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MEDIA RELEASE

Landcorp and Northland iwi forge unique farm management partnership

Landcorp Farming and Northland iwi Te Rarawa and Ngai Takoto have joined forces to run Sweetwater farm, a 2480ha property northwest of Kaitiaki.

The two iwi will acquire ownership of the property on 17 December 2015 under a 2010 Treaty of Waitangi settlement. The dairy farm and support unit will be run under a joint-management and profit-sharing arrangement between the iwi and Landcorp.

Landcorp Board Chair, Traci Houopapa said the relationship established with Te Rarawa and Ngai Takoto represented the organisation's commitment to forming positive and productive relationships with iwi throughout New Zealand.

"Te Rarawa and Ngai Takoto have mana whenua interests in Sweetwater and we acknowledge their interests in all aspects of the farm in a spirit of openness and through our shared values.

"This agreement deepens what has already been an excellent relationship between Landcorp and both iwi. Through it, we've created some very well-performing dairy farms and created more training and employment opportunities for Maori. It's a model for a successful business partnership and we're actively exploring more of these sorts of productive partnerships with iwi," she said.

Since the 2010 Treaty of Waitangi settlement, Landcorp has been managing Sweetwater in consultation with the two iwi. The farms have developed into one of Landcorp's best performing dairy operations, with three dairy units running 2800 cows, as well as a dairy support farm.

Under the new profit-sharing arrangement, Landcorp will provide the farm management expertise, livestock and its latest technologies required to manage the dairy operations.

Hemi Toia, general manager of Te Rarawa Investment Company, said both Te Rarawa and Ngai Takoto were taking a long-term view to developing the Sweetwater property.

"We will continue to add value to this relationship including growing the farms capacity and being sector leading employers and stewards of the animals and the environment. Landcorp shares these values and this decision making and profit-sharing arrangement is a mutually beneficial one that ensures all parties' interests, resources and vision are aligned.

“We value our relationship with Landcorp and its staff and believe this unique partnership could serve as a model for further development of the Maori agribusiness sector in Te Hiku and Taitokerau. Together with Landcorp we are able to proactively look for and develop further investment opportunities.”

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Notes for editors

About Landcorp

Landcorp Farming Limited is a leader in New Zealand agriculture and strives for best practice in dairy, sheep, beef and deer farming, for sustainable use of resources and continuous improvement in livestock genetics and farm systems. Landcorp is a State Owned Enterprise and one of New Zealand's largest farming organisations, with 140 properties. Landcorp's Pāmu brand simply means “to farm” and reflects the provenance and quality of Landcorp’s products and its commitment to productive partnerships.