



An efficient irrigation system can save you money

Support is available in the Ashburton district

Wise water use delivers multiple benefits

Most sprinkler systems can apply water efficiently with a bit of attention given to maintenance, soil moisture levels and incoming rainfall.

Improving irrigation efficiency is a great opportunity to get some 'runs on the board' by reducing costs, improving resource use, increasing profitability and minimising your impact on the environment.

More efficient water use is a major theme of the Farm Environment Plan (FEP) programmes many of you will be involved with.

Know what works best for you

Open any farming or irrigation magazine and you might feel overwhelmed with the options available for managing your irrigation. Many of these are complex and expensive but chances are something simple will work best for you.

Help is available

Over the summer an industry led irrigation support programme will begin in the Ashburton District to help farmers get to know their systems better and see where improvements can be made.

The programme includes:

- Distribution uniformity testing (bucket tests)
- An estimate of water use efficiency using water meter data
- An opportunity to attend a small group discussion with other farmers and industry experts to understand the results and identify next steps.

Who is involved?

A wide-range of industry organisations, water user groups and irrigation schemes in the Ashburton District are supporting the programme including Irrigation NZ and Environment Canterbury.

How you can get involved

If you are interested in participating in the programme, register by contacting one of the programme partners listed overleaf.



Programme partners

Environment Canterbury	Donna Lill	027 8391539	donna.lill@ecan.govt.nz
Dairy NZ	Angela Harvey	021 246 2185	angela.harvey@dairynz.co.nz
Beef + Lamb New Zealand	Turi McFarlane	027 8367658	turi.mcfarlane@beeflambnz.com
FAR	Anna Heslop	021 960 058	anna.heslop@far.org.nz
RDR	Reuben Edkins	027 435 6257	reuben@rdrml.co.nz
Irrigo	Eva Harris	027 5500129	eva@irrigo.co.nz
Fonterra	Chris Appleby	027 5281619	chris.appleby@fonterra.com
Synlait	Michael Edmondson	021 915 677	michael.edmondson@synlait.com

Agreement for Distribution Uniformity Test

1. A Distribution Uniformity (DU) test will be carried out on up to two irrigation sprinkler systems per property for a fee of \$100+GST.
2. The DU test will be carried out at a mutually acceptable time and location.
3. The irrigation system owner or an appropriate member of the farm enterprise team must participate in the DU test.
4. The DU test will be carried out using methods developed by Irrigation New Zealand (INZ). An App (software) has been developed by INZ to support the DU testing process.
5. Farmers participating in the testing programme are expected to attend a follow-up session with fellow farmers to discuss their results. These sessions will be run by Irrigation NZ.
6. Data and results from the test will remain in the ownership of the irrigation system owner and shall not be released to other parties without the specific permission of the system owner.
7. However, the project partners may collate the aggregated data and results for the purpose of identifying trends, issues and opportunities for farmers to improve water use efficiency.
8. Personnel undertaking the tests will be employed directly by Environment Canterbury and will generally use Environment Canterbury identified vehicles and equipment.
9. All Health and Safety requirements will be met when working on a farm property.

