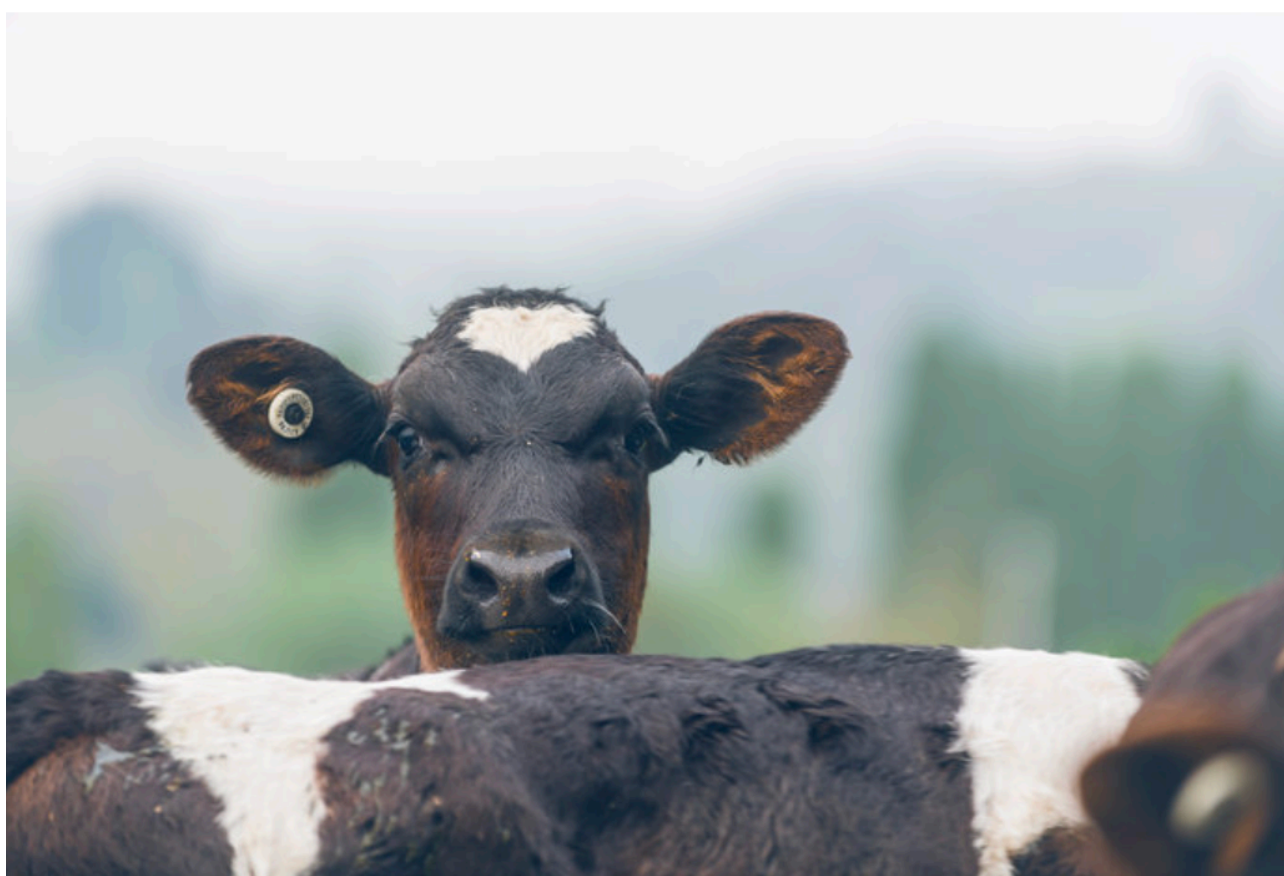




TOP NOTCH  
**CALVES**  
REARED FOR SUCCESS

# TOP NOTCH NEWS

2019 ANNUAL EDITION



## WELCOME

To our annual Top Notch Calves newsletter. I love writing this as it signals the start of our new season of calf rearing. As a valued customer Jon and I do hope you enjoy reading this. We are planning to send quarterly news this year, as we continue to see lots of big changes in dairy farming. Some of which I hope I can help you navigate, or at least understand better. If you have staff on your farm who you also think would be interested in reading our quarterly e-newsletter please feel free to forward these on, or reply with their name and email address for inclusion on the distribution list.

[EMAIL HERE](#)



## INDUSTRY CHANGES

### NAIT

There have been some recent changes to our NAIT system. NAIT numbers now go with the parcel of land, not the person. If you have relocated it is important that you and your staff know your correct NAIT number.

