

UPDATE: 10 January 2023

Happy New Year!

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2023. While we still face unseasonal weather patterns, there has been a good start to the season for a number of sectors and continued easing of COVID restrictions in China. The holiday months also herald an increased focus on food safety. You’ll find news items and links for these as well as our regular items of regulatory notifications and upcoming events below.

Ngā mihi

Michelle Glogau | [info@pmac.co.nz](mailto:info@pmac.co.nz) | 274 577531

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# GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS

## ICPR changes

The following ICPRs have been updated in the last three weeks

* European Union has been updated to remove existing ‘Note I’ under Section 2.4 ‘Phytosanitary Certificates’, as France, Italy and Spain no longer require phytosanitary certificates to be signed in ink (“wet signature”). [ICPR European Union](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/640)
* Singapore has been updated including reformatting changes, addition of import requirements for personal consignments of plants or plant products arriving via parcel post under section 2.2 Phytosanitary Import Permits, and clarification of import requirements for sprouted seed under section 3.4.2 Seeds, Grains and Nuts for Consumption. [ICPR Singapore](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/687-Singapore)

## 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.



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# NEW ZEALAND NEWS

## Government News

#### Māori primary sector strategy unveiled

A new action plan for Māori agribusiness has been released by the government with the aim of supporting the continued growth of Māori food and fibre sector.

Rautaki mo te Taurikura is a collaboration between the Government and the Māori Primary Sector Forum to support the Māori food and fibre sector to thrive. It identifies priority areas of mahi to accelerate economic prosperity – including investment, partnerships, and building of services. The plan includes funding for on-the-ground support to help Māori-owned businesses to grow. [Full strategy here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/54376?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Fit%20For%20a%20Better%20World%20December%202022&utm_content=Fit%20For%20a%20Better%20World%20December%202022+CID_ffd3b2c9975bb2f5adfae09a4314f9e9&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Rautaki%20mo%20te%20Taurikura)

#### Govt and industry take next step on agriculture emissions reduction plan

The Government has worked alongside farming leaders to adapt the proposed system for reducing agricultural emissions, that will protect future export growth, says Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

A section 215 report released on the 21 December 22, outlines several changes to the proposed emissions pricing system that give greater certainty for farmers and better recognise on-farm sequestration.

“After listening to farmers and growers through our recent consultation, and engaging over recent months with industry leaders, today we have taken the next steps in establishing a proposed farm-level emissions reduction system as an alternative to the ETS backstop,” Jacinda Ardern said. “Our shared goal is supporting farmers to grow their exports, reduce emissions, and maintain our agricultural sectors international competitive edge into the future. By continuing to work through our different positions together, we move closer to achieving long term consensus on a plan that works.” [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/govt-and-industry-take-next-step-agriculture-emissions-reduction-plan). [Full report here](https://environment.govt.nz/publications/pricing-agricultural-emissions-report-under-section-215-of-the-climate-change-response-act-2002/)

## Industry news

#### Summerfruit season starts well

The summerfruit season has started well, with plenty of high-quality fruit available and the workforce to pick it.

‘Cherry, nectarine, peach and other summerfruit growers are reporting a positive start to the 2022-2023 season,’ says Summerfruit New Zealand Chief Executive, Kate Hellstrom. ‘Fruit quality is good plus there are more people than last year available to pick the fruit. This is due to the attraction and retention campaigns that the industry has been running for the past few years, and the fact it is easier to enter New Zealand now our borders have been freed up. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/oceania/article/9489207/horticulture-nz-summerfruit-season-starts-well/)

#### China Airlines adds NZ cherry flights

China Airlines has scheduled eight dedicated freight aircraft between Taipei and Christchurch during January to take help high-value exports like cherries into Asian markets. The services will transport 800 tonnes of fresh cherries and live seafood out of Christchurch, with general cargo filling the inbound flights. The cherry season alone is expected to produce 5,000 tonnes of fruit this season and the direct scheduled air freight flights will get them to Asian markets quickly, to command the highest prices.

