



Doctor of Commerce *honoris causa* Dr John Penno

Dr John Penno is a primary sector business leader, co-founding the dairy company Synlait Milk in 2000.

He stood down as its CEO and Managing Director in August 2018 but remains on its board.

He was directly responsible for leading Synlait Milk's strategy development, business development and financial management.

After completing an Agricultural Science degree at Lincoln University, John commenced his career in the dairy industry as a consulting officer for the New Zealand Dairy Board. He then joined Dexcel as a research scientist, where he completed a PhD in animal science from Massey University.

As a scientist and research programme leader he worked to enable New Zealand dairy farmers to increase productivity and profit, and was involved in early work measuring the environmental impact of intensive dairy farming.

With his wife Maury, John is now investing in, and working to support, a range of fast growing sustainability focused food and beverage companies.

John was the inaugural chair of the Dairying and Environmental Leadership group, and is currently the Chair of the Freshwater Leaders Group advising the Government on implementing policy to achieve its Essential Freshwater goals.

In 2009, John received an emerging leader's award from the Sir Peter Blake Trust and the Excellence in Leadership award at the 2015 New Zealand International Business Awards.

He was Federated Farmers' inaugural Agribusiness Person of the Year in 2009, in recognition of his leadership and contribution to New Zealand's growth.

Lincoln University is delighted to present this well-deserved honour to Dr John Penno, the degree of Doctor of Commerce *honoris causa*.

Professor Bruce McKenzie
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor