

## **Ballance Agri-Nutrients – ClearView PGP Quarterly Report Summary**

### **Report for Quarter ended September 2012:**

At the end of July/beginning of August, Ballance and AgResearch held a Science Conference to discuss next steps, science outcomes and plan and revise the financial and physical milestones for the programme. This was a major undertaking and realistically the first moment for pause to review the large programme of work now underway. Overall the first nine month period has been well executed and programmes are on track. The appointment of two programme-funded positions of the Research Associate and Product Development Manger are significantly adding value to the process, especially in converting the science outcomes into revised plans or product concepts.

The programme involves research and development in areas of nitrogen and phosphorus management, the use of biological solutions and further enhancement of extension services. Each of the areas are progressing well with for example the development of a nitrogen usage tool and reduction in gaseous nitrogen and assessment of biofertilisers and biopesticides providing useful results.

In "extension" Ballance is participating within the Waikato River Primary Sector Partnership group (facilitated by Waikato Regional Council) to compile a reference document for nutrient loss mitigation and management strategies, and their relative efficacy and limitations. This will underpin best practice nutrient management advisory training and delivery. Difficulty arises as best practice may vary by region and sector – a moving target with changing regulatory drivers. A recently recruited Nutrient Management Specialist position will be assisting DairyNZ in delivery of their Sustainable Milk Production Plan pilot project in the Upper Waikato catchment. This will deliver holistic farm plans that give customised strategies to reduce farm environmental footprint.