An air cargo spokesperson said exporters were concerned the reduced number of widebody aircraft around the world at the moment might impact deliveries of the New Zealand-grown orders but said the China Airlines service has answered the call. Christchurch Airport chief Executive Justin Watson said Air New Zealand was also operating five 787 passenger aircraft out of Christchurch as freight-only flights to the US and Asian markets each week until the end of March. [Full article here](https://www.christchurchairport.co.nz/about-us/who-we-are/media/2023/extra-cargo-flights-a-boost-for-kiwi-delicacies/)

#### Zespri’s first-ever Italian charter vessel delivers Kiwifruit in time for Chinese New Year celebrations

Zespri’s first-ever Italian reefer charter vessel has safely completed its maiden voyage, transporting more than 4,000 pallets (3,300 tonnes or 942,000 trays) of Italian-grown SunGold Kiwifruit directly to customers in China in time for Chinese New Year sales. The Baltic Performer reefer vessel left the Port of Vado Ligure at the end of November from the dock of the Reefer Terminal – one of the largest fruit logistics hubs in the Mediterranean - safely arriving in the Port of Shanghai on 22 December. The three-week transit window effectively halves the transit time of container shipments between Italy and China.

Zespri Executive Officer – Northern Hemisphere Supply, Nick Kirton, says the successful voyage represents a significant milestone for the European kiwifruit industry, helping deliver fruit from their Italian grower partners more efficiently to customers. [Full article here.](https://www.freshplaza.com/oceania/article/9491313/first-ever-italian-charter-vessel-delivers-kiwifruit-in-time-for-chinese-new-year-celebrations/)

#### Rockit Global aims to double export output

After a successful 2022, Rockit Global hopes to double its export sales in 2023. The New Zealand-headquartered company behind the Rockit apple brand believes it has the supply, and demand, to do just this. “We’ve made massive progress towards our vision of becoming the world’s most loved apple brand this year,” said Rockit Global CEO Mark O’Donnell. “We’re about to Rockit into 2023 with predictions we’ll more than double our 2022 exports, packing and shipping 160m apples next year.”

O’Donnell said growth is coming strongly from the Middle East and South-East Asia, with three countries in particular showing the sharpest uptake in Rockit apple sales. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/rockit-global-aims-to-double-export-output/247968.article)

#### South Island tomato crop destroyed due to plant disease detection

Biosecurity officials are monitoring for any further signs of a plant disease found in a commercial crop in the top of the South Island, which can damage tomatoes and potatoes. According to the Ministry of Primary Industries, the virus, potato spindle tuber viroid (PTSVd), was detected on tomato plants in glasshouses near Nelson before Christmas. The crop was destroyed.

Biosecurity New Zealand director of readiness and response John Walsh confirmed testing in mid-November identified a mild form of PTSVd on the plants at a commercial operation in Tasman district. All in all, plants from three glasshouses were removed and buried. PTSVd can cause severe yield losses in some varieties of potato and tomato. The virus has been found in New Zealand on two previous occasions and eradicated, Walsh said. [Full article here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/130899146/tomato-crop-destroyed-after-plant-disease-detected)

#### CO2 rationing hits New Zealand after closure of sole food-grade facility

Supplies of carbon dioxide (CO2) in New Zealand are having to be rationed due to shortages following the closure of the country’s sole food-grade CO2 production facility, according to a Reuters report.

Often used to fizz soft drinks and beer, CO2 is also used in food packaging, hospitals and in the slaughter of animals.

The rationing is believed to be a result of a safety-related CO2 production plant shutdown. The facility – located in Taranaki on New Zealand’s North Island – is run by Todd Energy and said in a statement it has to close while a plant safety issue was investigated. [Full article here](https://www.gasworld.com/story/fears-of-a-co2-shortage-hits-new-zealand-after-closure-of-sole-food-grade-facility/)

#### HortNZ's statement on the Government's response to He Waka Eke Noa

HortNZ has issued a press statement on the Government's response to He Waka Eke Noa, saying:  "HortNZ, as one of the partners in He Waka Eke Noa, is pleased that the Government has listened, and made changes in its response. At a high level, the Government’s response will enable growers and farmers to manage their own emissions and plan for the future, while there is still the need for detail in some areas.

