## **PRODUCTS**



Lachlan McKenzie pointing out a smooth transition line (pumice race to concrete) and pothole free race surface after close to 2m of rain in the past three months.

## Jakaar striving for JakMat perfection

AKAAR Industries Ltd is a New Zealand based producer of JakMat race stabilisation mats. At the Mystery Creek Fieldays this year and in 2009, we sold mats to three farmers from the Bay of Plenty and Waikato regions. They have since used the mats to lay on their races, a company spokesman said.

Since the introduction of JakMat to dairy farming, Jakaar has been working closely with these and other local farmers in order to develop an efficient system that stabilises main race pressure points, retains aggregate in place, provides better drainage and reduces

Dairy farmer Lachlan McKenzie, who manages 660 cows on his 220ha farm in Rotorua and who laid JakMat in June, is happy with the stability the mat provides. The transition point from race to concrete at both the entry and exit to the milking shed, as he says "has always been a big challenge" and before laying the JakMat he "experimented with a whole raft of things", but found that "it takes a hell of a strong surface" to withstand the impact of 660 cows x 4 hooves x 2 milking times a day – on main race pressure points.

Today, his race, where JakMat is laid, is stable and does not have any potholes, even though his farm has had close to two metres of rain during the past three months. In addition, the soft surface provided by the pumice, used in and on top of the JakMat, is good for his cows' feet, according to Lachlan. This helps reduce lameness and consequently lowers vet cost, loss of production and reduces pressure on staff having to handle injured animals. The simple and rapid laying process was considered a definite advantage.

Mark Sing of Bridgnorth Farms Ltd (220 cow units, 66ha), was also looking for a product to stabilise the dairy race entry point into his new milking shed. Having laid JakMat five months ago, he is extremely satisfied with the results. The race was an area that had potential to break down and become potholed, but as he said: "The JakMat just holds the material in place."

Having now worked with many farmers who have laid JakMat, Jakaar continues to develop its systems approach and has observed that obtaining an optimal result depends on the filling/topping material as well as the base used under the JakMat. This has certainly been confirmed by Albert Pouwels, who runs 370 dairy units (124ha farm) and whose race has been in top shape for 14 months now (without any maintenance or material top up). Drainage has been "one of the revelations of the product". He used a GAP 20 drainage material as base and Huntly Brown Rock as the filling/toping of the JakMat. Visit www.jakmat.co.nz or ph John Bradley 021 288 5644.

