

Innovative ideas to make rural life better

Innovation is imperative to the agriculture industry and is the back bone of the New Zealand National Agricultural Fieldays.

The Innovation Centre, supported by the University of Waikato, is the hub of new farming developments at Fieldays and year after year impresses farmers and visitors alike with the diverse and complexity of the inventions.

New Zealanders are known for being the most resourceful and creative in the world and this was prevalent in the competition as the judge's task to decide on a winner proved very difficult.

Technipharm was victorious at the breakfast, taking out the Golden Standard with their invention Irrisafe, an innovative speed control for an effluent irrigator that prevents ponding, increases pasture productivity and is environmentally friendly.

Craig Short was runner up in

the Inventions section with the Stockfirm; a simple and inexpensive answer to providing an easily removable cover to keep stock secure in stock crates.

The winner of the Equipment Category was awarded to ADF Milking for their automated teat dipping and cup finishing system. A highly innovative design, the system is entirely new to New Zealand and has significant milking hygiene and productivity benefits.

The runner up of the Equipment section was Andrew Horn for his solution to a longstanding problem on the farm. The RealPro Clamp is a secure and convenient way to transport electric fence reels and standards.

Phillip MacDonald took out the James and Wells Award with his Ride Over Gate. It is a clever redesign enabling vehicles to drive over a fencing line from

either direction or around a house as a child proof gate.

A team effort was put into the Premier Feature Award with Stomp Out Stompage by Jonathan White and Sam Ashley. The duo invented an inexpensive electrical movable fence that slowly distributes feed to reduce stompage by stock.

Ben Shannon was awarded the Young Inventor of the Year award with the Concertina Crate. The fold away crate is a great space saving solution on a utility vehicle that can be reconfigured into a smaller stock pen allowing space on the deck for other material.

The Innovation Competition showcases inventions from New Zealand to the world and it also establishes their success in the marketplace by educating the entrants on how to take the next step to achieving commercial success.



TC120711RR07A

JAMES and Wells Award winning Ride Over Gate from inventor Phillip MacDonald.