VEGETABLES BIG DAY OUT 2026

Event Guide

5 MARCH 2026 | 49 CRONIN ROAD, PUKEKOHE

Proudly brought to you by:

Te Ahikawariki

Welcome from Te Ahikawariki

Welcome to Vegetables Big Day Out, a place where growers, researchers and partners join in practical discovery and collective action to strengthen the future of vegetable growing in Aotearoa.

On behalf of the Te Ahikawariki team, it is our pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all attendees to this important event at the Pukekohe Research and Demonstration Farm.

Te Ahikawariki, the Vegetable Industry Centre of Excellence (VICE), exists through collaboration between government, mana whenua, growers and research partners in addressing the shared challenges facing the New Zealand vegetable sector, from environmental pressures to workforce capability and innovation pathways.

Through purpose-driven applied research, grower extension and capability development, we are committed to enhancing soil health, water quality and resilient production systems for growers of all scales, and to creating a collaborative platform where knowledge is openly shared across the industry.

Vegetables Big Day Out exemplifies this vision by bringing the latest research, technology and practical insights directly to the paddock, enabling meaningful dialogue and tangible progress for the vegetable industry.

We are immensely proud to host you on farm and sincerely hope the day proves both valuable and rewarding for all who attend.

Te Tautara o Pukekohe

Te Tautara o Pukekohe (TToP) is a unique partnership of Pukekohe mana whenua, the vegetable industry, and the Crown, established to improve the freshwater environment of Pukekohe while protecting New Zealand's fresh vegetable supply.

As a charitable trust, TToP has administered the first two years of seed funding for Te Ahikawariki and is proud to support the important work they are doing.

This includes research that weaves together mātauranga Māori and western science to develop new ways of understanding and caring for the whenua.

This kind of collaboration represents something genuinely new for vegetable growing in Aotearoa, and we're proud to have played a part in making it possible.

Today is a chance to see that work in action. We hope it sparks new thinking and new connections for everyone here.

Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association

The Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association (PVGA) is proud to support Te Ahikawariki: Vegetable Industry Centre of Excellence and the collaborative research happening on site.

Te Ahikawariki is an important platform for innovation, knowledge sharing, and showcasing the future of our industry.

PVGA has a long history of advocating for local growers, strengthening industry connections, and helping ensure Pukekohe remains a leading vegetable-growing region in New Zealand.

Our involvement reflects our commitment to practical research that improves sustainability, supports better decision making, and contributes to resilient, profitable businesses.

We're delighted to welcome you to the Vegetables Big Day Out 2026.

Enjoy the demonstrations, connect with fellow growers and partners, and take away fresh insights for your own operation. Wishing you a productive and inspiring day in the paddock.

Event Sponsors

GOLD SPONSOR

The Horticentre Trust is a Charitable Trust established in 2008 with the objective of providing "a helping hand for the horticulture and viticulture sectors."

The Horticentre Trust supports grower-led initiatives by awarding grants to sector groups that contribute to the growth, education, and advancement of horticulture and viticulture in New Zealand. The Horticentre Trust receives funding from Horticentre Limited.

As part of its commitment to sustainable solutions, the Horticentre Group is exhibiting a trial of Intra Eco Shield in conjunction with Intrahorti. Intra Eco Shield is a biostimulant designed to strengthen plant vitality and improve overall yield potential. Intra Eco Shield is based on ortho-silicic acid, the plant-available form of silicon which has proven itself to strengthen cell walls and improve crop health.

Horticentre Charitable Trust

For more information about the New Zealand Horticentre Charitable Trust scan the QR code!

FIND OUT MORE

PREMIER AG TECH SPONSOR

CARBON ROBOTICS

Carbon Robotics designs AI-powered robotics that enhance productivity, improve safety, and elevate the quality of life for people.

As seen on Country Calendar, their Laserweeder is already in use in New Zealand, supporting growers with precision weed control and reducing reliance on traditional inputs without disturbing soil or surrounding crops.

SILVER SPONSORS

agworld

Agworld is used by the majority of New Zealand's agronomists and a large number of NZ growers, who rely on Agworld to create crop plans, agronomic recommendations, budgets, spray records, reports, and much more. Agworld is the easiest to use record keeping software because growers and agronomists both use Agworld together, and they collaborate digitally on the same platform instead of working separately. Learn more on: Agworld.com

mg® NEW ZEALAND fresh produce group

The MG Charitable Trust is a registered charity funding projects and initiatives that positively impact New Zealand's horticulture industry, with a focus on education, innovation and industry profile.