Fruit and vegetables are low emissions foods. Over the past decade, growers have progressively reduced fertiliser application as growing techniques have become more efficient thanks to advances in technology. This trend will continue. [Full article here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/media-releases/hortnzs-response-to-the-governments-response-to-he-waka-eke-noa/)

## Upcoming events:

* Aotearoa Horticulture Action Plan launch, **1 February 2023, Gisborne** [Full details here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/media-releases/aotearoa-horticulture-action-plan-launch-1-february/)
* ICC Future Trade Forum 2023, 28-31 March 2023, Singapore. [Full details here](https://futuretradeforum.org/)
* 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/).
* 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

# 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.

**Exporter Guides**: [UK](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_London_United%20Kingdom_UK2022-0035); [Germany](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_Berlin_Germany_GM2022-0038); [Indonesia](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_Jakarta_Indonesia_ID2022-0040); [India](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_New%20Delhi_India_IN2022-0117); [Vietnam](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_Hanoi_Vietnam_VM2022-0095); [Korea](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_Seoul%20ATO_Korea%20-%20Republic%20of_KS2022-0030); [Malaysia](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_Kuala%20Lumpur_Malaysia_MY2022-0018); [Thailand](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_Bangkok_Thailand_TH2022-0083); [Japan](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide%20Annual_Osaka%20ATO_Japan_JA2022-0113)

**Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual:** [Argentina](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Buenos%20Aires_Argentina_AR2022-0024)

**China: COVID Testing and Disinfection on Imported Food and Ag Products Scheduled to End.**

On December 28, the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC) published Announcement No. 131 of 2022, indicating a change in classification of COVID-19 controls and management was forthcoming. The Announcement states that PRC-required testing and disinfection measures for the coronavirus applied to imported cold-chain foods and non-cold chain goods will end on January 8, 2023. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=COVID%20Testing%20and%20Disinfection%20on%20Imported%20Food%20and%20Ag%20Products%20Scheduled%20to%20End_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2022-0136)

**Vietnam Revises the List of Approved Pesticides** [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Vietnam%20Revises%20the%20List%20of%20Approved%20Pesticides%20_Hanoi_Vietnam_VM2022-0091)

**Indonesia: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report**

This report provides updated technical information for requirements and regulations on food and agricultural products as currently required by the Government of Indonesia (GOI). Sections that have been updated for this year include Food Additive Regulations; Labeling Requirements; Other Requirements, Regulations, and Registrations Measures; and Import Procedures. The appendices have also been updated and a section on Trade Facilitation has been added. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Country%20Report_Jakarta_Indonesia_ID2022-0037)

**EU Early Alert - Pesticide Review December 22**

The European Union (EU) follows a complex, rolling system of review for active ingredients and Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) in food. The information in this document provides interested stakeholders with advance notice of those active ingredients under review, highlighting those substances undergoing new restrictions or may not be renewed. This is a quarterly update from November 2022 and includes a link to the consolidated version as well. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=EU%20Early%20Alert%20-%20Pesticide%20Review%20-%20December%202022_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42022-0076)

**European Commission Proposes New Rules on Packaging and Packaging Waste**

On November 30, 2022, the European Commission proposed a revision of the 1994 Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste. Some of the proposed requirements may impact agri-food sectors and U.S. exports of processed food and beverages to the European Union. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=European%20Commission%20Proposes%20New%20Rules%20on%20Packaging%20and%20Packaging%20Waste_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42022-0074)

## In The News:

#### Price of supermarket basket showcases Australia’s problematic situation

In the years following the pandemic, Australians saw accelerated inflation and an increased strain on suppliers. The annual consumer price index inflation hit 7.3 per cent in September 2022 — its highest in more than three decades. Goods accounted for more than three-quarters of that rise over the past year, reflecting high freight costs, supply constraints and prolonged elevated demand, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The ABS said climbing food prices in the September quarter were influenced by supply chain disruptions, weather-related events such as flooding and increased transport and input costs. In the 12 months to the end of September, fruit and vegetable prices skyrocketed 16.2 per cent.

