



# In Brief

## LAMB TAIL STUDY

In response to animal welfare concerns in offshore markets, meat firm Alliance Group will hold trials to examine how lamb tail-docking affects lamb growth and meat yields. The \$60,000, three-year trial will also look at outcomes from different tail lengths, in response to concerns from UK retailers that NZ tail lengths are too short.

## RURAL SERVICES MERGER

The *Southland Times* reports a likely merger between the \$1.3 billion business of South Island-centre CRT, comprising stores, grain and seed businesses and real estate amongst other things, and Farmlands Trading Society, a \$75 million North Island business. The move would see the company strengthened in its rivalry with Fonterra's RD1 and PGG Wrightson.

## RURAL VET NUMBERS HEALTHY

The head of the Veterinarian Association (NZVA) says a system of bonding young vets by paying them a taxable \$11,000 a year to practise in rural communities for up to five years should continue. Currently 83 vets practise rurally, and the bonding scheme is oversubscribed.

## AQUACULTURE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A UN-backed initiative recently launched will study how aquaculture can help low-income countries fight hunger. The cultivating of fresh and saltwater fish under controlled conditions is the world's fastest growing source of animal protein, with 52.5 million tonnes nearly 50 per cent of all fish consumed produced this way.

## US MILK PRICE SET TO SKYROCKET

This summer's record drought in the US and a consequent slump in milk production looks set to almost double its cost to consumers come January, according to CBS news. A Farm Bill currently regulates the price of milk, but will lapse at the end of the year, and Republican leaders won't consider the bill until after the election. If a new bill isn't ratified, milk prices look set to top \$US6 a gallon (3.8 litres).

# WHAT WE'RE...

## READING

High Country New Zealand: the Land, the People, the Seasons

by Antonia Steeg with an introduction by Philip Temple.  
Te Papa Press. RRP NZ\$99.99



A stunningly visual celebration of a unique place seen through fresh and compassionate eyes, *High Country* is the fruit of a four-year project by German photographer Antonia Steeg, starting when she was invited to attend the last muster at the historical Mesopotamia Station in South Island high country in 2008.

Her evocative images of its snow-cloaked mountains, tussock grasslands, and massive braided rivers shaped by millions of years of natural events, portray a place where high-tech farming methods are mixed with the tried and true and where livelihoods are constantly at the mercy of the elements.

**WIN:** a copy of *High Country New Zealand*. Send you name and physical address to [ditadeboni@extra.co.nz](mailto:ditadeboni@extra.co.nz) to be in the draw.

## USING

### QR CODES

QR codes are a future-proof technology, and local firm TechniPharm is leading the way. Those interested in the company's products can download the free app q::Launcher from iTunes, which will unlock unique QR codes to find out more. TechniPharm says in the future, weather-proof codes will unlock easily-downloadable installation manuals and product training videos.

