



Mid Canterbury deer farmer Peter Swann hosted Russia deer boss Natalia Sorokina during her time in Mid Canterbury.

PHOTO COLIN WILLISCROFT 140518-CW-010

Russian checks out NZ deer operations

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Russian Deer Breeders' executive director Natalia Sorokina was in Mid Canterbury yesterday, as part of a week-long New Zealand visit.

Sorokina is in the country for this year's deer industry confer-

ence, which begins in Timaru today.

She plans to use her time there to promote the World Deer Farming Congress VII, which is being held in Altai, Russia, in August. Altai is the largest manufacturer of velvet products in Russia and the

second largest area for the number of deer farms.

It's Sorokina's second visit to New Zealand. She came here about 18 months ago with a Russian businessman who wanted to find out more about deer breeding.

During her initial visit, which

lasted about two weeks and was hosted by Deer Industry New Zealand producer manager Tony Pearse, she toured a number of deer operations in the lower South Island.

New Zealand is seen as a leader among deer farming countries, So-

rokina said, so it was a good place to learn more about the industry.

Russia is in the development stage of its own deer farming sector but the prospects were looking very good, she said.

The majority of farmed deer in Russia are either red, fallow or sika.

Hui to focus on animal welfare

An all-day hui, to discuss the priorities of the country's animal welfare groups, has been called for next month by the Associate Minister of Agriculture Meka Whaitiri.

The hui, which will be held in Auckland, aims to follow up on a promise made by Whaitiri after she announced government policy not to ban rodeos in March.

"I am keen to hear the views and priorities of the country's animal advocates on issues on everything from the care of our pigs to welfare issues around our pets. I want everything to be on the table for discussion.

"I also want this to be a chance for our animal advocates to hear from spokespeople for our government partners the Greens and New Zealand First.

"This year I have already moved to strengthen the protections for



Meka Whaitiri

our animals with a raft of new regulations that covered everything from banning fireworks at rodeos

to tightening the controls on how stock are transported to slaughter plants. These regulations have already been welcomed by many.

"I have also supported the work of my advisory group NAWAC (National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee) in their investigation into the role of animals in entertainment.

"As the dedicated animal welfare minister in this government I make no secret of the fact that I want to see better outcomes for our animals. This goes to the heart of our international reputation as one of the world leaders for animal welfare outcomes in farming systems.

"It will be up to the hui on June the 8th to decide what they think are the really important issues that we need to develop and debate in the coming years," Whaitiri said.

Little joy for Canterbury finalists

Canterbury's representatives in the Dairy Industry Awards finals came away empty handed from the national awards dinner in Invercargill on Saturday night.

Rangitata farmers Daniel and Paula McAtamney were finalists in the New Zealand Share Farmers of the Year category, having won the Canterbury-North Otago regional event.

However, that category was won by Dan and Gina Duncan from Northland.

The news was slightly better for Fairlie's Will Green, who finished runner-up in the New Zealand Dairy Manager of the Year category behind Gerard Boerjan from the Hawkes Bay-Wairarapa region. However, Green won the Ravensdown Feed Management Award.



Daniel and Paula McAtamney

Canterbury-North Otago Dairy Trainee of the Year, Temuka's Salem Christian, was also unplaced in the national final. His category was won by Southland-Otago winner Simone Smail.