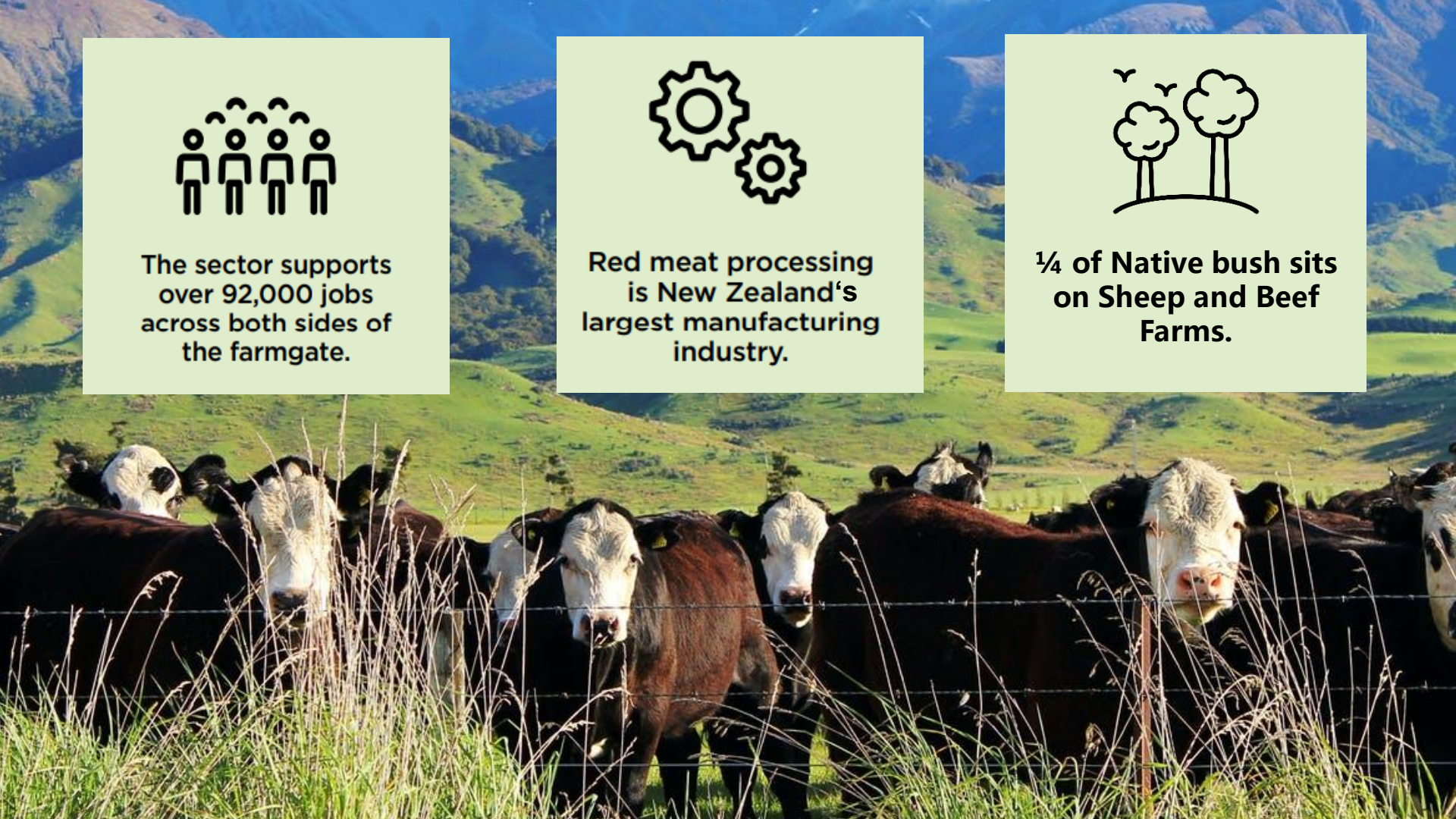
Carbon footprinting

A New Zealand sheep and beef industry perspective

World Meat Congress 2023

Sam McIvor, Chief Executive Officer
Beef + Lamb New Zealand





The sector supports over 92,000 jobs across both sides of the farmgate.