Retail chain Coles has told its suppliers to cut operational costs instead of requesting price rises, warning the supermarket giant may not accept their request for a cost increase even if they can prove their inputs have gone up. [Full article here.](https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/food/price-of-shoppers-supermarket-basket-proves-australia-has-a-serious-problem/news-story/5cc0f2964c985603319d391a206803f4)

#### Application made to amend food irradiation rules in Australia

Australian industry players are considering changes to the current food irradiation rules. The proposal seeks to increase the maximum permitted energy level of machines generating X-rays for irradiating food from 5 to 7.5 megaelectronvolts (MeV) as long as the X-ray target is made of tantalum or gold. No change is sought to currently approved foods that may be irradiated or the conditions, including the dose range. The modification involves delivery of the radiation dose. Fresh produce except dried pulses, legumes, nuts and seeds can be treated with irradiation to kill pathogens that cause foodborne illnesses. Irradiation does not make food radioactive. [Full article here](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2023/01/australia-to-consider-change-to-food-irradiation-rules/)

#### China Adds 121 Products to the Catalogue of Organic Product Certification

On December 29, 2022, the Certification and Accreditation Administration of China (CNCA) announced an amendment to the Catalogue of Organic Product Certification in China (hereinafter referred to as the Catalogue). Since the promulgation of this announcement, certification agencies are allowed to accept the application for organic product certification for the products newly included in the Catalogue. The products include avocado, pecan, high-temperature sterilized milk, milk protein concentrate and ice cream. [Full article here](https://food.chemlinked.com/news/food-news/china-adds-121-products-to-the-catalogue-of-organic-product-certification-including-avocado-and-two-dairy-products?utm_source=edm)

#### China: Fruit becomes a new focus of anti-COVID measures, and the demand for some fruits has risen sharply

With the gradual lifting of domestic prevention measures against covid in China and the higher chances of getting the common cold or flu in winter, the number of people with symptoms such as fever, cold, and sore throat has gradually increased in various parts of the country. Traditionally, how to maintain health is often related to food (not referring to alternative medicines) in China, and fruit is an important part of it. In addition to stocking up on medicines, many people have been stocking up on various fruits in the past two weeks to improve immunity and help fight the virus. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/oceania/article/9489067/fruit-becomes-a-new-focus-of-anti-covid-measures-and-the-demand-for-some-fruits-has-risen-sharply/)

#### U.S. begins new food safety program

Three U.S. federal entities are coming together to launch the Food Safety for Food Security Partnership, also known as FS4FS.

“Strong food safety delivered through policies and institutions, as well as farmer, consumer, and industry readiness, are critical to transforming agri-food systems,” said USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Administrator Daniel Whitley. The Foreign Agricultural Service is working with its parent agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration on the project. The work includes a five-year commitment of $15 million to support the availability and trade of safe food. In addition to helping to ensure the trade of safe food, the program seeks to reduce foodborne illnesses, poverty, hunger, and malnutrition in low- and middle-income countries. [Full article here](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2022/12/u-s-begins-new-food-safety-program/?utm_source=Food+Safety+News&utm_campaign=20ed36c02c-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f46cc10150-20ed36c02c-40766717)

#### USDA reports 99 percent of foods tested are below pesticide residue limits

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Services, in its 31st annual report, stated that 99% of foods tested are below the pesticide residue limits.

The report covers food tested in 2021. According to the report released at the end of last year, over 99% of the samples had residues below the tolerances established by the EPA, with 24% having no detectable residue. The Pesticide Data Program (PDP) checked 10,127 samples in 2021, with 94% fresh and processed fruit and vegetables. Carrots, cauliflower, blueberries, broccoli, cantaloupe, celery, peaches, and watermelon were some of the produce tested. Residues exceeding the tolerance were detected in less than 1 percent (0.53) percent, or 54, samples of the 10,127 total samples tested. Of these 54 samples, 29 were domestic, 24 were imported, and 1 was of unknown origin. [Full article here](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2022/12/usda-reports-99-percent-of-foods-tested-are-below-pesticide-residue-limits/)

#### Funding will promote high-quality and sustainable EU agri-food products

The European Commission will allocate €185.9 million in 2023 to fund promotion activities for sustainable and high-quality EU agri-food products in the EU and worldwide. The 2023 promotion policy work program recently adopted by the Commission contributes to the realization of the political priorities of the European Commission for 2019-2024, in particular the Farm to Fork strategy.

