

UPDATE: 08 November 2022

Kia ora

This update sees the release of a large number of reports from MFAT and GAIN, and although there are some positive signs for the upcoming season, as the news items highlight, there are still plenty of challenges ahead for our growers and exporters.

Ngā mihi

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# GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS

## Consultations

#### Pricing agricultural emissions

The Government plans to introduce a farm-level levy on agricultural greenhouse gas emissions in Aotearoa New Zealand from 2025. On the 10 October 2022, the Government announced its response to He Waka Eke Noa’s recommendations. Public consultation is now underway and focuses on the areas where the Government’s preferred approach varies from the recommendations of He Waka Eke Noa. Feedback on the consultation closes on Friday 18 November 2022.

You can find more information on the proposals, register for a webinar for an overview of the proposals and an opportunity to ask questions, and details of how to provide a submission on the MfE [website](https://consult.environment.govt.nz/climate/agriculture-emissions-and-pricing/)

#### Proposed amendments to the import health standards for fresh table grapes from Chile, the Republic of Korea, and the USA – California

MPI is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to import requirements for table grapes from the Republic of Korea, and additional phytosanitary treatment options for table grapes from Chile and the USA (California). Consultation is open from 13 October to 12 December 2022. You can find more information about the project and how to provide a submission on the MPI [website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposed-amendments-to-the-import-health-standards-for-fresh-table-grapes-from-chile-the-republic-of-korea-and-the-usa-california/?utm_source=notification-email).

#### Proposed amendments to the import health standards for fresh lychee from Thailand

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) invites comment on proposed changes to the import requirements for fresh lychee (Litchi chinensis) from Thailand. Consultation is open 7 November 2022 to 7 December 2022. You can find more information on the proposed changes and details on how to provide a submission on the MPI [website.](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposed-amendments-to-the-import-health-standards-for-fresh-lychee-from-thailand/)

#### 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](mailto:Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz) so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country.



# NEW ZEALAND NEWS

## Government News

#### Next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom

The Government has announced the appointment of former Auckland Mayor, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, and Labour Party Leader Phil Goff as the next High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. Phil Goff takes up his new role in January 2023. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/next-high-commissioner-united-kingdom)

#### New Zealand leads new global sustainable agriculture declaration

New Zealand has agreed a declaration along with other members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that commits members to working together to boost sustainable agriculture and food systems, Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor said today in Paris. The ‘Declaration on transformative solutions for sustainable agriculture and food systems’ was adopted at the OECD Committee for Agriculture on 4 November. The meeting was co-chaired by Damien O’Connor and Canada’s Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Marie-Claude Bibeau. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-leads-new-global-sustainable-agriculture-declaration)

#### A recall alert from New Zealand Food Safety

Foodstuffs Own Brands is recalling a specific batch of its Pams’ brand Alfalfa Sprouts, Salad Sprouts, Sandwich Selection Sprouts and Spicy Sprouts Combo due to the possible presence of Salmonella. [More information here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/food-safety-home/food-recalls-and-complaints/recalled-food-products/pams-brand-alfalfa-sprouts-salad-sprouts-sandwich-selection-sprouts-and-spicy-sprouts-combo/?utm_source=notification-email)

## Industry news

#### NZ's avocado industry on show to the world

Parliament recently played host to the avocado industry which has had - and still is having - quite a bumpy ride, with poor prices and other challenges. However, despite dealing with these problems, the industry is looking forward to the World Avocado Congress, which is being held in NZ next year. The stylish Grand Hall in Parliament buildings was the venue for the event and tasty avocado nibbles and dips were popular with the nearly 100 guests. [Full article here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/hort-news/hort-general-news/nz-s-avocado-industry-on-show-to-the-world?ct=t(RNG_8_NOVEMBER_2022_COPY_01))

#### Rockit™ heads to South Island

Rockit Global Limited is planning for its biggest planting year yet, targeting a further 200ha of trees in the ground in 2023. And it’s taking its global success story south, identifying suitable land and growers in Canterbury and Nelson as well as seeking new partners in Hawke’s Bay and Gisborne, where fruit is currently grown. Despite sharing many of the same challenges as many other New Zealand fruit varieties this year, Rockit’s forecast orchard gate return has progressively lifted across the year and the company is on track to deliver a record market price. This year more than 76 million New Zealand Rockit™ apples will be shipped, with up to 160 million apples expected in 2023. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9472384/rockit-heads-to-south-island/)