It is run independently from the MG Group but is closely supported by the grower-owned co-operative.

KEYNOTE SPONSOR

CORTEVA™ agriscience

NETWORKING

Seed &Field

EVENT SUPPORTERS

A LIGHTER TOUCH
Delivering crop protection with a lighter environmental touch

ON FARM SUPPORT TEAM
a service of the Ministry for Primary Industries

Rabobank

TE AHIKAWARIKI RESEARCH PARTNERS

Biolchim
Concimi speciali

UPL OpenAg™

BioScout

syngenta

Fruitfed Supplies

Event Speakers

Indoor Sessions

KEYNOTE SPEAKER Tom McCue, Hort Innovation

Tom McCue manages national R&D investments in crop production, emerging technologies, scholarships, and international study tours at Hort Innovation, working across tropical and subtropical crops, vegetables, nuts, and green life horticulture. His portfolio includes major programs in mechanisation, automation and robotics, global technology scouting, and production system innovation aimed at improving labour efficiency, productivity and sustainability.

He manages many mechanisation projects in Australia including the Gatton Smart Farm and Agtech showcase and leads investments spanning mechanical harvesting, post-harvest innovation, next-generation weed management, irrigation optimisation, canopy and crop management, and global study tours across multiple industries including vegetables, almonds, cherries, melons, and avocados.

Prior to Hort Innovation, Tom worked across the grains industry and national biosecurity system.

TOM McCUE, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Edith Tuhimata,
Ngāti Tamaoho

Edith Tuhimata is of Ngāti Te Ata, Ngāti Pou, and Tainui descent, and has had the privilege to work as the manager for Ngāti Tamaoho for the last 6 years. Her life's work has been deeply rooted in service to our people, the whenua & wai, our taonga tuku iho. For over 30 years, she has worked as an archaeologist, walking alongside our kaumātua and kuia in pursuit of mātauranga Māori, ensuring that our stories, sites, and histories are honoured and protected.

Pantamit Saekong,
Massey University

Pantamit Saekong is a PhD student in Soil Science, School of Agriculture and Environment at Massey University, supported by the Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship, working on a project to enhance productivity and sustainability in high-value crop production. He has six years of experience as an Agricultural Extensionist with the Department of Agricultural Extension, Thailand and practical expertise in greenhouse crop production.

Andrew Barber,
Agrilink

Andrew is the owner of Agrilink NZ, a consultancy company working across the primary sector on resource use optimisation. He works extensively in the vegetable sector including on erosion and sediment control, irrigation consents, GHG emissions, and most recently as the programme manager for the Sustainable Vegetable System project.

Lauren Hutchinson,
Te Ahikawariki

Lauren is a final-year Earth and Environmental Science student at the University of Waikato. This summer, she interned at Te Ahikawariki's Pukekohe Demonstration Farm, focusing on a Nitrogen Dynamics trial, a BioScout project, and supporting broader farm operations.

Anya Seward,
Earth Sciences NZ

Anya Seward is a Senior Geothermal Scientist at Earth Sciences NZ (formerly GNS Science) specialising in determining the characteristics of near-surface geothermal resources in New Zealand. Her focus is on investigating the heat potential of

New Zealand's near-surface soils and rocks and working with industry in New Zealand and abroad to explore the role of direct geothermal heat in the future of renewable energy systems.

Celia Wells,
GeoExchange NZ

Celia is a sustainability professional and social scientist serving as Strategic Projects Director at GeoExchange NZ. She leads strategic initiatives to expand the role of low temperature geothermal and ground-source heat pump technologies in decarbonising heating and cooling. Celia's work sits at the intersection of energy transition, energy finance, policy, and implementation.

Bruno Gatimel,
A Lighter Touch

Bruno is an ecologist with strong expertise in entomology, IPM, and agroecology. He brings over 20 years of experience across R&D pipelines in crop protection and seed breeding. Since joining the A Lighter Touch programme in March 2025, he has led industry-wide initiatives on pesticide resistance management, contributing a collaborative, facilitative, and extension-focused approach as Technical Lead.

