

UPDATE: 05 April 2023

Kia ora

This update sees New Zealand take centre stage with hosting the 10th World Avocado Congress while apples feature in national and international news. You’ll find items on these well as our regular items of regulatory notifications, consultations and upcoming events below.

Ngā mihi

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# GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS

## ICPR changes

The following ICPRs have been updated in the last two weeks

* USA has been updated to add a note to dried *Humulus lupulus* requirements under section 3.2.2 Dried Cut Flowers and Foliage and updated section 4.2 title to specify ‘Fresh’ Cut Flowers and Foliage. [ICPR USA](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/702)
* Japan has been updated amend testing requirements under section 3.4.1 Seeds and Grains for Sowing, to update a number of commodities and make a number of editing corrections. [ICPR Japan](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/657)
* Great Britain has been updated in section 2.4 Phytosanitary Certificates. [ICPR Great Britain](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/39653-Great-Britain)
* EU has been updated with additional declarations, added a note for *Actinidia* pollen under section ‘2.5.3 Union Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests (RNQPs) and Measures to prevent its presence on specific plants for planting.’ and under RNQP tables combined Part D and C; Part M and K. [EU ICPR](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/640)
* China has been updated with a New FYI for exporters of fruit and vegetables to China: [F08/23: China Registration of Food Establishments](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/50612-F0823-China-Registration-of-Food-Establishments). [ICPR China](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/630)

If you need any further clarification, contact your Independent Verification Agency in the first instance.

## WTO and TBT Notifications

Please find attached the most recent WTO and TBT notifications from countries that are considering changes to their plant import requirements for specific products. If you have any concerns about the notifications being presented, please contact Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country.





## Consultations

#### Improving Economic Resilience to Supply Chain Disruptions

The outlook for supply chains is not a simple return to pre-pandemic operations. Global trends indicate that disruptions are likely to be more frequent. In response, governments of most advanced economies, including New Zealand, have started to explore policy options for enhancing economic resilience – the capacity of industries and communities to anticipate, prepare, absorb, recover and learn from supply chain disruptions.

The Government has asked the Productivity Commission to undertake an inquiry into the resilience of the New Zealand economy to supply chain disruptions. An “Improving Economic Resilience’ Issues Paper was launched on the 28 February 2023 and submissions are invited on the issues paper until 17 April 2023. More information on the inquiry, issues paper and how to make a submission are on the New Zealand Productivity Commission [website](https://www.productivity.govt.nz/inquiries/resilience/).

# NEW ZEALAND NEWS

## Opinion piece:

#### Nadine's update: Staying grounded

In this week’s update, Nadine Tunley discusses the need for the government to provide financial assistance and a clear plan for recovery as data on the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle continues to be captured and feed into Government departments [Full article here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/nadines-update/staying-grounded/)

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## Government News:

#### Next steps for New Zealand’s organic regulations

The Government has passed the Organic Products and Production Bill through its third reading in Parliament helping New Zealand’s organic sector to grow and lift export revenue.

“The Organic Products and Production Bill will introduce robust and practical regulation to give businesses the certainty they need to continue to invest in our growing organics sector, Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor said.

A national organic standard for organic food, beverages, plant and animal products is currently being developed. The national organic standard will set the production and processing rules for products labelled as organic, and any requirements that are specific to the products covered by the standard. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/next-steps-new-zealand%E2%80%99s-organic-regulations)

#### Minister of Foreign Affairs meets with Chinese counterpart

Minister of Foreign Affairs Nanaia Mahuta recently concluded her visit to China, the first by a New Zealand Foreign Minister since 2018. The Minister met her counterpart, newly appointed State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Qin Gang, who also hosted a working dinner. This was the first engagement between the two Ministers.

“Our discussions were wide-ranging, covering all aspects of our bilateral relationship,” Nanaia Mahuta said. “I noted the resilience of our bilateral trade through COVID-19. With borders now open in both directions, reconnecting people will be priority this year, with students, tourists and business people resuming travel. “We look forward to the resumption of a range of in-person high level discussions and officials’ dialogues, including on foreign affairs, climate change, human rights, the Pacific, and trade, which provide a valuable platform for engagement,” Nanaia Mahuta said. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/minister-foreign-affairs-meets-chinese-counterpart)

#### CPTPP bolstered by decision on UK accession

New Zealand welcomes the substantial conclusion of negotiations on the United Kingdom’s accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), Trade and Export Growth Minister Damien O’Connor announced today.

