**Atkins Ranch**

Atkins Ranch is a farmer-owned supply co-operative.  It is based on the East Coast of the North Island, with some South Island farmers also involved.  The co-operative sells lamb to a North American retailer, Whole Foods, that provides for its customers “the highest quality natural and organic produce backed by food safety and quality assurance programmes”.  It is another indication of the growing number of consumers that want to be sure where their food comes from and how it is handled, from production to plate.  Over 60 farms of the 100 regular supply farms are in the process of gaining Step 4 accreditation by the Global Animal Partnership (GAP), an organisation set up to improve farm animal welfare.  The Pattison family at Waiwhero are involved with Atkins Ranch and became GAP 4 certified in 2016.

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/rural-delivery/episodes/s2017/e10>