Daniel Sutton,
Vegetables NZ

Daniel Sutton is the Research Development and Extension Manager for Vegetables NZ. He also provides research and technical guidance to Onions NZ, Process Vegetables NZ, Potatoes NZ and Te Ahikawariki. Daniel works closely with growers, researchers and industry partners to ensure research investment is practical, coordinated and directly relevant to on-farm decision making.

Brooke Cheyne,
Seed & Field

Brooke Cheyne is a member of the Seed & Field agronomy team based here in Pukekohe. Her experience in horticulture began with a summer placement at Bayer Crop Science and then with Ranui Research (Hort Research) before her move to Seed & Field.

Dan Bloomer,
LandWISE

Dan Bloomer is an independent consultant and manages LandWISE on behalf of its members. He has many years' experience in field trials and comparing farm systems and impacts on soil health and nutrient dynamics. He is supporting Te Ahikawariki via the Science Advisory Group, and providing input to trial design for the kūmara trial.

Olivia Webster,
LandWISE

Olivia Webster is the Project Manager: Sustainable Systems at LandWISE. She oversees the Carbon Positive trial at the MicroFarm, ensuring operations and data collection are completed appropriately and on

time. Her environmental science background is put to good use assessing crops, soil health, nutrition and environmental impact scores of agrichemical applications.

Claudia Apeldoorn
Scarlatti

Claudia Apeldoorn works across programme management, facilitation, and social research, helping clients move from conversation to action. She is the Kaiōkōhāpai / Programme Manager for Te Tautara o Pukekohe and a Senior Research Manager at Scarlatti, where much of her work sits in collaborative spaces where different perspectives, sectors or priorities need to come together to find a way forward.

Kazi Talaska,
Te Ahikawariki

Kazi is the General Manager of Onions NZ, where she collaborates with government bodies to advocate for growers and exporters on policy and trade issues, and engages with international delegations to ensure compliance with regulatory, sustainability, and food safety standards. Kazi also serves as Programme Manager for Te Ahikawariki, where she is focussed on bringing growers and mana whenua partners together to support profitable and sustainable vegetable production.

Kev O'Reilly,
Vegetables NZ

Kev works alongside covered crop growers to identify practical energy options that suit their operations and budgets. He helps them assess what's worth considering, so they can make confident decisions about efficiency, resilience, and long-term costs.

Outdoor Sessions

Lachlan Walter,
PGG Wrightson

Lachlan Walter is an R&D intern at PGG Wrightson, currently studying for a Bachelor of Science, majoring in biodiversity & ecology. He is originally from a dairy farm just outside of Te Kauwhata.

Chris Lambert,
PGG Wrightson

Chris Lambert is the Technical Specialist for vegetables at PGG Wrightson/Fruitfed Supplies based in Gisborne with a background in crop production and Integrated Pest Management.

Paula Lleras,
Potatoes NZ

Paula Lleras is the Research & Development Project Manager at Potatoes New Zealand, where she leads the management and monitoring of the potato research

programme. Her role includes overseeing research and extension activities, liaising with industry stakeholders, and administering R&D initiatives to ensure research outcomes deliver practical value to growers and the wider sector.

Peter Wright,
Bioeconomy Science Institute

Peter Wright works for the Bioeconomy Research Institute as a Plant Pathologist and the Pukekohe Site Manager. He specializes in the battle against evolving pathogens across a wide range of horticultural crops. Peter's current research dives deep into biocontrol agent efficacy and the mechanics of soil health, seeking to provide growers with sustainable tools to combat disease while managing the complexities of fungicide resistance.

Pieter van der Westhuizen,
UPL

Pieter van der Westhuizen is the Adjuvant Lead for UPL New Zealand, strongly driven by a commitment to grower success. He specializes in optimizing adjuvant solutions to ensure growers achieve the best possible outcomes with UPL's product range, combining technical expertise with a hands-on approach to field performance.

Teresa Lewis,
UPL

Teresa Lewis is the Product Development Manager for UPL New Zealand, where she leads the scientific development of innovative crop protection solutions. With a passion for advancing agricultural science, Teresa is committed to sharing technical expertise and fostering knowledge sharing within the industry.

Marco van den Berg,
Horticentre

As the Nutrition and Biostimulant Product Category Manager at Horticentre, Marco supports the infield teams with nutrition and biostimulant recommendations across all crop sectors. Marco is responsible for importation, quality control and product development, and brings over 30 years' experience in the horticultural industry.

