



QUICK FACTS:

Limestone Downs is a high-profile trust-owned property near Port Waikato

It covers 3,200 ha and winters about 27,000 stock units

The operation converted 350ha to a dairy milking platform two years ago and runs 610 Friesian cows and 190 heifers.

It has a long-standing relationship with Massey University and is often used to trial research projects in a commercial setting



“WE ARE THE BEEF FINISHER AND THE DAIRY FARMER. WITHOUT THE NEED TO BREED REPLACEMENTS, ALL WE NEED FROM OUR DAIRY HERD IS TO GET IN CALF AND CALVE EASILY. THEN, FROM A BEEF FINISHING PERSPECTIVE, FOR CALVES TO GROW AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.”

ALF HARWOOD, LIMESTONE DOWNS MANAGER

LIMESTONE DOWNS, WAIKATO

A four-year dairy-beef test is being carried out at Limestone Downs. Its goal is to calculate the additional value that can be added by using high-genetic-merit beef bulls, versus the unrecorded bulls traditionally used as “follow-on bulls” in most New Zealand dairy systems. Ninety-four bulls will be used in total. While this is a stand-alone progeny test, it will be genetically linked to the B+LNZ Genetics beef progeny test by using selected sires across operations. This will provide comparisons around how the bulls perform in two different systems.

