



2026 NZIAHS CANTERBURY FORUM

FROM SUNSET TO SUNRISE: THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE IN NEW ZEALAND

WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2026, STEWART 1 & FOYER, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

8.50am **Welcome:** Professor Grant Edwards
Vice Chancellor, Lincoln University

9.00am **Keynote Address:** Dr John Caradus
Chief Technology Officer, Grasslanz

Have we fallen behind everyone else in the OECD in not allowing genetic modification, and at what cost?

9.30am **Darrell O'Brien & Dr Sai Aroju**
General Manager and Research & Innovation Manager, Radiata Pine Breeding Company

A faster path to climate resilience in forestry, through technology adoption

10.00am **Hamish Marr**
Farmer, Mid-Canterbury

How can growers compete with subsidised imports?

10.30am **Morning Tea**

11.00am **Dr Scott Champion**
Chief Executive, Foundation for Arable Research

How can cross-sector collaboration be the ticket to success?

11.30am **Dr Kirsty Chidgey**
Animal Welfare Science Advisor for NZ Pork and Senior Research Officer at Massey University

Beyond cheap imports: Supporting a strong domestic pork industry?

12noon **Colin Hurst**
National President, Federated Farmers

Is the New Zealand family farmer a dying breed, and what would the cost of that be?

12.30pm **Lunch**

1.00pm **Steve Koekemoer**
Chief Executive, Season's Best Limited

We have talked about 'value add' for many decades now, but what have we added in value in our vegetable industries?

1.30pm **Dr Jacqueline Rowarth**
Adjunct Professor, Lincoln University
How we actively choose to under invest in science

POLITICAL FORUM

FREE OF CHARGE | IN PERSON AND ONLINE

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Each of the political parties will discuss their policy on agricultural and horticultural science

Representatives from:

National Party: Hon Nicola Grigg

Labour Party: Hon Jo Luxton

Green Party: Steve Abel

NZ First Party: Mark Patterson

ACT Party: Dr Parmjeet Parma

Opportunity Party: Daniel Eb

Chair: Prof Jon Hickford

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