

**UPDATE: 10 October 2022**

Kia ora

Food safety features in this update in domestic and overseas news, reports, strategy refreshes and regulation updates. Also covered are the regular features of opinion pieces, reports and government agency notifications.

Ngā mihi

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# GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS

#### ICPR changes

The following ICPR have been updated in the last two weeks

* **China** has updated FYI link under section 3.1.4 Frozen Fruit and Vegetables; and conditions under section 3.2.2 Dried Cut Flowers and Foliage. [ICPR China](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/630)
* **EU** has removed Additional Declaration 18 under 'Appendix 1: Additional Declarations (AD’s) taken from Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072'; and updated requirements for Actinidia spp. under section '4.3.2 Specific Commodity Requirements' [ICPR EU](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/640)
* **USA** has made a changes to database references; and quarantine pest lists and links. [ICPR USA](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/702-United-States-of-America)

#### 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

## Opinion pieces:

#### Nadine's update: More change – general election ahead

Nadine Tunley comments on the anticipated government consultations and announcements in the countdown to Christmas, given it is a general election year in 2023, and HortNZ’s perspective on the proposed government reforms. [Full article here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/nadines-update/more-change-general-election-ahead/).

## Government News

#### New Zealand Food Safety Strategy Refresh 2022-2024

The New Zealand Food Safety Strategy 2019-2024 was launched in 2019. In 2022, New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) published a strategy refresh. It responds to changes in our environment and will guide their direction through to 2024. [Link to strategy](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/52936-2022-Food-safety-strategy-2019-2024-refresh)

#### Trade Minister heads to CPTPP Commission Meeting

Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Damien O’Connor recently travelled to Singapore for the Sixth Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Commission Meeting. \

“Continuing to build on our export growth is a key part of the Government’s economic plan. Our two way trade with the CPTPP bloc accounts for 27 percent of our total trade, and growing this further will better secure the economic future of all New Zealanders,” Damien O’Connor said.

“It is the world’s premier open, multi-party free trade agreement, signed by 11 economies, which represent over 13 percent of the world’s GDP. Around $20 billion a year of our exports go to CPTPP partners. “I’m very much looking forward to working with my CPTPP counterparts to further advance New Zealand’s trade agenda. Damien O’Connor said. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/trade-minister-heads-cptpp-commission-meeting).

## Industry news:

#### Pams frozen berries recalled after seven people hospitalised with Hep A

Six Pams-brand frozen berry products have been recalled across New Zealand due to a potential link to recent cases of Hepatitis A. According to New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) deputy director-general Vincent Arbuckle, the recall is precautionary as an investigation into the source of several community cases of the virus continues. [Full article here.](https://www.1news.co.nz/2022/10/04/pams-frozen-berries-recalled-after-7-hospitalised-with-hep-a/)

#### NZ exporters excited about strengthening India-New Zealand relationship

After a recent visit to India, primary sector exporters from New Zealand are excited about the opportunities for a closer partnership between the two countries. Still, they are urging their government to adopt a more flexible and focused approach to trade.

New Zealand’s agriculture exporters and industry bodies, including representatives from the kiwifruit and apples & pears sectors, were part of an India New Zealand Business Council (INZBC) delegation. INZBC chair Earl Rattray: “India is on track to become the world’s third largest economy within the next decade. There is a modern economic miracle unfolding there, with an openness to explore mutually beneficial ways to strengthen trade relationships. This is a good time for New Zealand business to embrace India.” [Full article here.](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9464288/nz-exporters-excited-about-strenghtening-india-new-zealand-relationship/)

#### Vegetable growers under the pump!

New regulations and compliance issues are making it harder for growers to continue producing fresh and healthy vegetables for New Zealanders. That's the view of new Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association (PVGA) president Kirit Makan. Makan told Hort News that growers are anxious. He says they are uncertain what regulations will be imposed on their farming operations around water and land use and the environment. "We are here to produce fresh and healthy vegetables for New Zealanders and it's getting harder and harder for us," Makan explains. [Full article here.](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/hort-news/hort-general-news/growers-under-the-pump?ct=t(RNG_11_OCTOBER_2022_COPY_01))

#### Freshmax sells NZ pipfruit business

Australasian fresh produce heavyweight, Freshmax Group has sold its New Zealand pipfruit business to GTP Orchards, an entity related to MNF Family Office (MNF). The pipfruit business includes Freshmax Exports, Crasborn Fresh Harvest, Freshmax Orchards and Freshmax Farms. Freshmax chief executive, Murray McCallum, said the sale would allow the group to strengthen its focus on other core categories. “Our pipfruit division has been an important contributor to our group for a number of years and I would like to acknowledge the wonderful efforts of our staff in this business over many years,” McCallum explained. [Full article here.](https://www.fruitnet.com/freshmax-sells-nz-pipfruit-business/247286.article)

## Reports

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: Challenge and innovation in Dutch horticulture

The Dutch horticulture sector is a major contributor to the Netherlands economy and to the labour market. The Netherlands is also a key exporter of horticultural products to other EU markets. However, the sector is facing rising energy prices, supply chain disruptions, a decreasing labour supply, and decreasing consumer demand. Sector experts expect significant consolidation, with a 30 to 40 percent reduction in businesses. With production in the sector expected to fall, the Netherlands will look more towards imports of certain products, leading to opportunities for businesses outside the European Union, such as New Zealand. [Full report here.](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-europe/the-dutch-horticulture-sector-an-innovative-sector-facing-an-energy-crisis-and-rising-costs-september-2022/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=f2c749393f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_09_29_08_14&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1e0c1c37bb-f2c749393f-578465829)

## Upcoming events:

* Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Industry Virtual Global Sustainability Symposium Friday 11th November 22at 5am-8.30am NZ time. [Full details here](https://www.unitedfresh.co.nz/news-events/newsletters/fresh-fruit-vegetable-industry-virtual-global-sustainability-symposium-5am-friday-11th-november-2022).
* 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.