Olivia Prouse,
Cropping Services Ltd

Olivia is an experienced agricultural professional based in Pukekohe, specializing in crop consultancy, pest and disease management and biological development. She holds a Master's degree in plant protection and has been working in the horticultural industry for over 20 years.

Asha Chhagan,
Bioeconomy Science Institute

Asha is a Senior Scientist and Acting Team Leader in the Biocontrol and Innovative Pest Management Team at the Bioeconomy Science Institute, Auckland. She has worked in Integrated Pest Management and Biological Control for over 25 years. Asha has entomology expertise across a diverse range of fruit and vegetable crops including kiwifruit, apples, citrus, feijoas, onions and brassicas.

Jo Drummond,
Foundation for Arable Research

Jo is the Research Leader for Resilient Cropping Systems at the Foundation for Arable Research. Some of her research interests include integrated pest management, agroecology, pesticide resistance and general agronomy. She has been involved with the A Lighter Touch programme since 2019.

Katherine Martin,
Perrin Ag

Katherine is an environmental and horticultural consultant for Perrin Ag with a strong background in environmental and resource management, vegetable production systems, and GIS analysis. Passionate about sustainable food production, Katherine works with landowners to make informed informed decisions to build resilient, productive systems.

Roimata Minhinnick,
Ngāti Te Ata

Roimata Minhinnick is an Experienced Chief Executive and Lead Negotiator, expert historian and entrepreneur with a demonstrated history of working in housing development, social development, education management, agriculture, and environmental protection. As Co-Chair of Te Tautara o Pukekohe Trust, Roimata enjoys the privilege of working alongside an extremely committed group of visionaries including other mana whenua, Hort NZ and Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association.

Catherine James,
Te Ahikawariki

Catherine is the Research Coordinator for Te Ahikawariki, bringing over a decade of experience across diverse sectors of the horticulture industry. Since 2011, she has worked in hands-on production roles, beginning in glasshouse tomato operations before completing a Bachelor of Agriscience with a major in Horticulture at Massey University. She has since built over five years of experience conducting research trials in vegetable crops, strengthening her practical growing knowledge with applied research expertise.

Event Sessions

Indoor Sessions

KEYNOTE: ADVANCING AGTECH ADOPTION: INSIGHTS FROM THE VEGMECH PROGRAM,

Tom McCue

This session shares practical lessons from Australia's VegMech program on what actually helps new machinery and automation work on farm. It focuses on real grower trials, reducing risk, and learning from local demonstrations and overseas technologies—highlighting how Australia's growers are able to adopt mechanisation sooner, with more confidence and better returns.

CULTURAL MONITORING TOOL AND PRESERVING KAITIAKITANGA,

Edith Tuhimata

An overview of the cultural indicator for freshwater quality that is being used in the Pukekohe catchment and updates on projects undertaken with Te Ahikawariki in the past year.

ENHANCING VEGETABLE PRODUCTION AND NUTRIENT COMPOSITION THROUGH SOIL AMENDMENTS,

Pantamit Saekong

New Zealand's vegetable sector faces soil degradation from intensive farming and fertiliser dependence. This study tested biochar (BC), chicken manure (CM), and organic waste compost (OW), applied individually and in combination, on lettuce growth and soil health in a controlled pot trial.

SUSTAINABLE VEGETABLES SYSTEMS: INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT,

Andrew Barber and Lauren Hutchinson

The SVS Decision Support Tool is underpinned by soil mineral nitrogen testing to make informed fertiliser decisions based on the actual season's conditions.

SESSION TOPIC KEY:


INDOOR CROPS


MĀTAURANGA MĀORI


STUDENTS


POTATOES


BRASSICAS


ONIONS

This trial was established to help answer the question about how quickly nitrogen is released following fertiliser application and how it disperses. This in turn will better inform both fertiliser and soil test timing.

GEOHEAT FOR GREENHOUSES,
Anya Seward and Celia Wells

Launching a new mapping tool for growers to explore low temperature geothermal heat across the top of the North Island. This new webpage is a one stop shop for finding out what info is available about temperature, water flow and ground composition as well as the process involved in accessing geoheat. This presentation will give background to this project and walk the audience through using the tool.

COLLABORATION AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS ON PESTICIDE RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT,
Bruno Gatimel

Since their workshop in June 2025, A Lighter Touch (ALT) has helped bring the sector together around pesticide resistance management (RM). Recent work includes updating and standardising priority RM strategies, starting a national mapping of resistance surveillance, supporting new education and extension resources through a RM toolkit, and quantifying the cost of not investing in RM. Together, these activities are shaping a more coordinated, practical, and future-focused RM system.

