

Overview of the research programme *Boosting Exports of the Emerging NZ Dairy Sheep Industry*

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Programme Aim

‘To enable the emerging NZ Dairy Sheep industry to reach \$200m in export earnings by 2030’



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by creating greater value from sheep milk through

- knowledge of its *composition* and the *functionality* of its components
- improving net *volume* of harvested milk
- establishing criteria to ensure the *environmental sustainability* of sheep dairying in NZ



Research Aim 1.1: Milk Composition

Expected outcome:

- Information on nutritional characteristics of NZ sheep milk produced at all stages of the year



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Benefits:

- The unique composition of NZ sheep milk
- Best practice for storage and processing of sheep milk



Research Aim 1.2: Milk Function

Expected outcome:

- Identify functional properties of sheep milk and sheep milk components to build an evidence portfolio towards functional food claims.



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Benefits:

- Towards sheep milk products with high level health claims



Research Aim 1.3: Milk Production Through Feeding

Expected outcomes:

- Feeding systems that increase the net volume and value of harvested milk
- Nutrition and health systems that economically improve early life nutrition and health outcomes



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Expected outcomes:

- Feeding systems that increase the net volume and value of harvested milk
- Nutrition and health systems that economically improve early life nutrition and health outcomes

Benefits:

- Increased lifetime milk production
- Healthier early-weaned lambs
- Increased lamb growth



Research Aim 1.4: Environmental Footprint

Expected outcomes:

- Establishment of criteria to ensure a sustainable NZ dairy sheep industry
- Quality assurance guidelines to endorse the sustainable reputation of NZ dairy sheep products in international markets



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Benefits:

- A dairy farming system with a low environmental footprint

