



EMBARGOED UNTIL 11AM, SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2020

# Farming for the Future

Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata,  
haere whakamua

Aotearoa can have a thriving, sustainable farming sector that tackles the climate crisis and cleans up our rivers, helps rural communities flourish, and makes sure we all have fresh and healthy food to eat.

Farming and growing well is more important than ever as we reset the economy after COVID-19, both for local food security and to ensure Aotearoa can keep exporting to the world. But for decades, successive governments have treated farms like factories, not precious ecosystems. They've encouraged dirty, intensive agriculture that hurts our planet. Prioritising quantity over quality has polluted our water, hurt our land and animals, and contributed to the climate crisis.

Primary sector exports held strong through COVID-19 and that strength will be needed to help Aotearoa navigate the coming years. By making smart choices, we can think ahead to tackle the climate crisis and act now to create a more resilient system that supports farmers and growers, protects our land and water, and makes sure we all have fresh, healthy food to eat. The Green Party will:

- 1. Support farmers to improve the ways they grow food and fibre**, with a new Healthy Food and Farming Fund to speed up the transition to regenerative farming; grow the organics sector; and set a fair price for agricultural greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2. Encourage sustainable farming practices** by banning imports of Palm Kernel Expeller (PKE); developing fair charges for commercial water use; and our **three point plan to tackle nitrogen pollution** that includes progressively tightening the limits on nitrogen application, levying nitrogen and phosphorous fertiliser sales to fund cleaner farming practices, and setting a strong limit for dissolved inorganic nitrogen in freshwater.
- 3. Help Kiwi farmers get a fair reward for their efforts and ensure people can trust the food they're buying** by developing a robust national sustainability

accreditation scheme; investing in processing capacity for plant-based foods; extending country of origin labelling; and ensuring animals in agriculture live happy, stress-free lives.

- 4. Ensure the forestry sector supports sustainable land use** by overhauling the NES-Plantation Forestry; diversifying tree species used in forestry to shift away from pine monocultures; and promoting greater use of wood in construction.
- 5. Connect urban communities to food production** by supporting community gardens; strengthening food growing at school; and making sure all school kids get opportunities to see how farms work.

## Supporting regenerative and organic farming

Regenerative farming improves the health of soil, land, and water quality, rather than exploiting them to maximise production. It provides a way for farms to maintain profitability while reducing their impact on the climate, waterways, and nature.

### The Healthy Food and Farming Fund

The Green Party will transform the Government's Sustainable Food & Fibre Futures Fund into a bigger Healthy Food and Farming Fund. Up to \$297 million over three years will be available to support the transition to regenerative and organic farming. This will fund practical on-farm changes as well as processing infrastructure. Combined with the Government's \$700 million package of support for farmers to clean up waterways, this will provide \$997 million of funding support for clean farming.

### Building trust and value in sustainability

A government-backed sustainability accreditation system for food and fibre products will enable Kiwi farmers and growers to command higher prices for their exports.

The Organic Products Bill will be fixed to include a robust definition of "organic", clarify that existing organic certifications are valid, and create an organic industry advisory group to oversee the legislation.

We will make sure Kiwis can choose to buy local with country of origin labelling extended to more food products, and new standards will ensure people can trust labels that claim products are "free range" or "cruelty free".

[www.greens.org.nz/  
farming\\_for\\_the\\_future](http://www.greens.org.nz/farming_for_the_future)

The logo for the Green Party, featuring a stylized green leaf above the word "Green" in a white serif font.