

FARMERS of the WEEK



AHIARUHE FARM

Flanking the Ruamahanga River on alluvial river flats near Carterton is Ahiaruhe Farm, owned by Michael & Karen Williams.

Since they purchased Ahiaruhe in 1999 the couple has significantly expanded the business which now combines cash cropping with lamb and beef finishing. The Williams finish 3,800 lambs for Cabernet Foods annually and the cash crops include wheat, barley, ryegrass, peas, red clover and hybrid onion seed.

Michael & Karen were the 2013 Ballance Farm Environment Awards Supreme Winners (Wellington Region) and also winners of the Ballance Agri-Nutrients: Nutrient Management Award and the Hill Laboratories Harvest Award.

Maintaining high quality soils, improving the quality of freshwater and continual habitat enhancement form a key part of their farming philosophy. They have an annual on-farm native and exotic tree planting programme, and have undertaken considerable riparian fencing and native planting along a stream that runs through their property.