AGRONOMIC SOLUTIONS TO STEMPHYLIUM LEAF BLIGHT,
Daniel Sutton and Brooke Cheyne

This demonstration explores how crop stress influences susceptibility to Stemphylium leaf blight in onions. It examines the impact of key stress factors, including nutrition, thrips pressure, water management, and ground conditions, to support better decision making and reduce disease risk through improved crop health.

CARBON POSITIVE: MAKING SENSE OF SOIL CARBON CHANGES,

Dan Bloomer and Olivia Webster

LandWISE has been running a project on their farm in Hawke's Bay called the Carbon positive trial. In this session, Dan and Olivia will talk about the changes in soil carbon they've measured so far and how they're interpreting these changes. Understanding what causes soil carbon changes will help them identify focus areas to create positive change.

GROWING CAREERS | WHAKATIPU MAHI (PANEL DISCUSSION),

Kazi Talaska (facilitator)

What opportunities lie in the vegetable sector? Professionals from across the industry describe their roles, how they got where they are today, and share guidance for students and career changers.

HOW COULD COLLECTIVE ACTION SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES? (PANEL DISCUSSION),

Claudia Apeldoorn (facilitator)

Hosted with support from the Te Tautara o Pukekohe trust, dive deep into how catchment initiatives and collaboration supports regional communities, iwi partnership, and environmental outcomes for vegetable growers.

GREENHOUSE GASES ON FARM: REAL ISSUE OR JUST HOT AIR? (PANEL DISCUSSION),

Andrew Barber (facilitator)

As international sustainability priorities shift, New Zealand needs to decide where to focus its efforts. Join this session to hear outdoor crop growers discuss the drivers for reducing greenhouse gases, the practicalities of doing so, and the relevance for the NZ vegetable sector in both domestic and export crops.

WHAT YOUR NEIGHBOURS ARE DOING ABOUT ENERGY (PANEL DISCUSSION),
Kev O'Reilly (facilitator)

Covered crop growers are on the front line of rising energy prices. This session shares real-world examples of how growers are improving efficiency and cutting costs.

KEEPING THE MOTH OUT,
Daniel Sutton and Paula Lleras

Potato tuber moth is a key insect pest for potatoes, particularly around the Pukekohe area. Due to soil conditions, the moth often accesses tubers through soil cracks, at the end of the crop. This trial aims to demonstrate different cultural control methods to reduce cracking in soil and keep the moth from accessing the tubers.

Outdoor Sessions

DRIP-IRRIGATED POTATOES: AN IPM AND PRODUCTION SYSTEM DEMO,
Chris Lambert and Lachlan Walter

An extension trial in Pukekohe run by Fruitfed Supplies is testing drip irrigation in potatoes to see whether drier canopies, better soil structure, and precisely timed fertigation can reduce pest and disease risk while maintaining yield and quality, all with reduced inputs.

EVALUATION OF BIOCONTROL AGENTS ON POTATO EARLY BLIGHT, CROP YIELDS AND TUBER QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS,
Peter Wright

This research quantifies the effects of chitin, chitosan, Trichoderma spp., and Bacillus subtilis on early blight (Alternaria solani) progression. By comparing individual agents against synergistic combinations, the study measures impacts on disease severity, vegetative growth, and tuber quality. We anticipate that these integrated treatments will significantly outperform single-agent applications in achieving sustained disease suppression.

UNDERSTANDING ADJUVANT USE,

Teresa Lewis and Pieter van der Westhuizen

Our current brassica trial is examining how different adjuvant programmes influence phytotoxicity and head rot development under field conditions. By building a strong evidence base, UPL seeks to inform responsible and effective adjuvant use that maximises crop safety and performance.

USE OF INTRA ECO SHIELD (ORTHO-SILICIC ACID) FOR IMPROVED PLANT RESILIENCE AND DRY MATTER CONTENT,

Marco van den Berg

As part of its commitment to sustainable solutions, the Horticentre Group is exhibiting a trial of Intra Eco Shield in conjunction with Intrahorti. Intra Eco Shield is a biostimulant designed to strengthen plant vitality and improve overall yield potential. Intra Eco Shield is based on ortho-silicic acid, the plant-available form of silicon which has proven itself to strengthen cell walls and improve crop health.

