

# When Disaster Strikes

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*Wherever rural Communities exist neighbours reach out to neighbours in incredible ways when disaster threatens ...*

After the New Zealand earth quake in Sept. 2010 the *Rural Network News* reported (in part) the following ---

“The most immediate challenges were those faced by farmers with dairy herds. Power was cut for most and some rotary milking sheds were damaged beyond repair. Generators were shared, more generators were flown in, and useable milking sheds were made available to neighbours. One farmer, for example, who normally milks 400 cows, was able to provide milking space for 1,600 extra cows, twice a day.

“Within 36 hours, every dairy herd in Canterbury was being milked and all the milk was being delivered to the factories. One factory suffered serious damage and was assisted by its production rival.

“Up to 50 grain silos suffered structural damage, putting the contents at risk as heavy rains and wind threatened. Farmers with available capacity quickly made their silos available, and rural transport companies assisted by moving grain and seeds from damaged silos to safe silos.

“Our skilled urban counterparts, Orion line staff and electrical contractors, worked long hours in difficult weather conditions, to restore power to many and importantly, disconnect power for those with damaged homes, sheds, and silos. Power was restored to all but 3,400 farms by Sunday evening and to 2,500 of the remainder by Monday evening ...”