

Farmer Participant

What do I need to know?

Farmers are at the core of RMPP Action Network.

They determine the structure and rules of their Action Group and how the group spends its funds.

They identify farm business opportunities that are of benefit to them and their Group – and work to include these in the Action Group Extension Plan.

Who can take part?

Farmers from across New Zealand are invited to join RMPP Action Network. A farm business is eligible if they:

- Contribute to the primary production of red meat, and
- Commit to working alongside other farmers in a group environment, and
- Consider making some on-farm changes
- In the case where farming businesses may comprise multiple blocks/farms, provided each block/farm is managed as an independent unit and runs its own financial budget, then the person who directly oversees the management of the block/farm can join an Action Group as a farmer participant representing that farm business unit.

How many farm businesses can be in an Action Group?

Each Action Group can have between 7 and 9 farm businesses. Members of the farm team who are decision makers on-farm are encouraged to be involved. This means there could be between 10 – 20 people taking part in an Action Group.

What is expected of me?

- Actively participate and contribute to your Action Group
- Create an RMPP Action Network account by accepting an invite to join an Action Group. The first step of this is to register on the B+LNZ website. Then you can create an RMPP Action Network account. This helps you keep track of the group Extension Plan and budget. .
- Take part in the development of an Extension Plan for your group by outlining the activities the group will do
- Develop a Farm Action Plan, which outlines what you would like to get out of being part of the group and what will be done on-farm to achieve your own objectives
- Provide feedback every six months when requested, via the RMPP evaluation survey
- Adhere to the Action Group's ground rules which will be developed with the group by the Facilitator during the first few meetings.



Funding for the Action group

The RMPP Action Network will provide up to **\$4,000 (GST excl) per farm business**, pooled into a group fund, available until the end of June 2020. This group money is to cover **facilitators and expert costs only** (time and disbursements).

The fund sits with RMPP. When joining or forming an Action Group the allocated fund for each farm business is added to the relevant Action Group balance. As invoices are submitted by facilitators and experts as part of your group activities, they will be paid by RMPP and deducted from the group fund. Group members will be able to see their fund balance on their group page in the online system where group information is held.



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What should Action Group members expect from their Facilitator?

- The Facilitator's role is to support the group to identify opportunities, not tell the group what they think might be important. If they hold expertise not available to the group that would benefit planned activities, the group can decide to also use their Facilitator as an expert (although another Facilitator would then be added to the group for that particular activity)
- The Facilitator is responsible for identifying and managing any possible conflict of interest, personal bias, or any other matter to ensure the group works effectively for the interests of all members of the Action Group
- The Facilitator will work to ensure there is an environment of respect and safety where all farmers can participate in the Action Group freely
- The Facilitator will maintain confidentiality of information within an Action Group

What else do I need to know?

- **Each farm business** is required to **invest \$800 into their Action Group fund**, payable at the start of their second year.
- Farm businesses are not allowed to move between groups.
- Should a farm business leave a group before the plan is completed, they will forfeit the remaining balance of their funds. The group they exit will not have access to those funds after the farm business departs.

Tell me more about what costs can be claimed for running an Action Group?

- The Facilitator, mentor and/or subject matter expert costs and expenses related to activities in the Action Group's Extension Plan
- Reasonable third-party and disbursement costs directly related to a group activity such as event venue hire, event catering, farm tour transport, AV hire. Note: individual travel, meal and accommodation costs outside of group activities are excluded.
- Time and disbursements incurred by a Facilitator prior to the approval of the Extension Plan, if agreed to by the Action Group and this cost is detailed in the Extension Plan.

What costs cannot be covered by an Action Group budget?

- Personal travel, food and accommodation costs involved in attending planned RMPP Action Network events
- Both expert and facilitation costs claimed by the same person for one activity. The fund only covers disbursements in one professional role area, not multiple
- Any costs incurred by an Action Group Connector
- Subscriptions i.e. software, magazines etc
- Capital costs i.e. computer hardware, mobile devices, testing kits etc



Require further support?

Your Connector or Facilitator should be your first point of call, however should you require further support or information you can refer to our website or contact RMPP by phone or email.

www.actionnetwork.co.nz

Contact

☎ 0800 733 632

📘 /redmeatnz

🐦 @redmeatnz

✉ info@actionnetwork.co.nz

Keep up to date

If you want to keep in the loop with what is happening at RMPP, sign up to The Ground Up, our monthly e-newsletter.

www.rmpp.co.nz