### Dehorning

From the 1st of October, effective pain relief will be required during both disbudding calves and dehorning cattle, and the person carrying out the procedure must be trained and competent. Dairy NZ has more information on this on their website.



## TOP NOTCH 2019

Once again we will be rearing around 5,000 calves this Spring. Our overarching focus is to Keep Things Super Simple. As our business has grown it takes a lot more management, so we are focused on being clear and keeping things simple, so our staff can do their jobs well.

The majority of our staff will be the same, though we do have a lovely couple from England (Chloe and Tom) starting work in two week's time on a 4-month working holiday. We hope they enjoy their time with us and being in New Zealand.



## Changes

If there have been any changes to your business that we need to know about (ownership, bank account number or dairy number) please let us know.

## Milk

Direct from farm is a really valuable food for our calves. If you have surplus colostrum or down graded milk we are keen to buy it. Please phone 027 265 7144. Our phone is monitored 24/7. There is a 1,000L/pickup minimum, price will be 15c/L + GST.

## Calves

We will be buying some calves directly from the paddock through two agents, so if you want to sell your calves to us please contact Kelly Higgins (Carrfields) on 027 600 2374 or Regan Craig (Wrightsons) on 027 5028 585. We don't have enough staff to do this job ourselves, so rely on these well-respected agents to do this for us. We will be buying Friesian Bulls and White Faced Bulls, with the price being market rate. We will also buy calves from the sale yards and are also rearing 2,000 calves for a large corporate group again too.



## Country Calendar

We were thrilled to appear on Country Calendar last July, it was quite a buzz. I know lots of you have seen it, as we had some lovely messages, mostly around how great it was to see our family enjoying the farming lifestyle and portraying farming in such a positive light. The Calf Hotel was the most watched Country Calendar show last year, with 700,000 viewers watching on the night and another 300,000 watching at a later date. So a great result! If you missed this and have time to watch the 20 minute programme click on the link below.

[VIEW HERE](#)

## Short Survey

We are also investigating how we can help dairy farmers rear calves (cheaper, easier and better). Is it meal, a system for staff to follow or alterations to your facilities?

We value your thoughts and ask you to please consider completing this short survey (5 mins) to help us understand your specific needs.

Complete by the end of July and go into the draw to **WIN ONE OF TWO** 2 night stays in our Bijou Hamptons Lodge (which sleeps two).

Enjoy bubbles and nibbles on arrival too.

[CLICK HERE](#)



## LAKEVIEW LODGE



Our luxury lodge on the edge of Lake Karapiro is finally gaining some momentum.

“Good things take time” as in the Mainland advertisement, applies here. Our original Manager left at Christmas, and now the Lodge sits under me which I love managing as part of our business. We had a lot of overseas visitors experience farm tours over summer which I saw as having a positive future influence as they spread the word of what great farms and farmers we have in NZ. Hopefully these guests all went home and are now buying available NZ products. Our lodges also provide excellent accommodation options for locals celebrating special occasions where families and friends can stay together. Or versatile spaces and rooms for boutique business conferences and corporate retreats. Visit our new look website.

[CLICK HERE](#)

*Stay*

## THE BOAT HOUSE



BOOK NOW

## LAKEVIEW LODGE

KARAPIRO, NZ







## OUR CHILDREN

I just thought I would also give you an update on our children, as many of you saw them on Country Calendar.

Cameron is in his second year at Otago University studying Commerce and has recently started his first business The FlatPack Company. Cameron and a mate (Angus) are selling beds to first year students and are doing some very interesting marketing on facebook and Instagram.

William is living the dream, studying Adventure Tourism at Queenstown Resort College. He has almost finished his 6 months in class and then goes on a 9 month internship (some of which he will do in Florida, so that he can Barefoot Waterski of course). In April he will once again head back to Queenstown to do another 6 months in class.

Beckie is in her final year of school and has once again made the NZ Junior Rowing team. She will be competing in Japan in early August on the brand new course that will be used for the 2020 Olympics. Jon and I look forward to following her to Japan with both sets of grandparents, though the heat and humidity will be extreme apparently.

## SUMMARY

Both of us really appreciate your support over the last 16 years and would like to wish you all the best for this spring calving season. Please fill out our survey, so that you can go into the draw to stay at our beautiful Lodge. We look forward to announcing the winners early August.

Warm Regards

*Joanne and Jonathan Leigh*

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