The promotion projects selected in 2023 are expected to highlight and favor products complying with objectives such as sustainability of EU agriculture, advancing animal welfare, promoting the consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables, and healthy as well as sustainable diets.

Outside the EU, countries, and regions with high growth potential are identified as main promotion targets. This includes China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and North America. New Zealand and Australia may also represent new market opportunities for European exporters. Last but not least, the United Kingdom remains one of the main export markets for EU agri-food products, absorbing 25% of EU27 exports. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/oceania/article/9492114/funding-will-promote-high-quality-and-sustainable-eu-agri-food-products/)

#### Ireland tops EU countries for daily consumption of fresh produce

People in Ireland eat more daily portions of fruit and vegetables than in any other EU country, according to a report released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Across all EU member states, just 12% of adults consume the recommended five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day. However, 33% of adults in Ireland reach this target, with a further 48% consuming between one and four portions daily. The figures are included in the latest OECD Health at a Glance 2022 Report, which also highlights Ireland’s progress in reducing smoking rates over the last decade. [Full article here.](https://www.freshplaza.com/oceania/article/9490629/ireland-tops-eu-countries-for-daily-consumption-of-fresh-produce/) [Full report here](https://www.oecd.org/health/health-at-a-glance-europe/)

#### Spain will be the only European country to incorporate tax on non-reusable plastic

The Spanish government has rejected the request to postpone the entry into force of the special tax on disposable plastic packaging. The law has been in force since January 1, but it's being contested by organizations from the main consumer sectors, including FEPEX, as the tax will have a negative effect on the sales of fruit and vegetables.

Spain will be the only European country that will incorporate the tax, which is not mandatory for the EU Member States. With the tax, companies will have to incur additional costs in a complex international economic context, in which the fruit and vegetable sector faces multiple challenges to continue to be sustainable and competitive in an uncertain scenario due to the increase in production costs and the strong competition from third countries.

FEPEX, like the rest of the organizations from the main consumer sectors that signed a letter to the government requesting a moratorium on the tax, declared it was determined to reduce the use of single-use plastics but stated that the tax comes at a very bad time. [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9491222/spain-will-be-the-only-european-country-to-incorporate-tax-on-non-reusable-plastic/)

#### Allergens dominate UK food recalls, finds study

More than half of food recalls in the United Kingdom over a 5-year period were due to allergens, according to a recently released study. Allergen-related recalls increased annually until 2019, peaking at 118 before decreasing to 82 and 84 in 2020 and 2021 respectively. The reduction was potentially because of direct and indirect impacts of the COVID pandemic and improved labeling, said researchers. Of 1,036 recalls in the UK from 2016 to 2021, published by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Food Standards Scotland (FSS), 597 were related to allergens.

European regulation identifies 14 allergens: celery, cereals containing gluten, crustaceans, eggs, fish, lupin, milk, mollusks, mustard, nuts, peanuts, sesame, soybeans, and sulfur dioxide. In the United States, sesame became the ninth food to be declared an allergen in January 2023. [Full report here](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0956713522005680?via%3Dihub)

#### Global liner schedule reliability continues on its upwards trend

Global schedule reliability improved by 4.7 percentage points M/M in November 2022 and reached 56.6%. The average delay for LATE vessel arrivals has also been improving consistently since the start of 2022. In November 2022, average delay improved once again, dropping by another -0.58 days M/M to 5.04 days. Both schedule reliability and average delay are now better than the 2020 level as well. [Full article here.](https://www.freshplaza.com/oceania/article/9490654/global-liner-schedule-reliability-continues-on-its-upwards-trend/)

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