

CASE STUDY – ALIGN LONGFIELD

FARM INFORMATION

Operator:

Align Farming Group - Longfield
Matthew Bell

Location:

Ashburton, Mid-Canterbury

Size:

275 Hectares

Staff Employed:

5 Staff

"Our system was running pretty well as it was, but it's all about those little one percent changes and taking away the little frustrations. FarmTune grabbed me from the first class, and I loved it."

Matt Bell, Align Longfield



Everyone wants to be more efficient, but sometimes it's hard to see where change is needed. In the end, curiosity got the better of Matt and he registered for FarmTune.

"If I'm honest, I didn't know much about FarmTune when it was first suggested. I only went along to the first one to get a feel for what it's about. It's all about that LEAN management approach and trying to make things more efficient. Right after the first class I knew this was something I wanted to be involved with," says Matt.

Teamwork is important in any environment, but putting it into practice can be easier said than done.

"A glaringly obvious positive we got out of Farm Tune was staff engagement. We've got an all Filipino workforce, and they have some really great attributes, but one of their cultural downfalls is that they don't really bring up problems. They don't like to hassle you," says Matt.

"It took most of the Farm Tune programme to really build up their confidence so they felt it was ok to say there's a problem. We now have an open forum where the guys can take a photo of something, share it with everyone and say, "This is annoying, how can we make it better?" I've done it myself, and have benefited from their ideas."

"Before Farm Tune they would have known the answer or a better solution, but no one would have said anything. That's been the biggest benefit of Farm Tune, they're all smart guys but they just needed that encouragement to communicate better," he says.

As well as communication, Matt's also seen improvements around their organisation.

"The workshop wasn't too bad, but it annoyed me that you couldn't ask someone to grab a 15mm joiner, because they were never certain where it was. A lot of the spare parts used to live in the office, which was pretty cluttered, and pretty typical of a lot of dairy farmer's offices. Parts and tools took a while to find, and there wasn't great record keeping around how much we had of anything," says Matt.

"Now they can just go to the 15mm cubbyhole, because everything is labelled and has its place. They're not rummaging through containers to try and find what they need. Small jobs don't take as long, because all of the tools and parts are easy to find," he says.

Do you want to see your staff communicate better and become more organised? This is a programme that will help develop team culture and behaviours to focus on continuous improvement and better, safer work. To find out more, or to register your interest in the next FarmTune series of workshops visit www.dairynz.co.nz/farmtune

Take waste out of your business, empower your staff and grow your bottom line with FarmTune, the LEAN Management Programme for Dairy Farmers.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Built on the principles of LEAN FarmTune is proven system developed by DairyNZ for farmers that gives you the tools to learn how to:

- Sharpen Your Operation
- Find the Opportunities
- Identify and Eliminate Waste
- Improve Health and Safety
- Streamline Milking Times
- Eliminate Frustration
- Engage and Empower Your Team
- Improve Team Communication

FarmTune courses are delivered by trained and accredited FarmTune consultants. The workshops engage you and your farm team to practically learn and implement LEAN farm management.

To find out more, or to register your interest in the next FarmTune series of workshops visit www.dairynz.com/farmtune, or contact your local FarmTune consultant.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Over a 3 month programme of 7 half day workshops your farm team will learn:

WORKSHOP 1: FINDING THE OPPORTUNITY (OFI)

- Introduction to LEAN Thinking
- Establish the Why?
- Waste
- Value Stream Mapping
- Identifying Opportunities
- Toolbox Meetings

WORKSHOP 2: PROBLEM SOLVING

- OFI Management
- Defining the Problem
- Identifying Root Cause
- People Problems
- Prioritising OFI

WORKSHOPS 3 AND 4: IMPLEMENTING SOLUTIONS

- Value Adding Solutions
- Future State VSM
- Checkpoints and Checklists
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Visual Controls
- Process Controls Summary

WORKSHOPS 5 AND 6: EMBEDDING THE BEHAVIOURS

- Workplace Solutions
- 6S Planning
- 6S Implementation
- 6S Audit

WORKSHOP 7: SUSTAINING PROGRESS

- Continuous Improvement Culture
- Roll Out Plan
- 6S Audits
- Toolbox Meetings

LOCAL CONSULTANT

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