“Continuing to grow our export returns is a priority for the Government and part of our plan to provide greater economic security to all New Zealanders,” Damien O’Connor said. “One in four New Zealanders’ jobs depend on our exports. The CPTPP is an important element of our trade agenda, and brings greater diversification to our export flow. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/cptpp-bolstered-decision-uk-accession)

## Industry news

#### Addressing global supply and demand challenges is a key issue at World Avocado Congress

Increasing market demand for avocados, ahead of an expected production oversupply, has been one of the issues front and centre of the 10th World Avocado Congress that is taking place in Auckland, New Zealand this week.

President of the World Avocado Congress Committee and CEO of New Zealand Avocado, Jen Scoular says 33 countries are represented at the event, all facing similar challenges regardless of where they come from across the globe. "I think we all know that there is not one country out there at the moment that is having a great time with avocados," she said. "We had Eric Imbert as a keynote speaker, knowing he was going to tell us that we had an oversupply coming and all of us are saying what are we going to do about it - and can we do it collectively? We need to leverage the fact that we are all here and want to have a conversation." [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9517896/addressing-global-supply-and-demand-challenges-is-a-key-issue-at-world-avocado-congress/)

#### Māori kiwifruit growers looking to increase exporting and marketing knowledge

Māori kiwifruit growers are looking to increase their exporting and marketing knowledge. To this end, they have signed a collaborative marketing deal with single desk seller Zespri to put fruit into Hawaii next year and Taiwan in 2025. Māori Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated chair Anaru Timutimu says those are markets where Māori may have a cultural connection to call on. Due to the current industry structure, the fruit will be drawn from the general pool. “We will develop that story over time but our goal is to have our own brand, our own story and be able to charge a marketing premium to return back to our growers and investors.” Said Timutimu. [Full article here](https://waateanews.com/2023/04/03/maori-kiwifruit-growers-to-enter-hawaiian-market/)

#### Zespri forecasts drop of 15 million trays of kiwifruit this season

New Zealand’s 2023 kiwifruit harvest officially kicked off on 16th February which is in line with last year. The first crop was picked in Pukehina, outside of Tauranga and more kiwifruit will be picked around New Zealand over the coming months. The first charter vessel of the season also left the Port of Tauranga this week.

“This season we expect to deliver around 145 million trays of Green, SunGold and RubyRed Kiwifruit to more than 50 countries," said Carol Ward, Zespri Chief Grower, Industry and Sustainability Officer. "The lower volumes we’re expecting this season reflect some of the challenging weather conditions we’ve seen in New Zealand, however they provide an opportunity for our industry to reset so that we can focus on delivering consistently high-quality fruit to our customers and consumers this season and in the years ahead when we have more volume. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9514897/zespri-forecasts-drop-of-15-million-trays-of-kiwifruit-this-season/)

#### Licensing agreement will see New Zealand-bred apples grown in China

Next Generation Apples (NGA) has signed an agreement with Shenzhen SVM (SVM) that will see two New Zealand-bred apples grown in China. The deal gives SVM licensing rights to Sassy and Posh in Greater China, allowing them to recruit growers and market the two branded varieties in the region.

New Zealand-based NGA – a joint venture between Taylor Corp and Golden Bay Fruit – holds the global licensing rights (excluding Australia) to both varieties. “This partnership gives us the ability to service a key market for Sassy in the counter season for Southern Hemisphere licensees, with strong programme management to protect the value as we expand,” said Evan Heywood, chief executive of NGA. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/svm-gains-rights-to-sassy-and-posh/248631.article)

#### Rockit partners with charity for Ramadan

Miniature apple brand Rockit has partnered with Emirates Red Crescent during Ramadan as part of a charitable promotion for its Ramadan-inspired Rockit giftbox sold. The partnership will see Rockit donate 1 dirham to the Emirates Red Crescent for every giftbox– containing two tubes of Rockit apples – sold. The funds will support the charity’s Iftar Saim campaign, which aims to provide healthy Iftar meals to those in need during the month of Ramadan.