#### Central Otago cherry growers predict promising season, but more challenges remain

Central Otago orchardists say the upcoming harvest is looking promising, but there are more challenges ahead. Chief executive Tim Jones has been pleased to see New Zealanders returning to pick fruit and more backpackers in the country. Jones welcomed the increase to the RSE cap, but expected it would be a bit too late for the cherry harvest. Up to 80 percent of their fruit is for export. For the past two years, they have been able to use mostly passenger-free planes to carry up to 40 tonnes of freight per plane. "Now there's passengers back, we're down to getting 10-15 tonnes per plane that's leaving New Zealand," Jones said. "There's not three times as many planes as there were so I think freight space is going to be really tight this year and there will be freight forwarders, growers and exporters looking at some interesting ways to try and get their fruit to market. There could have to be the use of sea freight this year. "Sea freight meant roughly three weeks of travel time to get to market instead of 48 hours via planes, making it more of a logistical challenge, he said. [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/477293/cherry-growers-hopeful-for-harvest-but-freight-demand-cooler-start-to-spring-pose-challenges)

#### Zespri to limit gold kiwifruit plantings again to ease concerns over quality

Poor quality fruit arriving on overseas markets, coupled with labour shortages, are forcing kiwifruit marketer Zespri to limit how much gold fruit it wants to handle a few years from now.

Zespri controls how many hectares of SunGold kiwifruit can be planted each year, and it could have released between 350-700 hectares in 2023. In past years, 700ha of gold license has been released; last year that was cut back to 350ha. According to Zespri executive officer Carol Ward, a conservative approach was being taken again this year with 350ha up for grabs. The new licensed area will have fruit ready for export in about three years' time. "We know that we've got really strong market demand in the global market, but here in New Zealand has been challenging with the labour shortages and constraints through the whole supply chain, that a more conservative licence release position was required. [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/477406/plantings-of-gold-kiwifruit-to-be-limited-again-to-ease-concerns-over-quality)

#### Waikato blueberry crops heavily affected by severe frost

Losses from a severe frost that wiped out entire blueberry orchards in Waikato last month could reach $25 million, Waikato grower Dan Peach estimates. Most Waikato growers lost 90 percent of their blueberry production while a few lost half their crop. Other producers in the region were also hit by the cold snap this month, which affected asparagus and strawberry cultivation as well. The effects of the frost could leave as many as 400 growers and seasonal fruit pickers without work for the next few months. The harvest season runs until March or April. [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/477503/blueberry-crops-in-waikato-wiped-out-in-severe-frost)

#### New Zealand brand comes out strong in global rankings post Covid-19

New Zealand’s brand value shot up 13% from 2021, according to the recently-released global rankings. Brand Finance Nation brands valued New Zealand’s national brand at US$248 billion in 2022, an increase of US$29 billion on the prior year. David Downs, Chief Executive of the Government agency responsible for New Zealand’s nation branding, NZ Story Group, says the brand value increase further recognises the country’s outstanding pandemic response. “Effective virus containment paved the way for economic growth, particularly now that our borders have reopened. To add a bit of perspective, Brand New Zealand is now worth more than McDonald’s.” [Full article here](https://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/on-air/early-edition/audio/were-perceived-very-positively-david-downs-on-new-zealand-brands-strong-ranking-in-annual-nation-brands-report/?mc_cid=26e7deed5c&mc_eid=4bfe75528e)

## Reports

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: NZ trade with South Korea bounces back.

With both New Zealand and Korea emerging from the COVID experience at roughly the same pace, we are witnessing a big return to business across the bilateral relationship this year. Trade is again at record levels, and in the last two months we see signs of take-off in tourism and education services as well. Indicators are good that the positive momentum will continue. Two-way goods trade in the year to June 2022 rose 46 percent to $6.52 billion, way surpassing the pre-COVID high of $5.1bn in 2020. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-asia/republic-of-korea-rok-trade-and-economic-update-business-is-back-october-2022/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=f06ee9848d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_10_20_08_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1e0c1c37bb-f06ee9848d-578465829)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: EU delegation supports swift ratification of NZ-EU FTA

The International Trade Committee of the European Parliament expressed its support for swift ratification of the NZ-EU Free Trade Agreement during a recent visit to Wellington. The alignment between New Zealand and the EU on our values, and on key issues such as sustainability, along with the troubling global geopolitical environment, were cited as reasons to support ratification of the FTA. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-europe/eu-delegation-supports-swift-ratification-of-nz-eu-fta-october-2022/)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: Agrivoltaic farming gets a boost in Germany

