

Spreading

Aerial



Piloting your
land's potential





ravensdown 

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**Applying
science
and local
knowledge
to sustainably
transform
New Zealand
hill country.**

**Are you ready
for takeoff?**



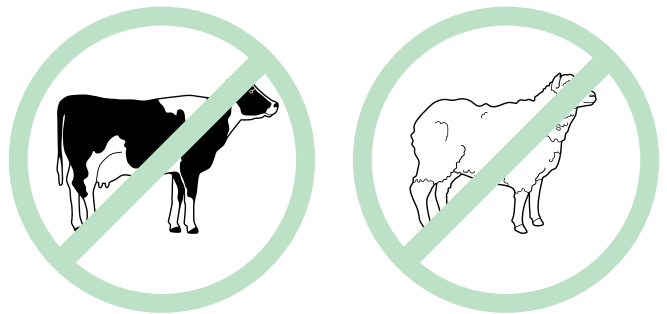
Best practice for managing risk on your airstrip

Changing rules and regulations around airstrip safety mean that now, more than ever before you need to take every precaution to minimise the risk to yourself, your pilot, driver and anyone else involved with your airstrip.

Be prepared

Once you've firmed up the spreading date with your pilot, remember to let the neighbours know. This will help them manage stock and reduce any impact on their day-to-day activity. Good neighbours will do the same for you when it's their turn.

Aerowork will send you hazard briefing and induction information as part of your booking. It's really important you read this so you can make your pilot aware of hazards. Your pilot will also need to return a signed Airstrip checklist on the day along with their flight sheet to the Aerowork office.



Make sure you have enough fertiliser storage in place and keep it covered. Working off the ground increases the safety risk to your pilot.

On the day - site induction

1. Check your farm track and airstrip are in good condition before the plane or loader arrives.

2. Hazard identification. Make sure you have shown the Aerowork team the hazards around aircraft operations using the *Operation Site Hazard Register*.

3. Toolbox meeting. Your Aerowork team member and the PCBU's person in charge on the day will hold a toolbox meeting to identify:

- any site specific hazards
- assess risk and
- put assessed controls in place using the *Operations Site Register, New Specific Hazards on the Day worksheet*.

4. Animal control. Please keep all stock and farm dogs out of the strip and loading operation areas.

5. No admittance inside of orange cones. If you need assistance, gesture by waving your hand and wait for your Aerowork person to come to you.

6. Machinery operation. Do not get involved with any part of the aircraft or loader operation (unless an accident has occurred).

7. No driving on the airstrip or within the loading area safety cones.

8. No smoking within eight metres of the aircraft, loader truck or any fuel supply.

9. If an accident occurs please assist with the person's wellbeing (first aid, or help get them to safety). Please do not interfere with the accident scene.

Case Study:

Variable rate: world first in the Wairarapa

Doug McKenzie has swapped life as a rural banker to return to the land. His family bought the two properties that now make up Patitapu Station at Alfredton in North Wairarapa, back in 2000 and 2003.

In 2007, he and wife Jo, made the windswept 2,550ha farm, 20km east of Eketahuna, their home. Here they run 10,500 Romney cross ewes, 400 Hereford/Angus cross cattle, plus replacements and trading stock. They aim to finish up to 75% of the lambs on the property but this is dependent on the season and some years it can drop to 30%. The steers are sold at the weaning store, while heifers stay on the property and are killed at either 18 months or 2.5 years. It is a productive property but there is always room for improvement with the eight year average lambing at 138%, and calving at 92%

Large areas of the windswept land are covered in regenerating native bush and scrub blocks, leaving 1,760ha of effective land where Doug and his father have launched

a significant development programme particularly focused on addressing the basics of soil fertility, revolving around the tried and true combination of P, pH, S and N.

The land is mixed terrain with 136ha flat or under cultivation with the balance mainly medium to steeper hill country. Doug and Jo are confronted with huge variability in physical resources including altitude, aspect, soil type, slope, and rainfall. Cropping consists of 40-60ha of red/white clover mix for lamb finishing, summer turnips and rape. The weed and pest influences come from gorse, manuka regeneration, thistles, porina and grass grub. Classed as semi summer safe, it can climatically go any way in any given season.

Integral to the development programme, is working with Aerowork over the past two seasons as part of Ravensdown's Primary Growth Partnership project on remote sensing and variable rate fertiliser application.

"We've also been doing a lot of work with Massey and AgResearch, the other partners in the PGP programme. The property has been extensively tested and mapped via MyRavensdown and broken into productive blocks for differential applications. It's been fascinating."

Doug says previously the farm had a very poor fertilising history and associated soil test results before the analysis highlighted this. Fertiliser, in conjunction with infrastructure development (fencing/water/yards) and hoof and tooth grazing management, have transformed the property. All are interlinked.

Doug has had a long association with Ravensdown, working with agri manager Greig McLeod since 2007.

"Through Ravensdown and Aerowork' technology advances and service model, we are increasingly targeting products and rates to specific areas at specific times to get the best physical and financial responses."

Basic super + selenium prills have been used together with maintenance fertiliser, depending on stocking rates.

"We're becoming more scientific on how those areas are set. The range varies from 200kg/ha to 350kg/ha depending on requirements. We have found the strategic use of urea in spring works well to get the whole system moving, plus some use of DAP with crops and when economic for spring applications."

“..we are increasingly targeting products and rates to specific areas at specific times.”



DOUG AND AGRI MANAGER GREIG MCLEOD

IntelliSpread 

Seasonal aerial spreading activity



Spring

Need to spray out? Talk to us about companions for Glyphosate.

Get your brassica seeds with your starter fertiliser.

Scrub spraying with Eliminate Brushkiller, Eradicate 600 and Accelerate.

Apply nitrogen to soil to boost early spring growth.



Summer

Avoid the autumn rush – book your application now.

Control Californian thistles.

Check forage crops for pests (aphids and caterpillars).

Apply AgLime early for improved nutrient availability to plants.



Autumn

Scrub and blackberry spraying.

Be mindful of wet airstrips.

Control Californian thistles.

Use our digital tools to track progress and improve traceability.

Apply nitrogen to your soil as urea, ammonium sulphate or DAP to boost early spring growth.



Winter

Ask about IntellisSpread™ Produce more. Waste less. Reduce your environmental footprint.

Remember you can order online at myravensdown.co.nz

Here to help

We're here to help you improve the productivity of your hill country. Our team on the ground and in the air will help you plan what you need and apply where you need it. We can't control the weather but we can use local knowledge and aerial expertise to your best advantage.

It's easy to book your application.

Simply order online at myravensdown.co.nz and choose Aerowork as your spreader or talk to one of the team on 0800 237 696.



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**All Aerowork
spreaders are
calibrated and
Aircare certified
as to their swath
and evenness
of spread.**



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