Rockit market manager for the Middle East, Ziad El Chawa, said Rockit couldn’t be prouder to be collaborating with Emirates Red Crescent to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan while supporting those in need in breaking their fast. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/rockit-partners-with-charity-for-ramadan/248619.article)

#### Soaring costs leave apple exporters unlikely to make profit

For the second year in a row New Zealand apple growers are unlikely to make money from sales in their traditional export markets of Europe and the UK. Soaring on-orchard costs, high freight charges because of distance to market, coupled with an unwillingness by key European countries to pay more money, is making exporting apples there financially unsustainable.

AgFirst horticulture consultant Ross Wilson said it has always been a challenge being at the bottom of the world, it costs a lot of money to get products shipped to the export destinations. "That cost in itself does make us a high cost producer," he said. But now on top of that there are high on-orchard costs with fuel, fertiliser and wage rates all soaring.

Wilson said to cope with being a high cost producer exporters have managed to compete by being the best, with the best varieties and superb quality. He said that was no longer enough in Europe, so growers were pivoting to cope by pulling out trees like Pink Lady, Jazz and Braeburn, and only planting sweet, aromatic varieties preferred in Asian markets. [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/486939/soaring-costs-leave-apple-exporters-unlikely-to-make-profit)

## Reports & Insights

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: Cyclone Gabrielle’s impact on NZ economy and exports

Cyclone Gabrielle has caused significant damage to homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods across northern and eastern regions of the North Island. The cyclone is New Zealand’s costliest non-earthquake natural disaster, with economic losses expected to exceed the $2bn-$4bn of losses of the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake.

Primary sector exports will be largely unaffected, with the exception of apple exports, where orchards were hit hard as Gabrielle struck the Hawke's Bay during a key harvest period. Damage to orchards and farms is also likely to see some lost primary production beyond 2023 too. However, other key export industries such as dairy are expected to experience limited disruption.

The disruption and losses will weigh on New Zealand’s March quarter GDP, which may have contracted. However, the New Zealand economy remains very much open for business, with cyclone damage and disruption isolated to specific regions. Looking ahead, the recovery and rebuild work is expected to add to growth in the coming quarters. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-global/cyclone-gabrielles-impact-on-the-new-zealand-economy-and-exports-march-2023/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=aa74d8f92a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_03_15_10_51_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-89ab27d38f-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

#### Upcoming events and webinars:

* Value Project and NZTE Webinar series “Winning the Green Premium”, Horticulture sector: 18 April 2023, 9–10am. Free [Full details here](https://ourlandandwater.hubspotpagebuilder.com/greenpremium?utm_medium=email&_hsmi=244240286&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_UD9sg9lvRLk7_GFZTikzw9H3VGi2-13tbGr9zl_iuhNwQuZqkKnZrNfLlAjiDhAtovLXXa6bvpcmY_R72Cp9eweGArg&utm_content=244240286&utm_source=hs_email)
* Hort Connections 2023, 5-7 June 2023, Adelaide Convention Centre, Australia. [Full details here](https://hortconnections.com.au/program/)
* 2023 Horticulture Conference / RSE Conference, 1- 4 August 2023, Te Pae Convention Centre, Christchurch. [Full details here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/events/).
* Asia Fruit Logistica, 6-8 September 2023, AsiaWorld Expo, Hong Kong[. Full details here](https://www.asiafruitlogistica.com/)
* CBAFF Conference 2023, 13-15 September, 2023, Wellington
* Asian Seed Congress 2023, 20-24 November 2023, Christchurch. [Full details here.](https://web.apsaseed.org/asian-seed-congress)

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## GAIN reports:

Gain reports are from the “Global Agricultural Information Network” and are produced by the USDA. They are designed to provide timely information on the economy, products and issues in foreign countries that are likely to have an impact on United States agricultural production and trade. The information in them is written for USA exporters but the majority is equally relevant to New Zealand. For import regulations for a particular market, New Zealand exporters should first check the countries ICPR on MPI’s web site.