Agrivoltaic farming is the use of land for both agriculture and solar photovoltaic energy generation. It involves elevated solar panels that have a slightly lower energy yield, but still allow for the cultivation of crops underneath, providing moderate shade to protect crops from increasing sun intensity. Following the example of Japan, China, France and the United States, Germany has now also taken steps to promote agrivoltaics, through regulatory and financial incentives. Whilst these changes are not expected to give agrivoltaic farming an immediate boost, uptake should increase, especially by German horticulture. Potential implications for New Zealand are threefold: German farmers’ competitiveness could increase, but equally there will be new opportunities for export of relevant New Zealand technologies and for knowledge transfer. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-europe/germany-agrivoltaics-gets-a-boost-october-2022/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=10da565327-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_10_25_12_13&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1e0c1c37bb-10da565327-578465829)

#### Market Intelligence Reports: Market insights and Economic Outlook for Hong Kong

Despite a modest population of just 7.5m, Hong Kong is an attractive export market for many New Zealand companies because of its wealthy consumers and ease of doing business. Businesses may also benefit from Hong Kong’s status as a ‘gateway to China’. That said, Hong Kong has undergone significant political changes over the last couple of years. Continuing COVID restrictions with the mainland, high property prices, and the implementation of the National Security Law, also make for a more challenging economic and business picture in 2022. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-asia/market-insights-and-economic-outlook-for-hong-kong-november-2022/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=1dbc719725-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_10_27_04_51_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1e0c1c37bb-1dbc719725-578465829)

## Upcoming events:

* World Avocado Congress 2023, 2-5 April 2023, Auckland. [Full details here.](https://www.wacnz2023.com/)
* 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/).

# 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.

Philippines Approved Bt Eggplant for Commercial Cultivation RP2022-0061

On October 18, 2022, The Government of the Philippines marked Bt eggplant as its third genetically engineered crop approved for commercial propagation, following Bt corn and Golden Rice. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Philippines%20Approved%20Bt%20Eggplant%20for%20Commercial%20Cultivation_Manila_Philippines_RP2022-0061).

Australia Publishes Risk Assessment for Pacific Northwest Apples AS2022-0026

The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) on October 31, 2022 completed and published the risk analysis for fresh apples (Malus domestica) from the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon and Idaho). In the report, DAFF recommended that the import of commercially produced fresh apples from the Pacific Northwest be permitted provided they meet the biosecurity import conditions. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Australia%20Publishes%20Risk%20Assessment%20for%20Pacific%20Northwest%20Apples_Canberra_Australia_AS2022-0026)

European Union: FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual E42022-0062

This guide provides an overview of health certificates needed for exporting plants, animals, foods, and other animal origin products to the European Union. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42022-0062)

European Union: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report, E42022-0063.

This report provides an overview of EU food and feed legislation currently in force for the EU. This report looks at the regulatory changes that were adopted since last year’s report notably regarding wine labeling and organic rules. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Country%20Report_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42022-0063)

Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annuals: [Europe E42022-0067](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Berlin_European%20Union_E42022-0067), [India IN2022-0089](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_New%20Delhi_India_IN2022-0089), [Taiwan TW2022-0058](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Taipei_Taiwan_TW2022-0058), [Republic of Korea KS2022-0023](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Seoul_Korea%20-%20Republic%20of_KS2022-0023).

## In The News:

#### Budget delivers welcome investment in the labor mobility scheme

The Australian Fresh Produce Alliance (AFPA) welcomes the Federal Government’s budget, which supports more employers to engage workers through the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme, tackles skills shortages, and seeks to improve housing availability. “Labour and skills shortages, and a lack of accommodation in regional communities, are some of the biggest obstacles our industry is facing. While there’s more to be done, the Government’s Budget is a good first step toward addressing these challenges through improvements to the PALM scheme, more fee-free training and education positions for the agriculture sector, and a plan to build a million new homes across Australia,” said AFPA CEO Claire McClelland. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9472403/budget-delivers-welcome-investment-in-the-labor-mobility-scheme/)

#### New export brand for Australian produce

Grown in Good Nature was developed by Hort Innovation in partnership with Austrade and in consultation with industry. “Grown in Good Nature is spurred by clear signals from industry that expanding our presence in international markets is a priority,” Hort Innovation chief executive Brett Fifield explained. Over the next six months, Grown in Good Nature marketing campaigns will launch in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Grown in Good Nature is underpinned by more than A$58m (US$37m) in Hort Innovation export initiatives – covering educational resources for current and aspiring exporters, in-market data insights, research and development to support protocol requirements and biosecurity measures. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/new-export-brand-for-australian-produce/247505.article)

#### Australian biosecurity report recommends US apple imports

The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has completed its risk analysis for fresh apples from the Pacific Northwest states of the US and recommended imports be allowed, subject to biosecurity requirements. The final report takes into consideration comments received from stakeholders on the draft report released on 23 October 2020. It identifies 20 quarantine pests associated with apples from the Pacific Northwest that require risk management measures to reduce the biosecurity risk to an acceptable level. DAFF will now verify that the US can meet the recommended risk management measures before developing and then publishing import conditions. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/australian-biosecurity-report-recommends-us-apple-imports/247540.article)

#### Fruits imported from China have been on an increasing trend in Singapore

Due to its climate, location and the scarcity of land, Singapore produces very little in the way of fresh fruit. As a result, the country mainly relies on imports. This is also the main reason why the Singapore government is currently pushing for the 30/30 initiative to build up the its agri-food industry's capability and capacity to produce 30% of the nutritional needs locally and sustainably by 2030.

