The FarmIQ System provides opportunities for veterinarians to work with their farmer clients in new ways.

The System helps farmers record information and then analyse and report on any aspect of their farm’s operation. It can act as a farm diary and as a record for compliance. It was released in August 2015, and sheep, beef and deer farmers around the country are now subscribing to one of the five FarmIQ System Packs.

Any farm information is stored in the cloud (rather than a personal computer) and can be accessed from any internet-linked computer via a secure password. This means that farmers can easily share it with advisors such as veterinarians.

Veterinarians working with the FarmIQ System are showing what’s possible when veterinarians are more closely involved with animal health and farm management decisions. It changes the focus from the traditional approach of helping solve a specific disease or problem, to helping improve production.

The veterinarian team can help with disease prevention and whole-farm systems, like integrating feed budgeting and management, advice around genetics and fertiliser assessments.

While not directly setting up animal health plans, the system supports their development and action with the vet. We see the annual animal health plan guiding what the farming team will do during the year to make sure that animals will perform to their best. It includes vaccination and drenching programmes, trace element monitoring and timing for additional testing such as worm counts and pasture sampling. The plan also provides for condition scoring or weighing stock at critical times of year.

The FarmIQ System assists in several ways:

- Setting up animal health plan in the systems diary function.
- Assigning tasks from the health plan, such as drenching, to team members.
- Record of animal health treatments, including managing withholding periods.
- Range of reports to provide insight into trends relating to animal productive performance, e.g. reproduction and growth, including processor disease and defect information with benchmarking.
- Enabling comparisons of treatment options in the particular farm setting.
- With EID tagging, enabling management to the individual animal level.
- Through the Business Intelligence tool, benchmarking can be set up within practice client base.