

# rural life

- ▶ A Year on the Farm
- ▶ Southern Field Days



## Key Ideas

Compare and contrast farming practices from the past and today



Norton's Brickworks, Pukerau

**FUN FACT:** Norton's brick factory has been in business since 1881 - making it the oldest in the district. Providing tiles for drainage to the rural industry it has transformed the landscape, enabling farming in to thrive in otherwise swampy areas.



## A YEAR ON THE FARM

Helen Milne married Finlay MacKay in 1867. They farmed at Matura and their descendants continue to farm there today. From Helen MacKay's diary:

1879

- 10 Jan - Sold 3 cattle to Mr McCubbin. Had green peas for dinner. Had turnips.
- 28 Jan - Finlay (son) finished baling wool - 7 bales.
- 11 Feb - Finlay (son) and James (farm worker) harvested at Mr Pryde's.
- 15 Feb - Made soap and rhubarb jam. Finlay (son) couldn't find the cows tonight.
- 20 Feb - Finlay (son) chipped a lot of tussock.
- 12 Apr - Took 7 3lb (33 kg) apples to Pollock.
- 22 May - Dipped sheep at Cameron's.
- 23 May - Mr Pollock and Mr Gourlay mustered their sheep in our yards.
- 23 Jun - Cut cabbage trees to mend fence where sheep got out.
- 11 Nov - A fine swarm of bees - I got them into a box.
- 29 Nov - Finlay (son) went to Mr Pollocks for a few sheep that were trespassing there but didn't get them.
- 4 Dec - All to cattle show - first one I have seen, enjoyed myself.
- 12 Dec - John and James shored 46 sheep today.
- 13 Dec - They shored 60 sheep today.
- 29 Dec - Shot a lot of rabbits.

From Matura City of Falls, edited by DCW Muir

## SOUTHERN FIELD DAYS

The first Southern Field Days was held in 1982 on the property of Ken Bowmar at Waimumu. Held on 2 hectares of land, the event had 60 exhibitors demonstrating their products.

The first event was run by the Eastern Southland Young Farmers Club and they continue to run the event today. But the event has grown, now owning their own land at Waimumu, starting with 12 hectares in 1996 and increasing it in 2004 to a total of 38 hectares. Exhibitors come from all over New Zealand to sell their products. In 2016 there were 766 exhibitors at the event promoting the rural side of their business. 40,000 people visited the site over 3 days. A Super 15 rugby game was a highlight added to the programme with the Highlanders playing the Crusaders.

### ACTIVITY:

The Southern Field Days offers inventors of farm related products an opportunity to demonstrate their ideas. Brainstorm some important inventions since Helen MacKay first wrote in her diary to what farmers use today. What might come next?



Southern Field Days, 2016



Southern Field Days, 2016



Aerial view over Southern Field Days, 2016

Where We Live  
Project Tūrangawaewae



# rural life

- Farm Statistics
- Diary Entry
- Technology & Farming

**Key Ideas** Compare and contrast farming practices from the past and today

## FARM STATISTICS

### ACTIVITY:

Look at the table above and complete the following:

1. Graph showing the changes in stock numbers.
2. Which stock category has the greatest change?
3. Which stock category has the least change?

### INTERPRETATION:

Brainstorm what the consequences of these changes have been for Southland.

## DIARY ENTRY

One of the earliest runholders in the district was Peter McKellar. Here he describes what it was like to move some of the districts first sheep from ships in Bluff to their new home, the Waimea Plains in 1856.

Note that when they stopped for lambing they camped where Gore is today.

*There were many difficulties in our way, and we were daily meeting with so many drawbacks that our journey inland was very slow and a tedious one. The long grass impeded the progress of the sheep considerably. We had to set fire to it before we could get through. The creeks and rivers and swamps were great stumbling blocks in our way. We had to make crossing places in many of the creeks before attempting to cross the sheep. In this way it took us six months to get to our destination. We had to camp for two or three months between Long Ford and Charlton Creek till the ewes lambed, and the lambs were strong enough to travel.*

Peter McKellar, 1856 in *Life on a Mexican Rancho*  
by Margaret Maud McKellar

**PRACTICE YOUR handwriting skills:**  
Practice writing your name in *cursive* style.  
First try linking then without linking.

## LIVESTOCK TOTALS

Year (As at June 30)						
	Beef Cattle	Dairy Cattle	Sheep	Deer	Pigs	Horses
1994	202538	114378	7850791	184512	7235	4252
2002	203670	356220	5950657	351558	7376	5097
2003	220042	347793	5855296	356948	3441	4314
2004	216523	349021	5966919	390423	3322	3344
2005	202326	348075	5950627	371374	2734	..
2006	204632	375911	5928761	347537	..	..
2007	207588	432642	5662387	307524	4303	3366
2008	190562	495971	4739003	270072	4086	3079
2009	214927	589184	4556206	242288	..	..
2010	186157	599198	4597335	245975	977	..
2011	173798	614648	4112930	243877	625	2189
2012	172150	670581	4356427	238402	..	3468
2013	168031	615428	4390785	221388	1091	3523
2014	173957	700039	4299214	223025	..	2962

## TECHNOLOGY AND FARMING



Hay baling technology, today

### ACTIVITY:

Compare and contrast the work practices between the 2 images shown here.



Hayfield at Waimumu, 1912

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