**Japan 254th Food Safety Group**

Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) proposed revisions to Japan’s maximum residue levels for 11 agricultural chemicals (Ametoctradin, Amisulbrom, Flumioxazin, Flupyradifurone, Glufosinate, Mefentrifluconazole, Metaldehyde, Simeconazole, Cefuroxime, Dicloxacillin, and Amprolium) for various agricultural commodities. In addition, MHLW proposed a revision to the mineral water specifications. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Japan%20254th%20Food%20Safety%20Group_Tokyo_Japan_JA2023-0025)

**Canada Proposes Maximum Residue Limits for Benzovindiflupyr and Teflubenzuron**

Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) announced two consultations on proposed maximum reside limits (MRL) for Benzovindiflupyr and Teflubenzuron. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Canada%20Proposes%20Maximum%20Residue%20Limits%20for%20Benzovindiflupyr%20and%20Teflubenzuron_Ottawa_Canada_CA2023-0008)

**EU: Regulation Published Lowering MRLs Due to Environmental Concerns**

On February 15, 2023, Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/334 amending Annexes II and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 lowering the maximum residue levels (MRLs) for clothianidin and thiamethoxam in or on certain products was published in the Official Journal (OJ). This means that as of March 7, 2026, imported products will no longer be able to contain residues of these two neonicotinoids. The proposed reduction in MRLs is not due to food safety concerns stemming from the presence of pesticide residues in imported foods, but rather based on a stated interest in protecting pollinators in countries outside of the EU. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Regulation%20Published%20Lowering%20MRLs%20Due%20to%20Environmental%20Concerns_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42023-0010)

**China: National Food Safety Standard for Maximum Residue Limits of 112 Pesticides in Foods Released**

On January 4, 2023, the People’s Republic of China (PRC) National Health Commission (NHC), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA), and State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR) jointly announced the publication of a new National Food Safety Standard for 112 Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in Foods. The pesticides covered in the new standard were notified to the WTO under G/SPS/N/CHN/1242 in December 2021. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=National%20Food%20Safety%20Standard%20for%20Maximum%20Residue%20Limits%20of%20112%20Pesticides%20in%20Foods%20Released_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2023-0042.pdf)

## In The News:

#### Bad weather eats into apple and pear crops in Southern Hemisphere

Revised forecasts indicate a more modest increase in Southern Hemisphere apple output, as well as a slight decrease in pear volumes

Apple and pear production in the Southern Hemisphere will increase by less than previously expected, after poor weather in several of the region’s major supply countries reduced the size of this season’s crops. Adverse conditions have affected apple harvests in New Zealand, where Cyclone Gabrielle struck orchards and took out more than one-fifth of the forecast volume; in South Africa, where hailstorms hit key production areas and brought down the average fruit size; and in Australia, where some growers had to contend with flooding and hail events.

According to the World Apple and Pear Association (Wapa), the combined volume of apples across Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, and South Africa is now expected to be just 2.38 per cent higher than last year at 4.97m tonnes. An earlier forecast had this season’s total crop up 6 per cent. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/main-navigation/bad-weather-eats-into-apple-and-pear-crops/248657.article)

#### Aussie apple exports set to rise thanks to government grants

Industry body Apple and Pear Australia (APAL) has been awarded funding by the Australian government as part of efforts to increase the country’s apple exports. The A$450,000 (US$300,000) Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation (ATMAC) grant will be used to investigate the combined effectiveness of orchard and packhouse practices in managing pests that restrict trade in fresh apple

Australian minister for agriculture, fisheries and forestry Murray Watt said that by quantifying the effectiveness of Australia’s best-practice farming methods, its growers will be able to produce a premium product for export with fewer chemical treatments. “This grant will enable APAL to improve export opportunities for Australian apples to premium markets across Asia by ensuring we can sustainably deliver the highest quality fruit to the highest-paying markets in the world,” Watt said. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/australia-grants-apal-new-fund-to-support-apple-exports/248687.article)

#### 2022 Year in Review: China’s Apple Market

In 2022, China imported 7.30 million metric tons or $14.53 billion worth of fruit, representing year-on-year increases of 4% and 8%, respectively. Meanwhile, China’s fruit exports over the course of the year totaled 3.26 million metric tons and $4.62 billion, down by 8% and 15%, respectively. Fresh apples were still the most exported fruit item, accounting for 22.51% and 25.25% of China’s total fruit exports by value and volume, respectively.

