

PARIS ACCORD SURVEY

SUMMARY REPORT



September 2025

Prepared by

NZ FARMING

GROUNDSWELL NZ

METHANE SCIENCE ACCORD

With 2020 responses from grassroots farmers, this is the largest farmer-led statement on the true effects of the Paris Accord ever undertaken – the message is undeniable.



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WHAT FARMERS SAY...

QUESTION	RESULT
1. Investment preferences: If you had to choose between investing in the following: environmental work or methane mitigation, where would you prefer to allocate your resources?	66% environment work 2% methane mitigation 9% both equally 23% neither
2. On a scale of 1 to 5, how important is it to you to further reduce on-farm ruminant methane emissions?	79% not at all important 3% extremely important
3. Which of the following factors (if any) would influence your decision to adopt methane mitigation tools?	71% will not engage in any ruminant methane mitigation actions
4. In your opinion, is being in the Paris Accord in the best interest of New Zealanders?	94% No
5. Do you think New Zealand should continue to commit to Net Zero by 2050?	95% No
6. Have you experienced the negative impacts of the conversion of pasture farming to carbon farming in your local district?	48% Yes
7. What are your perceived concerns about New Zealand's commitments under the Paris Accord?	86% increased operational costs 83% increased inflationary pressures 80% believe agricultural sector carries an unfair burden 75% believe that NZ's emissions are too small to create a measurable impact
8. How do you believe New Zealand's continued participation in the Paris Accord will impact the viability and profitability of your farm over the next 10 years?	59% very negatively 28% negatively 5% positively
9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'New Zealand should remain a signatory to the Paris Accord?'	79% strongly disagree 13% disagree 3% strongly agree
10. If New Zealand remains committed to the Paris Accord, how confident are you that the Ag sector can withstand the associated challenges – such as rising costs, land use changes, etc?	71% not at all confident 16% somewhat unconfident 3% very confident

FARMERS SAY "ENOUGH" TO PARIS ACCORD AND NET ZERO

Lets listen to our farmers – before
it's too late

Farmer quotes from the survey:

"We are losing shops by the week in Taumarunui."

*"Massive pig problem, possums are back. Worried **TB** will return and affect our farm."*

*"I wish the bloody politicians would **get out of Wellington** and come and see the real destruction to our communities from carbon farming."*

Paris Accord survey: the what, why and how:

- ✓ 10 questions for NZ grassroot farmers on the Paris Accord and ruminant methane reduction
- ✓ A collaborative effort between Groundswell, Methane Science Accord and NZ Farming
- ✓ Distributed via social media posts, emails and newsletters
- ✓ Reached an audience of 419,000 people
- ✓ Received 2,020 responses
- ✓ The only survey of its kind available to all farmers in New Zealand

⚠ Farmers Reject Net Zero & the Paris Accord

- 94% say being in the Paris Accord is not in NZ's best interest.
- 95% say NZ should abandon Net Zero by 2050.
- 90% disagree that NZ should remain a signatory to the Paris Accord.
- 71% are "not at all confident" NZ agriculture can survive climate policy pressures.

Farmers Say Climate Policy Will Harm NZ's Economy

- 87% say Paris Accord compliance will negatively or very negatively affect farm profitability in the next 10 years.

NZ Farmers Slam the Paris Accord.

This major independent farmer survey reveals overwhelming rejection of the Paris Accord.

These results reflect a growing rural sentiment that current climate policies are out of step with economic realities and farming needs.

This landmark survey sends an unequivocal message: New Zealand farmers feel ignored, overburdened, and economically threatened by current climate strategies. Farmers are calling for a shift away from ideology-driven targets and toward grounded, practical environmental action that aligns with rural values and realities.

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL IMPACTS BEING FELT NOW

Carbon Forestry Taking Over Rural NZ

- 48% say carbon farming conversions are negatively impacting their district.
- Areas like **Pongaroa/Akitio** and **Taumarunui** are seeing **shrinking communities, job losses, and rising pests.**

✓ Key Takeaway

New Zealand farmers are calling for a **rethink of climate policies** that they believe are **economically damaging, socially destructive, and disconnected from practical, local solutions.**

Disconnect With Industry Leadership

One question remains: **Who truly represents grassroots farmers?**

Despite clear opposition to the Paris Accord from farmers themselves, levy organisations and sector leaders continue to endorse these commitments. Many farmers now feel abandoned by the very groups meant to advocate on their behalf.

FARMER FEEDBACK

Let's not forget that agriculture is the backbone of our economy. Hear what real New Zealand farmers have to say:

" Bottom line!! Listen to the farmers. Let's not pretend here that we would be in one great big mess without the food security which we currently hold in New Zealand to very high standard.

NET ZERO is a path to becoming poor (economic suicide). We should stop this madness.

The pines are killing the soil for 60 odd years! No to trees that won't allow the land to reproduce!

Unsubstantiated science claims. Political alliances that are best for their egos and list of acclaimed success. Politics should not interfere with farmers and their ability to find a solution to problems. Farmers are not being listened to.

A very simple race to the bottom.

Net zero is the de-industrialisation of the world.

Neighbours have planted in pines. Our land value has increased as a result of the high prices being paid increasing our rates. Pests also becoming a problem,

The nonsensical thinking of certain "Out of touch" left and right wing parties within our I'll not call them leadersadministrators is a more fitting description.

The Climate Modelling never considers the effect of Water Vapor which amounts to 97% of all Greenhouse Gases. It is conveniently ignored by climate scientists and politicians as it would destroy their CO2 arguments.

Food Production was excluded from the Paris Agreement but woke MPs in both Labour and National are listening to media attention and signing us up to unachievable targets. Simon Watts needs to resign.

The Paris Accord expressly states food production must not be affected by emissions targets. Farming is food production and ergo is exempt under the accord. Thus, policies about farming are an attack on farming for its own sake and nothing to do with following the accord.

How can 5 million be responsible for the big countries, we have so much going for us and now we are being blackmailed into thinking we are at fault. Leave us alone and stop the superpowers from destroying our country. Who wants trees just for trees sake, it's horrible.

All these problems are yet to be fully felt. It is a huge blight on our landscape, the problems are all ahead of us.... "

For the full survey results, see <https://methane-accord.co.nz>

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