As of 2021, in sequence, the largest volume of imports of fruits from the top four nations are as follows: China, Malaysia, Australia and the US (displaced from No.1 spot). Roger Chua from 3YY Fresh commented "Fruits imported from China have been on an increasing trend in the Singapore market for the past two years. The pandemic could be the catalyst that accelerated this trend, supported by two fundamentals: the quality of fruits from China is improving, and the geographical distance between Singapore and China.” [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9470424/fruits-imported-from-china-have-been-on-an-increasing-trend-in-singapore/?utm_campaign=highlights)

#### Chilean fresh cherry exports are expected to increase by 25%

According to the ASOEX (Association of Exporters of Chile) Cherry Committee's first estimate for the 2022-2023 export season, Chile will increase its shipments of fresh cherries by 25% over the previous season. Thus, Chile will export 89,353,878 boxes of fresh cherries, equivalent to 446,769 tons. "Last season was one of the most complicated seasons that our country's fresh fruit export sector has ever experienced. That's why we've been working together with the Ministry of Agriculture, the SAG, Chinese authorities, producers, and exporters so we can quickly solve in a coordinated manner any problem that may arise in this new season. China will continue to be the main destination market for our cherries, but we will continue to diversify our exports to other markets of interest," stated Ivan Marambio, president of ASOEX. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9470804/chilean-fresh-cherry-exports-are-expected-to-increase-by-25/?utm_campaign=highlights)

#### Peru expected to reach 20,000 hectares of blueberry cultivation by 2025

According to an article on [agroberichtenbuitenland.nl](https://www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl/actueel/nieuws/2022/10/26/blueberries-a-blue-desert-on-the-peruvian-coast), Peru is consolidating its position as the world's leading blueberry exporter with 25% of global exports. The country is expected to reach 20,000 hectares of cultivation by 2025. The conditions of the Peruvian coast have proven to be ideal for the cultivation of blueberries; superior yields of over 10 tons compared to 8 tons in the US, coupled with climatic conditions, lower labour costs and a counter-season that supplies unsatisfied markets in Europe and the United States have resulted in a formula for success. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9472719/peru-expected-to-reach-20-000-hectares-of-blueberry-cultivation-by-2025/)

#### French red kiwi has arrived

Pioneers in the cultivation of red kiwis in France, Vergers Cancel and Aurières Fruits have started their marketing campaign. They intend to boost the kiwi department with their Red Passion brand. Starting next week, the red kiwi, with its slight red fruit flavor, will be available everywhere in France until the end of December. The French production of this fruit is still in its early stages, but it should grow in the coming years. “For now, our own production will only last until late December/early January, but with more volumes, the marketing period will be able to last until March.” said Maxime Gil, general manager of Vergers Cancel. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9472142/red-passion-the-french-red-kiwi-has-arrived/)

#### Samskip confirms 90% cut in ship CO2 emissions

Samskip has extended its commitment to sustainable biofuels in shortsea shipping operations, calculating that it will make 45,000 tonnes in additional CO2 emissions savings before the year is out as a result. The leading European multimodal group has signed a new agreement with supplier GoodFuels, committing the Samskip container ships Endeavour, Innovator, Hofell and Skatafell to run on marine grade bio-residual fuels. “Sustainable marine biofuels offer a viable way for Samskip to cut CO2 emissions by 90% so that our ships and freight customers reduce their carbon footprint in the interests of the planet,” said Erik Hofmeester, Head of Vessel Management, Samskip. “It would take the equivalent of 1.7 million trees to offset this amount of CO2 emissions.” [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9471434/samskip-confirms-90-cut-in-ship-co2-emissions/)

#### What's Happening in the Container Market?

Following a period of historically high freight rates, the Container sector is now experiencing a correction. The Container freight market is said to have peaked, as demand concerns linked to the health of the global economy have dulled sentiment somewhat. This has led to reduced demand across the Container sector, easing port congestion across Chinese and American ports and consequently softening charter rates. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9471919/what-s-happening-in-the-container-market/)

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