Red meat processing is New Zealand's largest manufacturing industry.

¼ of Native bush sits on Sheep and Beef Farms.

Our Challenges

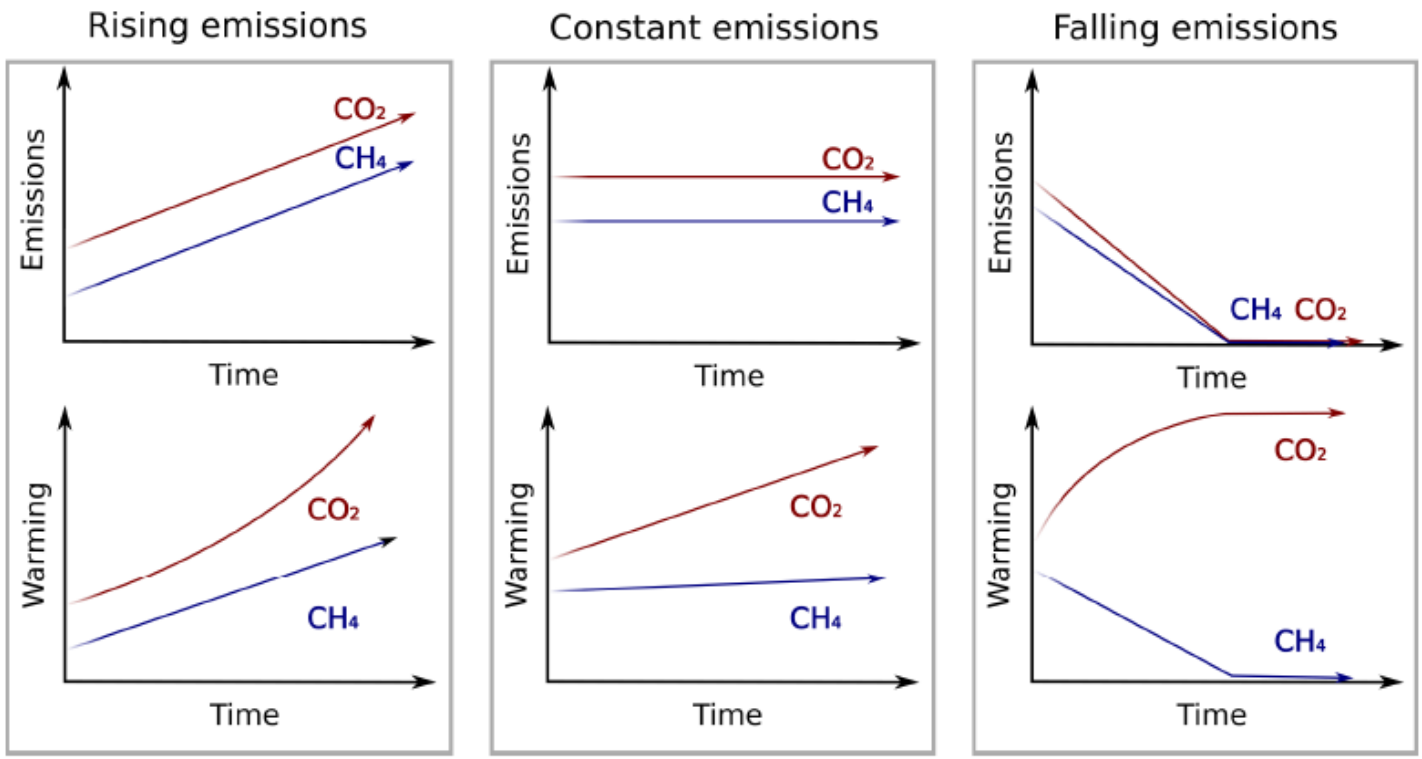
- A negative global narrative
- Recognition of methane’s uniqueness
- Finding methane reduction technologies
- Implementing technologies in our systems
- On-farm measurement & management



