

INNOVATION IN THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Activities to support
the use of SOPI
in schools

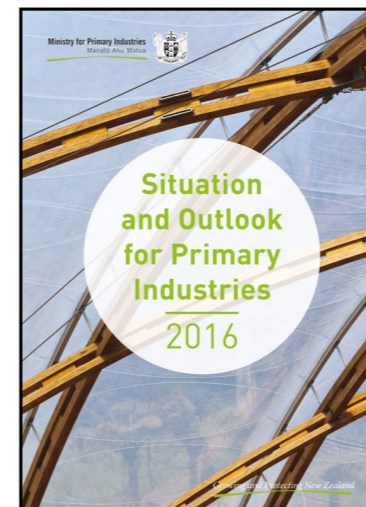


Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



INTRODUCTION

These resources have been developed to provide teachers with activities to support their teaching in the science, social sciences, technology, and mathematics and statistics learning areas, using the primary industries as a context. The primary industries continue to be the mainstay of New Zealand's economy and provide varied and challenging employment opportunities for our young people.



The Ministry for Primary Industries regularly publishes Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries (SOPI) documents that provide a wealth of information about our

primary industries and the opportunities and challenges faced by the sector. These resources seek to encourage teachers to mine this information for contexts that will engage their students, connect them to their local industries, and inform them about the ongoing innovative developments that keep our primary industries competitive in ever changing global markets.

Kiwis have long been known for living close to the land, for their can-do attitude, for being able to make anything out of No. 8 fencing wire, and for their laid-back, 'she'll be right' attitude to life and work.

But times have changed, and so have our society and economy. We are very aware that while we need to produce more from the land, its resources are not limitless, and the natural environment is fragile. 'She'll be right!' is no longer acceptable. We need to 'get it right'. We need to make sure that natural resources are managed with precision to maximise productivity, and at the same time, to minimise negative environmental effects and to meet the changing demands of consumers. Primary producers have an increasing number of high-tech tools and practices to help them achieve this.

Carefully designed systems and processes now make primary industries highly efficient. Technologies increasingly take the guess work out of primary production. The [2016 SOPI](#) document illustrates how effectively we are doing this in Aotearoa/ New Zealand. It is hoped that these learning resources will help New Zealand teachers to bring this information into the classroom and relate young people's learning to practical contexts where students can find ways that they too can contribute.

These resources have been developed for Ministry for Primary Industries by

CORE EDUCATION
Tātai Aho Rau