

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**13 MARCH 2018**

### **ALLIANCE GROUP TRIALLING ELECTRONIC ANIMAL STATUS DECLARATION**

Leading food company Alliance Group is trialling electronic Animal Status Declaration (eASD) forms at its Pukeuri plant near Oamaru to make it easier for farmers to document animal movements.

An electronic version of the current Animal Status Declaration forms, eASD's can be completed online by farmers before they move animals between properties or send them for processing.

Heather Stacy, General Manager Livestock and Shareholder Services, said the introduction of the technology was a good example of the co-operative's commitment to investing in supporting farmer-shareholders businesses.

"This has the potential to make the process of filling out ASDs much faster and easier for farmers. There are also benefits for our plants with incorrectly completed ASDs a significant cause of delays and lost productivity.

"If a paper ASD has been filled in incorrectly, animals cannot be processed until we have contacted the farmer or person in charge of the animals to get the correct information."

eASDs are set up so they cannot be submitted without having filled in all the necessary information, including NAIT and AHB numbers.

"Once you have filled in your first eASD, all that information, including your full address and TB status, is prefilled for future ones – eliminating the risk of mistakes," says Ms Stacy.

"The electronic process also resolves any issues around legibility – no more having to find a pen and quickly fill in the form while leaning on the farm gate. Ultimately we expect this to lead to efficiencies on farm and in-plant."

Subject to the outcome of the trial, the co-operative will then consider rolling out the technology to other plants across the company.

The eASDs technology has been developed by the Red Meat Profit Partnership in conjunction with OSPRI. It transfers key information about the animal/s to the next person in charge of the animals, and ultimately to the processor.

ENDS

#### **NOTES TO EDITOR**

Alliance Group is a co-operative owned by approximately 5000 farmer shareholders and is the world's largest processor and exporter of sheepmeat.



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