Our Approaches

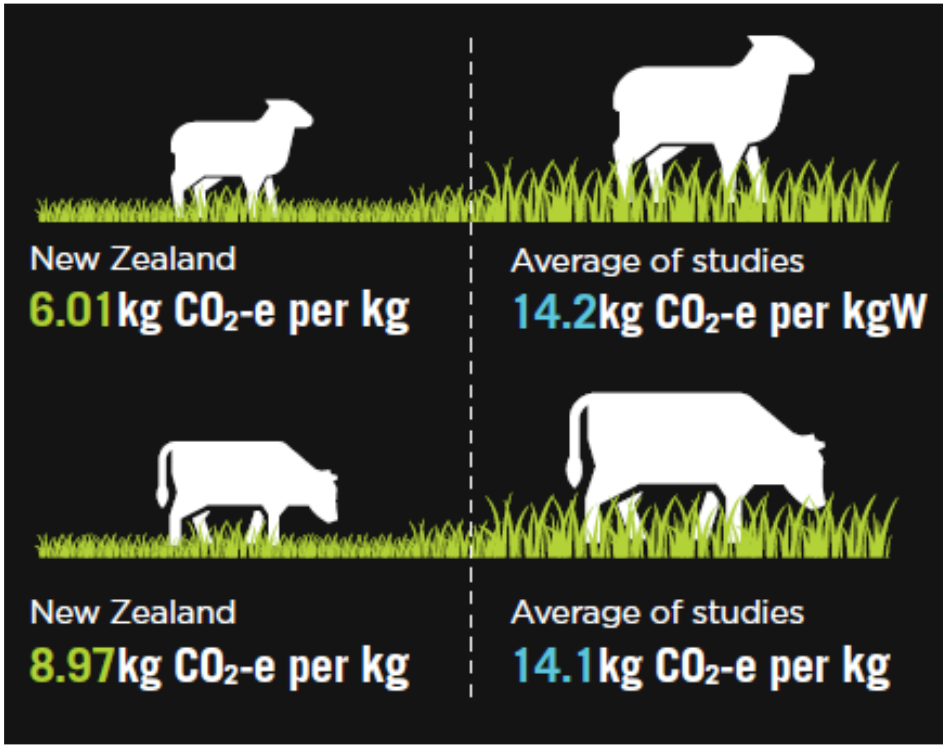
- Legal and public recognition of the difference between GHGs
- R&D investment since 2003
- Getting tools in farmers hands
- Changing the narrative through science-based NZ specific data
- Looking for new angles

Changing the narrative – emissions vs warming and using the right metric



Our Approaches

- Legal and public recognition of the difference between GHGs
- R&D investment since 2003
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New Zealand
6.01kg CO_2-e per kg
Average of studies
14.2kg CO_2-e per kgW
New Zealand
8.97kg CO_2-e per kg
Average of studies
14.1kg CO_2-e per kg


NEW ZEALAND LAMB HAS BEEN CLIMATE NEUTRAL
Total
-0.34
Combining GWP* & sequestration from cradle to grave, sheepmeat has not added any additional warming over the last twenty years.*
-1.75
0.53
0.88
ON-FARM
PROCESSING
POST-PROCESSING
"Combining GWP* with on-farm trees and woody vegetation (which sequesters carbon) sheepmeat have not added any additional warming in the last twenty year time period - the period used for this study. This new approach to LCAs better reflects the actual contribution to the warming of the planet. To remain climate neutral using GWP*, our farmers need to continue to reduce their emissions. The FAO notes that climate neutrality "is a situation where an organisation or industry is making no additional contribution to radiative forcing (and) could be regarded as consistent with climate stabilisation."

Our Approaches

- Legal and public recognition of the difference between GHGs
- R&D investment since 2003
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Creating a global solutions and a new
global dialogue together


beef+lamb
new zealand