IMPLEMENTING BIODIVERSITY PLANTING TO SUPPORT PEST MANAGEMENT,

Olivia Prouse

The biodiversity project at the Pukekohe Research and Demonstration Farm demonstrates how incorporating biodiversity into the farm system through native perennial planting, annual flowering species, cover crops and mobile insectary pods can enhance beneficial populations, leading to fewer insect pests in crops, and less insecticides required. As the project's technical lead, Olivia will share the lessons learned in establishing and maintaining these components on the farm.

BLOOMS ON THE BORDER – SPATIAL EFFECTS OF NATIVE PERENNIAL PLANTINGS ADJACENT TO VEGETABLE CROPS,

Asha Chhagan

To monitor invertebrate populations in biodiverse native plantings at the Pukekohe Research and Demonstration Farm and assess how these plant species support key beneficial invertebrates and their movement into adjacent vegetable crops from spring to summer.

BRING ON THE BARLEY: MAKING YOUR CROP PROFITABLE AND RESILIENT,

Jo Drummond

Spring barley, with its late sowing date and short season can make it a valuable part of a vegetable rotation. In this presentation, Jo Drummond from the Foundation for Arable Research will share how integrated pest management can support barley and surrounding crops and how the best results may come from having flexibility and management skill, rather than the use of inputs.

CROP STACKING: REDUCING NITROGEN LOSS IN VEGETABLE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS,

Katherine Martin

Crop stacking is a novel tool to reduce nitrogen losses by up to 30% and support crop production. This presentation will review the outcomes of crop stacking to date and how crop stacking can be incorporated in other crops, such as lettuce, using a strip sow method.

EXPLORING KŪMARA GROWTH: A DEMONSTRATION TRIAL INFORMED BY MĀTAURANGA MĀORI AND SOIL SCIENCE,

Roimata Minhinnick and Catherine James

Traditional Māori horticulture employed a range of methods to maximise kūmara growth. Within Ngāti Te Ata, there are longstanding kōrero of kūmara and taro growing in abundance along the west coast where black sand was used as a growing medium. This trial combines Ngāti Te Ata mātauranga Māori with modern experimental methods to explore how historic soil practices influence kūmara growth and how these approaches can inform contemporary, sustainable cultivation into the future.

Speaker Agenda

SEMINAR ROOM

Start	Finish	Session	Speaker
8:30	9:00	Arrival & Registration	
9:00	10:00	Welcome Session (Main Tent)	
10:00	11:00	**Cultural Monitoring Tool and Preserving Kaitiakitanga**	Edith Tuhimata (Ngāti Tamaoho)
11:00	11:30	**Enhancing vegetable production and nutrient composition through soil amendments**	Pantamit Saekong (Massey University)
11:30	12:00	**Sustainable Vegetables Systems: Innovation and Improvement**	Andrew Barber (Agrilink) and Lauren Hutchinson (Te Ahikawariki)
12:00	12:30	-	-
12:30	13:30	Lunch	
13:30	14:30	**Geoheat for Greenhouses**	Anya Seward (Earth Sciences NZ) and Celia Wells (GeoExchange NZ)
14:30	15:00	**Collaboration and Future Developments on Pesticide Resistance Management**	Bruno Gatimel (A Lighter Touch)
15:00	15:30	**Agronomic Solutions to Stemphylium Leaf Blight**	Daniel Sutton (Onions NZ) and Brooke Cheyne (Seed & Field)
15:30	16:00	**Carbon Positive: Making sense of soil carbon changes**	Dan Bloomer and Olivia Webster (LandWISE)
16:00	16:45	-	-
17:00	17:30	Closing Session (Main Tent)	
17:30	18:30	The Harvest Hour	
18:30	20:00	Dinner	

Indoor Sessions

MAIN TENT

Start	Finish	Session	Speaker
8:30	9:00	Arrival & Registration	
9:00	10:00	Welcome Session (Main Tent)	
10:00	11:00	**Growing Careers | Whakatipu Mahi (Panel Discussion)**	Kazi Talaska (Te Ahikawariki) - facilitator
11:00	12:00	**How could collective action support environmental outcomes? (Panel Discussion)**	Claudia Apeldoorn (Scarlatti) - facilitator
12:00	12:30	-	-
12:30	13:30	Lunch	
13:30	14:30	**Greenhouse Gasses on Farm: Real Issue or Just Hot Air? (Panel Discussion)**	Andrew Barber (Agrilink) - facilitator
14:30	15:30	**What Your Neighbours Are Doing About Energy (Panel Discussion)**	Kev O'Reilly (Vegetables NZ) - facilitator
15:30	16:00	-	-
16:00	16:45	**Advancing AgTech Adoption: insights from the VegMech program**	Tom McCue (Hort Innovation)
17:00	17:30	Closing Session (Main Tent)	
17:30	18:30	The Harvest Hour	
18:30	20:00	Dinner	

