



Anders Crofoot, Chairman of the Fertiliser Quality Council (FQC), applauds the many unsung heroes of agriculture.



I was honoured to recently receive the Federated Farmers' award for Outstanding Contribution. While I didn't seek the limelight, it was gratifying to know that the work I have put in over the past 10 years (to help benefit the nation's farming community) has been recognised. It was also satisfying that my involvement with the FQC was taken into consideration.

This award is just one of several acknowledgements that Federated Farmers makes annually to celebrate everyday people who work selflessly within the industry - for the greater good of New Zealand agriculture. There are many who put in significant effort, not for praise or a pat on the back but because they are passionate about their job; their sector. It is passion and belief, coupled with a notion that they can help achieve a positive outcome for others, that drives individuals to invest hours of their own time into projects and causes.

Many of these people will go through their careers without any official recognition, but this won't be of importance to them. Their satisfaction is in the knowledge that they did what they needed to do to help make a difference.

We are fortunate that our rural sectors are brimming with such good folk. Agriculture in New Zealand is an industry built by 'salt of the earth' people. Farming is an honest profession and it attracts those who care passionately about what they do. The result is that farming

communities will always band together to put in the hard yards when and where it is needed.

A great example of this is the spreading industry and the good work of the New Zealand Groundspread Fertiliser Association (NZGFA). The recent conference was testament to the organisation's underlying culture of hard work, commitment and constant yearning to improve its sector and the industry. The NZGFA facilitates up-skilling on health and safety issues to ensure that drivers can accurately assess and avoid risk and so they 'come home every night'. It provides key information that will affect drivers on and off the road, and regularly invests in professional development.

Furthermore, the NZGFA's regional branches (which each require additional commitment and desk hours to keep them running), ensure the ground spreading industry is alive and well with good representation throughout the country.

It may be that much of the specific work undertaken by members of the NZGFA goes unnoticed by the larger agricultural community, but most who work across primary industry will appreciate that no organisation can exist successfully for 62 years without a committed, passionate and active team.

Congratulations to the NZGFA's executive, members and stakeholders for all the 'unsung' work that takes place - vital work which serves to maintain the organisation's credibility and, importantly, its relevance in farming today.

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