# 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.

* **Ag Food Quality and Safety Law, People’s Republic of China CH2022-0106**

On September 2, 2022, the National People’s Congress (NPC) published an updated Agricultural Product Quality and Safety Law of the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Though domestically focused, some articles of the law hold the potential to impact trade, including sections on cold chain logistics and traceability. The law vwill enter into force on January 1, 2023 [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Ag%20Food%20Quality%20and%20Safety%20Law_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2022-0106)

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report, Japan JA2022-0079

This report is an overview and update of Japan's food and agricultural import regulations and standards (FAIRS). For more information on Japan's certification requirements, see the FAIRS Export Certificate Report for Japan[. Full report here.](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Country%20Report_Tokyo_Japan_09-30-2021.pdf)

EU Early Alert - Pesticide Review - September 2022 E42022-0064

The European Union (EU) follows a complex, rolling system of review for active ingredients and Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) in food. For agricultural inputs, U.S. farmers must know early in the process of review to prevent or mitigate the loss of, and/or access to, chemical inputs. 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 August 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-%20September%202022_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42022-0064)

## In The News:

#### Australia: Truckloads of oranges are dumped as food prices skyrocket

Australian inflation figures released last week showed that, in the twelve months to August, the cost of living rose by 6.8 per cent. A significant contributor to that figure was the cost of food and drinks and fruit and vegetables, in particular, are buoying that rise, increasing from 9.1 per cent in June to 18.6 per cent in August. That means that, for many, the cost of fresh fruit and vegetables is too much. And this, in turn, has led to Australian growers just dumping mounds of oranges that couldn’t be sold at market. [Full article here.](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9465943/australia-truckloads-of-oranges-are-dumped-as-food-prices-skyrocket/?utm_campaign=highlights)

#### Australia: Government decision on US apple imports expected shortly

Australia’s Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will soon release its Final Report for the review of biosecurity import requirements for fresh apple fruit from the Pacific Northwest states of the United States. The report is expected to detail the government’s position on whether it will allow the import of US apples and, if so, the systems and measures that will be applied to protect Australia’s borders from pests and diseases. [Full article here.](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9465942/australia-government-decision-on-us-apple-imports-expected-shortly/)

#### Implementing the new Common Agricultural Policy: launch of the EU CAP Network

The European Commission recently launched the European CAP Network which aims to optimize the flow of information about agriculture and rural policy within the EU, support the implementation and evaluation of the CAP Strategic Plans, and boost innovation in the sector.

The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), set to start on 1 January 2023, is designed to shape the transition to a sustainable, resilient, and modern European agricultural sector. It will continue playing a key role in supporting Europe’s agricultural sector as well as strengthening the efforts of European farmers to tackle climate change and protect the environment, in line with the Commission’s Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. [Full article here.](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9466549/implementing-the-new-common-agricultural-policy-launch-of-the-eu-cap-network/) [More about the new Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) here.](https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-overview/new-cap-2023-27_en)

#### Demand for organic produce outgrows supply in the US

Demand for organic produce has increased so fast that it has grown faster than the supply in the United States. The challenge for U.S. farmers is not getting buyers to pay higher prices; it is getting enough farmers to grow organic products. Instead of growing to meet the demand, the number of farmers starting to grow organic crops is dropping. Last month, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said it would spend up to $300 million to help more farmers make the change[. Full article here.](https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/organic-food-is-popular-but-us-farmers-still-unsure/6760846.html)

#### UK food inflation reaches highest rate ever recorded

According to data from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and the NielsenIQ shop price index, UK food inflation hit 10.6 percent in September. For fresh food, inflation increased to 12.1 percent, up from 10.5 percent in August, also the highest rate in the category ever recorded.

BRC chief executive Helen Dickinson OBE: “While the summer drought diminished some harvests, other produce benefitted from the prolonged sunshine, helping to bring down prices for fruits such as strawberries, blueberries, and tomatoes.” [Full article here](https://www.fpcfreshtalkdaily.co.uk/single-post/uk-food-inflation-swells-to-highest-rate-ever-recorded)

## Market Reports & Overviews

#### Rabobank offers positive outlook for blueberry

A new report from Rabobank has focused on the future of the international blueberry business, with further growth forecast for the coming years. According to the analyst, the blueberry industry is becoming ”truly global”, with fast-growing supply and/or demand in most continents. Due to increasing input costs, labour issues and logistical challenges, companies are being pushed to become more productive and efficient, and to consistently provide high-quality fruit. “The blueberry industry has undergone a significant transformation, with the market shifting from regional to multi-regional to global,” explained David Magaña, senior analyst – fresh produce at Rabobank.“Per capita availability is set to continue an upward trend in the US, the EU-27 plus the UK, China, and other markets, driven by continued production expansion,” he said. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/main-navigation/rabobank-offers-positive-outlook-for-blueberry-business/247324.article)

#### Global market overview potatoes

It looks like being a tough season for potatoes across much of the world. The hot dry weather during the growing season in most production countries has had a severe effect on potatoes, as it has many other crops. The global supply is predicted to be lower, as most countries appear to be expecting a slightly to significantly lower yield. The huge increase in energy costs are also of great concern, as many are reluctant to store the crop, particularly while the prices are currently high. Europe in particular will likely have to turn to imports to cover the high demand on the market this season. [Full overview here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9464315/global-market-overview-potatoes/)

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