In 2022, China imported 95,500 metric tons or $216 million worth of fresh apples, corresponding to year-on-year increases of 40.44% and 44.00%, respectively. Although the import volume rebounded significantly in 2022, it still lagged far behind the record volume of 125,000 metric tons registered in 2019.

New Zealand was still China’s largest apple supplier in 2022 with imports reaching 55,600 metric tons, representing a 43.13% year-on-year increase and accounting for 58.22% of China’s total apple imports. South Africa ranked second with a volume of 17,200 metric tons, corresponding to a 40.98% year-on-year increase and an 18.01% share of the total. Imports from Chile, the United States and France all demonstrated an upward trend, showing clear signs of recovery for China’s imported apple market. [Full report here](https://www.producereport.com/article/2022-year-review-chinas-apple-market)

#### Freshfel Europe urges facilitation of trade

The European fresh produce association called for the WTO to ensure the current functioning of phytosanitary agreements before seeking to broaden their scope

At a dedicated session on sustainable food systems hosted by the World Trade Organisation’s SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) Committee, Freshfel Europe stressed the important role played by the fruit and vegetables sector in contributing to environmentally, socially and economically sustainable food systems. The association highlighted the need for the WTO to “first and foremost improve the current functioning of the SPS agreement for market access” and underlined the importance of “global governance to ensure transparent and undisrupted trade flows. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/freshfel-europe-urges-facilitation-of-trade/248628.article)

#### Climate change is one of the main concerns of Europe's fruit and vegetable regions

The Assembly of European Fruit and Vegetable Regions, AREFLH, representing 16 regions and 38 producer organizations from 10 European countries held its latest assembly in Lleida, where it focused on climate change, as well as the draft Packaging Regulation, as the main concerns of European fruit and vegetable regions.

The consequences of climate change, including the scarcity of water resources, are increasingly evident in European production. The members of AREFLH created a working group on the water so that member producers can exchange views on the consequences of the lack of water in their territories and discuss short-term and medium-term solutions that guarantee their production.

The assembly also discussed the increasing appearance of new pests and diseases brought by climate change. Producers are worried that, as a result of the implementation of the Farm-to-Table Strategy, which calls for reducing the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50% and reducing fertilizer use by at least 20% by 2030, among other things, they will lack solutions to face these pests. Despite the commitment of Community producers to sustainable agriculture, their concern is that a decrease in production would lead to a reduction in food sovereignty in Europe. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9517804/climate-change-is-one-of-the-main-concerns-of-europe-s-fruit-and-vegetable-regions/)

#### FAO sets out food safety priorities for coming years

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has revealed how it will try to help improve food safety over the next few years.

The FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety 2022 to 2031 were developed at the request of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and endorsed by the FAO Council in December 2022. They focus on four areas: governance, scientific advice to support food safety decisions, strengthening national food control systems, and promoting public-private partnerships throughout the food chain.

FAO hopes the priorities will enhance participation in food safety standards-setting and provide international guidance, policy, and advocacy for policymakers. [Full article here](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2023/03/fao-sets-out-food-safety-priorities-for-coming-years/) [Link to Strategy](https://www.fao.org/3/cc4040en/cc4040en.pdf)

#### Producing all our food nationally: is it even possible?

According to a new study, for half of the world population the answer would be yes. For the other half: maybe? Leiden environmental researcher and head author Nicolas Navarre explains: ‘With improvements to crop yields, reductions in food waste, and changes in consumption patterns, 90% of people could live in countries that don’t need to trade for food.’

There are many advantages to nationally produced food. Cutting down on transportation decreases the carbon footprint of many crops. And by being less dependent on production in other countries, our own food supply could become more robust. Only recently, the global trade-based food system has undergone historic shocks due to the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine, creating both extreme spikes in food waste and massive food shortages around the world. [Full article here](https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/news/2023/03/producing-all-our-food-nationally-is-it-even-possible)

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