

Media Release



New Zealand's specialist land-based university

The BHU Future Farming Centre
Permanent Agriculture and Horticulture: Science and Extension



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The Future of Weed Management: Sustainable Agriculture Series

The recently released report *Challenges for pest management in New Zealand*¹ by the Royal Society of New Zealand² highlights the ongoing and substantial costs to agricultural productivity and the economic losses associated with weeds. When coupled with the ever-present challenge of the growing resistance of weeds to agrichemicals and herbicide deregistration, it becomes vital to explore and utilise new approaches and technologies in weed management.

In response to this need, Lincoln University, New Zealand's specialist land-based University, in conjunction with the BHU Future Farming Centre, NZ's leading specialist sustainable agriculture research centre, have created the Sustainable Agriculture Series of short courses designed to provide professional development for farmers, growers, and all those involved in the primary sector; whether behind the farm gate or in research.

The first course in this series explores non-chemical/herbicide weed management, and aims to give attendees the knowledge and tools they need to make significant enhancements to the long-term sustainability of their on-farm weed management practices.

Topics covered include: the context of weed management; essential weed biology and ecology; integrated weed management; plus detailed coverage of field operations and machinery. The course will run on **Friday 20 June**, and full information can be found at www.bhu.org.nz/future-farming-centre. Registration is essential and places are limited.

Dr Charles Merfield, Head of the Future Farming Centre, says "this practically focused course will give attendees a sound overview of the whole of non-chemical weed management as well as providing practical details about how to implement the ideas once they get back to the farm. The feedback from attendees at the 2012 course was very positive and we expect this year's course to be every bit as valuable."

Dr Sam Yu, Lincoln University Business Development Manager, says "this is an exciting new initiative for Lincoln University, and shows our ongoing, genuine commitment to helping individual kiwi farmers and New Zealand agriculture as a whole in navigating the increasingly complex and changeable agricultural operating environment."

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¹ <http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/expert-advice/information-papers/yr2014/pestmanagement/>

² <http://www.royalsociety.org.nz>