



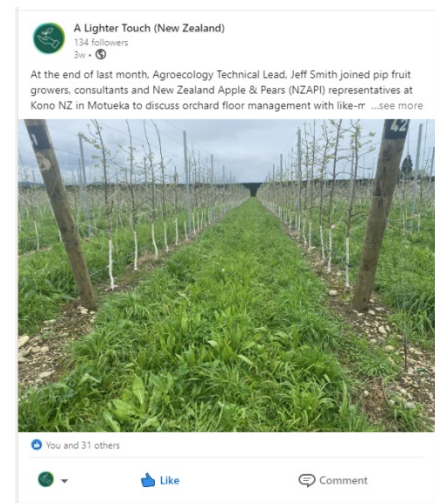
Progress report for the period July to September 2022

www.a-lighter-touch.co.nz

As *A Lighter Touch* moves into its third year, the Programme welcomes Programme Manager, Sarah Sorensen to the team. Activity for this quarter has been focussed on supporting participating product groups develop project proposals for crop protection issues, both pan sector and crop specific.

Achievements from this period include:

- Confirmation of Sarah Sorensen as Programme Manager for A Lighter Touch.
- Promoting A Lighter Touch through new LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/a-lighter-touch-new-zealand/>
- Progression of the Gisborne based Citrus Project aimed at agroecological approaches to insect pest control in perennial crop systems despite adverse weather causing delays in year two planting.
- Supporting the development of project proposals for:
 - Vegetables NZ - Boosting beneficials using biodiverse plantings on vegetable farms
 - Summerfruit - Establishment of understory plantings in Summerfruit orchards to enhance biodiversity, weed control and soil health.
 - NZ Buttercup Squash Council - Soilborne disease management in Buttercup squash and annual arable & vegetable crops.
- Development of trials to evaluate alternate chemistry for the control of Brown rot in summerfruit and botrytis in boysenberries.
- Supporting the Foundation for Arable Research (FAR) series of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshops. Guest speaker Dr Paul Horne of IPM Technologies (Australia) spoke on IPM strategies in winter wheat with Manawatu growers and agronomists.



A Lighter Touch LinkedIn post updating followers on Team activities



- Jeff Smith, A Lighter Touch Technical Lead, visiting growers in Pukekohe alongside Government officials. The visit was hosted by A Lighter Touch participants Onions NZ and Tomatoes NZ and included the A Lighter Touch demonstration site at Balle Bros, highlighting onions showing no mancozeb, and spray decisions based on revised thresholds.
- Attending the Accelerating Bioprotectant Development from New Zealand workshop in Wellington which provided a forum for discussion on better to advance the use of bioprotectants in New Zealand. The A Lighter Touch Team attended and presented at the workshop hosted by BioTech Forum in Wellington with over 50 professionals across the product development and commercial use value chain.

Government Officials visit to Balle Brothers Demonstration site