Outdoor Sessions

RESEARCH DEMONSTRATIONS

Start	Finish	Location	Session	Speaker
8:30	9:00		Arrival & Registration	
9:00	10:00		Welcome Session (Main Tent)	
10:00	10:30	Paddock 1, Block 8	**Drip-Irrigated Potatoes: An IPM and production system demo**	Chris Lambert and Lachlan Walter (Fruitfed Supplies)
10:30	11:00	Paddock 1, Blocks 2-3 & 6-7	**Keeping the Moth Out**	Daniel Sutton and Paula Lleras (Potatoes NZ)
11:00	11:30	Paddock 2, Block 25	**Evaluation of biocontrol agents on potato early blight, crop yields and tuber quality characteristics**	Peter Wright (Bioeconomy Science Institute)
11:30	12:00	Paddock 2, Block 26	**Understanding Adjuvant Use**	Teresa Lewis and Pieter van der Westhuizen (UPL)
12:00	12:30	Paddock 2, Block 28	**Use of Intra Eco Shield (ortho-silic acid) for improved plant resilience and dry matter content**	Marco van den Berg (Horticentre)
12:30	13:30		Lunch	
13:30	14:00	Paddock 8	**Implementing biodiversity planting to support pest management**	Olivia Prouse (Cropping Services Ltd)
14:00	14:30	Paddock 7	**Blooms on the border – spatial effects of native perennial plantings adjacent to vegetable crops**	Asha Chhagan (Bioeconomy Science Institute)
14:30	15:00	Paddock 7	**Bring on the barley: making your crop profitable and resilient**	Jo Drummond (Foundation for Arable Research)
15:00	15:30	Paddock 4, Blocks 32 & 36	**Crop Stacking: Reducing Nitrogen Loss in Vegetable Production Systems**	Katherine Martin (Perrin Ag)
15:30	16:00	Paddock 4, Block 40	**Exploring Kūmara Growth: A demonstration trial informed by Mātauranga Māori and soil science**	Roimata Minhinnick (Ngāti Te Ata) and Catherine James (Te Ahikawariki)
16:00	16:45	-	-	-
17:00	17:30		Closing Session (Main Tent)	
17:30	18:30		The Harvest Hour	
18:30	20:00		Dinner	

AGTECH DEMONSTRATIONS

YOUNG GROWER

Start	Finish	Company	Company	Activity
8:30	9:00	Arrival & Registration		
9:00	10:00	Welcome Session (Main Tent)		
10:00	10:30	**Carbon Robotics**		
10:30	11:00	**Agri automation**	**CropVue**	
11:00	11:30	**Drone Dog**	**CropX: soil sensor**	**Young Grower Mini-Module** (11:00 - 13:00)
11:30	12:30	**Ecorobotix: ARA sprayer**	**BioScout**	
12:00	12:30	-	-	
12:30	13:30	Lunch		
13:30	14:00	-	-	
14:00	14:30	**Drone Dog**	**BioScout**	
14:30	15:00	**Ecorobotix: ARA sprayer**	**CropX: soil sensor**	
15:00	15:30	**Agri automation**	**CropVue**	
15:30	16:00	-	-	
16:00	16:45	-	-	
17:00	17:30	Closing Session (Main Tent)		
17:30	18:30	The Harvest Hour		
18:30	20:00	Dinner		

Farm Map

Pukekohe Research & Demonstration Farm
49 Cronin Road, Pukekohe

1. Seminar Room
2. Main Tent
3. Research Plots
4. Young Grower
5. Tech Demonstrations
6. Innovation Tent
7. Carbon Robotics Tent
8. Registration Tent
9. Parking
- Bootwash Station
- Toilets
- Coffee Cart
- Defibrillator
- Restricted Area


ENTRANCE
9
8
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PADDOCK 4
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PADDOCK 1
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6
7
5
PADDOCK 3

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