

4th June 2009

Mr A.A. Fomin
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Union of
Complex Planning and Land Use of Rural Lands,
Chairman of the Scientific Expert Council of the Committee
on Agrarian Questions of the State Duma of the Federal
Assembly of the Russian Federation.

Dear Mr Fomin

NEW ZEALAND / RUSSIA: AGRICULTURE SECTOR CO-OPERATION

Please accept warm greetings from New Zealand. I should like to ask you to consider the possibility of including Landcorp Farming Limited, a New Zealand State-Owned Enterprise, in pilot projects which I understand have been initiated by the Government of the Russian Federation and the Union of Complex Planning and Land Use of Agricultural Lands, for the development of sheep-farming and dairy farming with the associated processing of meat and wool, and also for selection plant breeding and seed production.

Landcorp would be most interested in exploring the concept of co-operating, on a suitably negotiated commercial basis, in the design and management of pilot sheep, beef or dairy cattle-farming ventures in Russia, particularly temperate climatic zones, and on grass fed farming systems.

Landcorp's major expertise is temperate climate, mainly grass-based livestock farming. Major elements of this comprise land development, farm layout, pasture establishment and management, selection and genetic improvement of livestock, and farm management support systems. Notable features of Landcorp's own farming operations include ongoing training for farm workers and managers, occupational health and safety, excellent environmental stewardship, product quality assurance, and the integration of clusters of farms to maximise both economies of scale and the utilisation of our most talented farm managers.

While we do not directly engage in meat, wool or dairy processing, we are accustomed to working closely with those who are leaders in all parts of the food and fibre value chains.

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It would be fair to suggest that Landcorp, in its 21 year history, has transformed some of New Zealand's most difficult and degraded lands into some of the most productive and efficient sheep, beef, dairy and deer farms to be found anywhere in the world.

I know New Zealanders and Russians can work effectively together. In 2003, New Zealand became the first OECD member country to sign with Russia a negotiated bilateral agreement on Russia's entry into the WTO. I had the privilege of signing this agreement in Moscow. As a state-owned agricultural corporation, Landcorp would like to emphasise the willingness to revive friendly long-term mutually advantageous cooperation with the Russian Federation in the field of agri-business development.

Yours sincerely

Hon Jim Sutton

Chairman, Landcorp Farming Limited

Former New Zealand Minister of Agriculture (1990; 1999-2005) and

Trade Negotiations (1999-2005)

New Zealand Roving Ambassador for Trade (2006-2009)

c.c... Mr A.E. Guskov

Executive Director of the Union of Complex Planning

And Land Use of Rural Lands

Chairman of the Management of OAO RKhK Zemproekt

Member of the Scientific Expert Council of the

Committee on Agrarian Questions of the State

Of Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation