

Why is New Zealand so interested in agricultural GHG?



- Agriculture 50% of New Zealand emissions
- Agriculture 52% of total merchandise exports
- Produces 40% of world's tradeable dairy products, 66% of tradeable lamb products
- Developed & developing country problem











Background to agricultural non-CO₂ emissions



- CH₄ & N₂O
- Emissions vary over time –hourly, daily, weekly, monthly & annually
- Emissions vary in space patch, paddock, farm & region
- Multiple influences on emissions environmental, physical, biological
- Complex problem and not all processes influencing emissions are fully understood
- Mitigating emissions from grazing animals particularly challenging





Routes for CH₄ mitigation



Short	Medium	Long
Reduce animal numbers Manipulate diet Increase productivity per animal	Rumen modifiers Plants with low CH ₄ yield	Targeted manipulation of rumen ecosystem Breed animals with low CH ₄ yield





Routes for N₂O mitigation



Short	Medium	Long
Reduce animal numbers Manipulate diet Increase productivity per animal Cattle winter management Soil management Type, quantity & timing of N fertiliser applications	Nitrification inhibitors Improved plant germplasm	Increase efficiency of N utilisation by ruminants Targeted manipulation of soil microbial processes





Barriers to achieving mitigation potential



Short	Medium	Long
Mitigation potential low	Technical failure	Technical failure
Practicality		
Cost	Adverse side effects	Adverse side effects
Measurement, estimation & inventory issues	Practicality	Practicality
Lack of incentive to adopt without co-benefits	Cost	Cost
Delayed adoption		
No net GHG mitigation benefit	Consumer acceptability	Consumer acceptability





New Zealand domestic policy initiatives



LONG-TERM OPTIONS

OPTIONS FOR ENCOURAGING EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS NOW

Research, technology transfer and voluntary reporting

1. Research

Research into adaptation, mitigation and measurement technologies and practices for methane and nitrous oxide

2. Technology transfer

Use of demonstration farms to promote adoption of mitigation technologies e.g. nitrogen inhibitors, nutrient budgeting, improved forage crops

3. Voluntary reporting
Voluntary reporting of emissions at the farm level

Price-based measures

4. Incentive for nitrification inhibitors

Government pricing mechanisms

Pay a financial incentive to encourage the use of nitrogen inhibitors

5. Charge on nitrogen fertiliser Impose a charge on nitrogen fertilisers Market-based mechanisms

Tradable permit regime for agriculture emissions
 Devolution of agriculture greenhouse gas emission obligations and permits to farmers

7. Offset schemes for agricultural emissions
Farmers required to offset emissions b

Farmers required to offset emissions by emission reductions elsewhere i.e. tree planting, biofuels etc

Regulation

8. RMA standards to control agricultural greenhouse gas emissions
Development of a National Environmental
Standard to control agricultural greenhouse gas emissions: i.e. input and/or output controls

Options focusing on land use change from forestry to agriculture

10. Charge where deforested land is used for agriculture Impose a charge on agriculture emissions created when land is converted from forestry to agriculture

9. RMA standards to control new agricultural land use after deforestation

Controlling the greenhouse gas emissions and other effects arising from land use change from forestry to agriculture