Farm IQ Programme Quarterly Progress April to June 2012

The FarmIQ programme continues to progress towards building an integrated, demand -led value chain for red meat.   All six FarmIQ projects continue to deliver on-time and within budget.

Data entry was a challenge for the programme in the 2010/11 year and has improved this year. While only indicative, last season there were 4.9 data sessions per tag session. This season this number is 7.9, which roughly translates to a 60% increase in data.

All progeny slaughters for SNP chip development have been completed and phenotype collection went well. A report for this work is to be completed July 2012. To date, sequencing data from 60 (56) animals (~12x coverage) has been received and is currently undergoing quality control.

Monitoring systems for sheep are in place and beef systems being trialled. Meat quality systems are being implemented. Challenges remain with getting full EID reads and plant data back to farmers with lamb seem to be largely resolved. The focus is now on working through data transfer issues in the beef and deer.

The target animal numbers for both sheep and beef have been exceeded. Deer however reached 9k, whilst under target though this represents 2.2% of industry which is in line with sheep and cattle industry proportions (1.7% and 2.2% respectively). There are now 449 farmers in the programme (with most of the recent increase from dairy beef), with in excess of 200 of these entering data reliably. This exceeds the 200 farmer target.