THE VALUE OF NITROGEN FERTILISER TO THE NEW ZEALAND ECONOMY

The Fertiliser Association of New Zealand has commissioned a study to analyse the costs to the primary sector, both at the farm gate and to the wider New Zealand economy, associated with removing nitrogen fertiliser or using a substitute. For pastoral farms this includes use of supplementary feed. Here is a summary of the key findings.

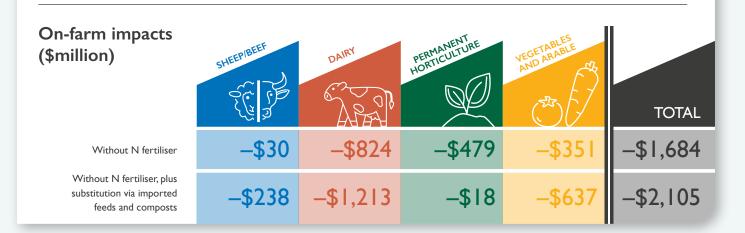
Financial impact at the farm gate

While the removal of nitrogen as a farm input would reduce (by a small amount) farming impacts on water quality and GHG emissions, at the farm gate this is estimated to cost:

\$1.7

if N fertiliser is removed and no substitution is used \$2.1

if substitute with other feeds and legume cover crops



Impact on the New Zealand economy



A drop in value add (GDP) of \$6.7 billion

