

SIR ARTHUR WARD AWARD

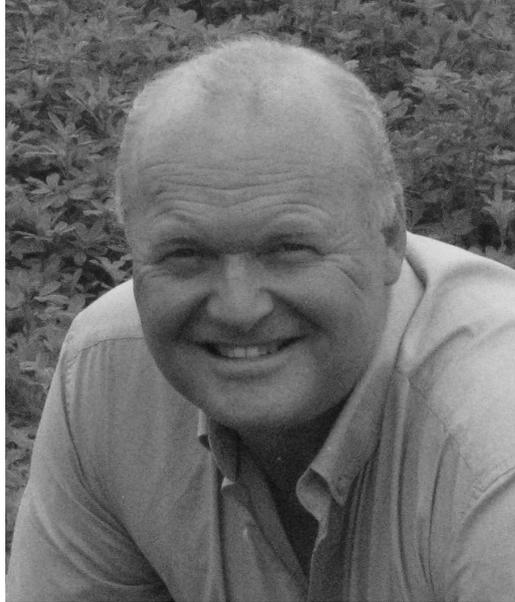
Derrick J. Moot

The Sir Arthur Ward award recognises the contribution and successful application of scientific research or farmer experimentation through a series of trials or effective extension when applied to an aspect of animal production in New Zealand. The recipient in 2014 is Professor Derrick Moot.

Derrick Moot, Professor in Plant Science, Lincoln University, joined the staff at Lincoln University in 1996 and in the ensuing 18 years produced an incredible 54 papers in refereed science journals and 108 refereed conference papers, while maintaining a normal teaching load within the Agricultural and Life Sciences Faculty. These represent outstanding levels of achievement and indicate his strong desire to succeed.

Derrick's area of expertise is in dryland pastures and crop physiology. He has an active research programme based around crop and pasture physiology and forage management that has been the basis of a resurgence in the use of lucerne and subterranean clover for grazing on New Zealand pastoral farms. His research and extension has resulted in the dramatic increase in the area of lucerne in pastoral farms in NZ, rising from 60 t of lucerne seeds sold in 2004 to 150 t seeds sold in 2014. Farmers have publically stated that Derrick's research on lucerne and associated application on farm has saved their farming systems, turning them from non-profitable to profitable farming systems.

Derrick's research has a strong focus on problem solving for the NZ animal production industries and how to use and manage forages to improve productivity and profit. The focus of Derricks' research has always been



driven by its relevance to animal production industries and this is directly linked to active engagement in technology transfer with over 165 speaking engagements at field days in the last six years. Of note is the development of a dryland pastures website that has been developed under his supervision that generates over 1000 hits per month. Further, he delivers a text service in conjunction with Beef and LambNZ that goes to 600+ farmers weekly.

In addition to his research and extension activities Derrick lectures diploma and undergraduate courses in pasture and crop science and has supervised over 60 graduate students. In 2004 Derrick received the Lincoln University Teaching Excellence Award and New Zealand Qualification Authority Sustained Excellence in Teaching award. These awards are testament to Derrick's research-led approach to teaching in forage and animal production.

These contributions in supporting the New Zealand livestock industries fulfil the requirements of the Sir Arthur Ward Award that the nominee has "contributed towards the adoption of practice, or practices, that has facilitated more efficient animal production". Derrick has done this to an outstanding extent and in the process as trained both undergraduate and postgraduate students, many of who have gone on to develop careers in land-based industries, within New Zealand and internationally.

Grant Edwards and Chris Logan