

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Association reports successful year**

The Canterbury A&P Association today released their Annual Report announcing results for the financial year ending 31 December 2008. Reflecting a modest improvement on the previous year a surplus of \$84,005 was recorded on a revenue base of \$2.2million, up 11% on previous year (2008 - \$1,952,807) and a modest 6% member's funds increase.

"The 2008 Royal New Zealand Show set a new benchmark proving again that it is the undisputed quintessential sparkler in the crown of New Zealand Cup and Show Week. Not only does the event act as a catalyst attracting visitors, but promotes the region's agri-importance and generates significant economic value-add to the Christchurch and Canterbury region", commented Canterbury A&P Association Board Chair Doug Marsh.

The 2008 Royal New Zealand Show was the largest A&P Show ever held in New Zealand, attracting 592 trade exhibitors, over 7300 livestock and feature competition entries and 120,000 visitors over three days. The Show was the third consecutive Royal New Zealand Show hosted by Canterbury. The Canterbury A&P Association has Royal Show hosting rights until 2012 inclusive.

Despite the positive results the Canterbury A&P Association's Directors' outlook for 2009 is risk and uncertainty.

"With forecasts for slowing growth, falling commodity and export income, rising unemployment then a rise of inflation over the course of the year....The Association can not afford complacency", added Marsh.

The Association also faces the added cost burden arising from the Southern Motorway extension which has been accelerated four months and will commence March 2010.

"There are significant and genuine risks that the motorway poses for the Show and Directors will continue to forcefully defend the event and access to the Park as a matter of extreme importance", said Marsh.

The Annual General Meeting of the Canterbury A&P Association will be held Wednesday 18 March, commencing at 3pm at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre, Christchurch. All members are invited to attend.

The Canterbury A&P Association will host its 147th Show and the 79th Royal New Zealand Show in Christchurch from 11 to 13 November 2009.

The Canterbury A&P Association Annual Report is available on request.

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