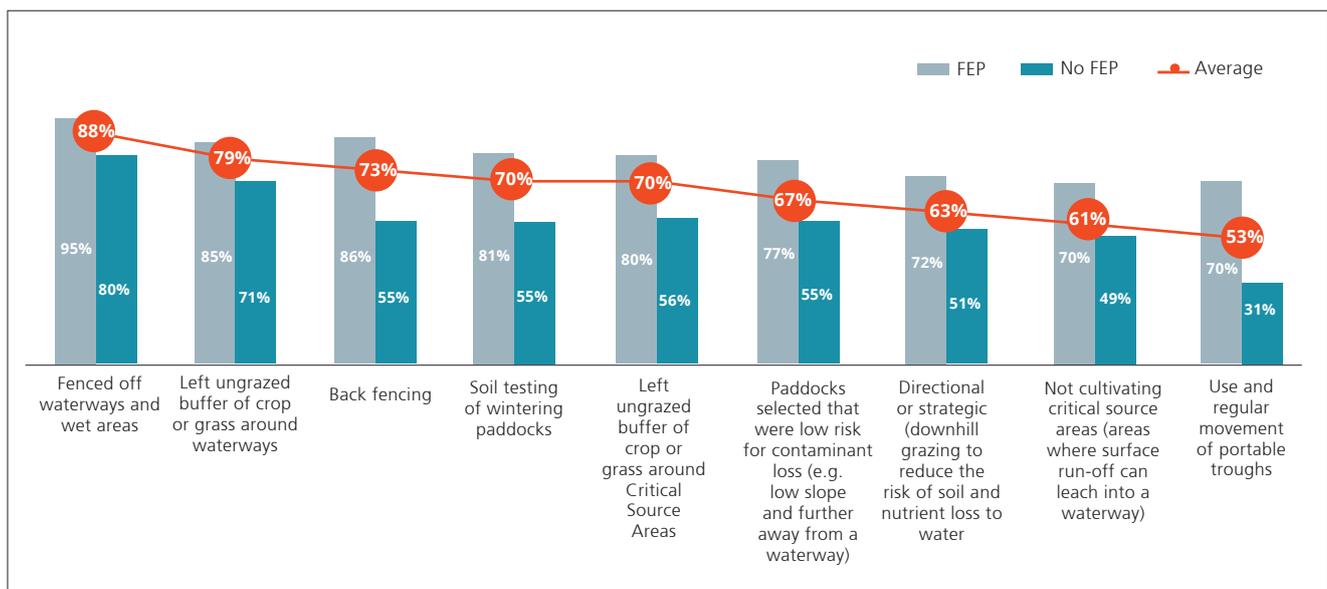
ACE FARMER SURVEY RESULTS

The Aparima Community and Environment (ACE) project aims to empower farmers in the Aparima freshwater management unit to adopt good farming practices to improve the local environment. A phone survey of all Beef + Lamb NZ and DairyNZ levy payers was done to understand and celebrate good farming practice uptake in the catchment and to track changes over time.

FAST FACTS

- ➡ Aparima freshwater management unit includes Orepuki, Waimatuku and Pourakino catchments.
- ➡ 608 Beef + Lamb NZ and DairyNZ levy payers contacted in May 2019.
- ➡ 129 farm owners (some with multiple farms) answered the survey.
- ➡ 57% of respondents had a Farm Environment Plan (FEP)
- ➡ Farmers with a FEP were more likely to be operating at good farming practice (GFP) than those without.

The graph below is a snapshot of the results, focusing on wintering practices and showing the proportion of farmers undertaking specific good farming practices with and without a FEP.



NEXT STEPS

- ➡ Farmers who responded wanted to celebrate the work they have already done to reduce their environmental footprint
- ➡ Targeted messaging on the benefits of having a FEP
- ➡ Targeted messaging and tailored extension events on areas where uptake rates are lower
- ➡ Build community knowledge and engagement with the project to achieve a higher survey response rate next year
- ➡ Survey information gathered will be used to track farmer progress of good farming practice uptake over the next five years.