

Abstract by Mark Dewdney - Evolution of a Modern Herd Improvement Co-operative

Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC) is a New Zealand dairy farmer owned co-operative that had its original formation over 100 years ago. Over the last century LIC has evolved from a herd testing business, to a herd improvement business, to an animal performance improvement business, and we are now pushing our boundaries wider to assist farmers with a range of on-farm automation, and farm decision support tools. Our ownership has remained firmly with New Zealand dairy farmers, but we have again evolved in this area, transitioning from a collective of Regional, Industry Good cooperatives, to one National organisation which was a subsidiary of the New Zealand Dairy Board, to an independent farmer owned cooperative with dual cooperative shares and share market listed investment shares. A number of other Industry Good organisations also play roles in New Zealand Animal recording and Genetic evaluation, and work closely with LIC. The presentation will outline how the market in New Zealand operates, ensuring that commercial and Industry Good needs are met and how it is predicted to evolve further in the future.