

UPDATE: 21 February 2024

Kia ora

In this week’s update, there are reports of a bumper export crop for stonefruit, high expectations for the same in kiwifruit, optimism due to a surprisingly good crop in pipfruit but challenges in the avocado sector. In overseas news, Australia continues to forge ahead with investment and innovations in the horticulture sector, and farmer protests in Europe have resulted in a rethink in environmental targets. You’ll find links to these as well as our regular items of regulatory notifications, consultations, national and international news, and upcoming events below.

Ngā mihi

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[GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS](#_GOVERNMENT_AGENCY_NEWS): [**ICPR changes;**](#_ICPR_changes_&)[Product Import and Export Requirements (PIER) Search Tool Update](#_Product_Import_and); [**WTO and TBT Notifications**](#_WTO_and_TBT_5)**;** [**Consultations**](#_Consultations_4)**:** [Cost recovery proposal to maintain and expand New Zealand Food Safety’s core regulatory services under the Food Act 2014](#_Cost_recovery_proposal)

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| GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS |

## ICPR changes & other updates

The following ICPRs have been updated in a number of sections since the last newsletter

* Costa Rica: [ICPR Costa Rica](https://cbaff.outreach.co.nz/redirect/YTo3OntzOjM6InVybCI7czozOToiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubXBpLmdvdnQubnovZG1zZG9jdW1lbnQvNjMzIjtzOjQ6InR5cGUiO3M6NDoiaHJlZiI7czo3OiJtZXNzYWdlIjtzOjU6IjkyNTE0IjtzOjc6ImFjY291bnQiO3M6NToiY2JhZmYiO3M6ODoiY2F0ZWdvcnkiO3M6NDoiNTIxNSI7czo3OiJzZW50X2F0IjtpOjE3MDY2NzE0MTU7czoxMDoibm90aWZpYWJsZSI7aToxO30.?oid=10784)
* European Union: [ICPR European Union](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/640)
* India: [ICPR India](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/651)
* Indonesia: [Country Recognition Agreement (CRA) Commodity List](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/14125)
* Peru: [ICPR Peru](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11530)
* Saudi Arabia: [ICPR Saudi Arabia](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/685)
* Singapore: [ICPR Singapore](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/687)
* South Africa: [ICPR South Africa](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/689)

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

#### Product Import and Export Requirements (PIER) Search Tool Update

PIER has recently been updated to include horticulture (plants) information.

The PIER search tool is a new resource available on the MPI website which includes import and export summary of requirements and allows users to explore commodity and country/region combinations. Based on a user’s search criteria, the PIER tool provides a summary of requirements (i.e., import permit, phytosanitary certification, treatment), which will give the user an idea of what is required overall for plant and forestry products. The search output also includes a link to the relevant ICPR.

You can find the PIER search tool on the MPI [website](https://piersearch.mpi.govt.nz/exporting-commodities-from-new-zealand/)

#### 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.





## Consultations

#### Cost recovery proposal to maintain and expand New Zealand Food Safety’s core regulatory services under the Food Act 2014

MPI is seeking feedback about a proposal to maintain and expand New Zealand Food Safety's services under the Food Act 2014 which provide education, oversight, rules, and monitoring services. MPI are also seeking views on whether these services should be cost recovered from the industries that benefit from them. More information on the proposed changes and how to make a submission are on the Ministry for Primary Industries [website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/cost-recovery-proposal-to-maintain-and-expand-new-zealand-food-safetys-core-regulatory-services-under-the-food-act-2014/?utm_source=notification-email). Submissions close on the15 March 2024.

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| NEW ZEALAND NEWS |

## Industry news

#### New minister's hort focus

The new Minister of Horticulture, Nicola Grigg, says the reason that she came into Parliament was because of her interest in and commitment to agriculture. Speaking to Hort News she said that she felt that the voice of the rural sector wasn't strong enough in Parliament - especially the voice of women. Grigg says she was excited when she got a call from Prime Minister Christopher Luxon to ask her to take on the portfolios of Horticulture and also Associate Trade.

"Once I am back from maternity leave and can travel again, I plan to work with MPI and MFAT identifying where there are blockages to trade in the market and how we can fix these and also to look at new market opportunities - especially around the Southeast Asia Pacific region." [Full article here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/hort-news/hort-general-news/new-minister-s-hort-focus)

#### Cherry exports up 7% in bumper stonefruit season

A stellar summer has made for a great export season of New Zealand-grown stone fruits, including cherries.

Industry body Summerfruit New Zealand chief executive Kate Hellstrom said good, sunny weather in key growing region Central Otago over the past few months has seen high volumes sold abroad and domestically. Hellstrom said nearly 3800 tonnes of cherries were exported this season, up about 7 percent on last year - with Taiwan and China taking out the highest volumes. The group's export data showed good volumes of apricots have been exported this season too. About 80 tonnes have been despatched which was up 47 tonnes on last year's low export crop.

Hellstrom said volumes of Hawke's Bay summerfruit were down an estimated 40 percent on overall volumes, depending on variety, location and damage after Cyclone Gabrielle. She said profitability was still a significant issue for Hawke's Bay growers - especially following three tough seasons before the cyclone. "But the Central Otago apricots are going really well and there are still good volumes of them in the domestic market." [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/509370/cherry-exports-up-7-percent-in-bumper-stonefruit-season)

#### Zespri predicts bumper kiwifruit exports this season

This season's kiwifruit crop is looking great, with Zespri set to export much higher volumes than last season. The marketing company is expecting to ship around 193 million trays of kiwifruit - a significant lift on the 133 million shipped last season.

Zespri chief executive Dan Mathieson commented "Yields are getting back to what we saw in 2021. The gold variety is likely to average about 14,000 trays a hectare, while green [kiwifruit] will average 10,000 trays a hectare, which is fantastic." Mathieson also said the bigger crop - alongside better forecast pricing - should help growers make stronger profits this season.

Forecasts for this season are $9 a tray for green kiwifruit; that compares to last season's final orchard gate return (OGR) of $5.78 a tray. While SunGold Kiwifruit returns are at $12.35 - well above last season's final OGR of $9.97.

Mathieson admitted fruit quality issues in 2022 dented the confidence of some buyers. But Zespri had been reassuring customers the issues have been fixed - so demand for this season was looking strong. After a tough couple of years, there was a lot of excitement about the year ahead and Zespri was well prepared as the harvest started in the coming weeks, Mathieson said. [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/509343/zespri-predicts-bumper-kiwifruit-exports-this-season)

#### Māori Kiwifruit Growers gets nearly $1m boost to help increase exports

Māori Kiwifruit Growers has been granted nearly $1 million from the Ministry for Primary Industries' Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Fund. This financial injection, supplemented by a co-investment of $987,523, aims to bolster export earnings for growers and strengthen Aotearoa's ties with indigenous communities worldwide.

The group plans to expand upon a pilot project with Zespri, the country's primary kiwifruit exporter. This collaboration enabled the shipment of three containers of Zespri-branded kiwifruit to Hawaii in 2020, marking a first for the advocacy group. Chairman Anaru Timutimu revealed that the group plans to send 16 more containers to Hawaii this year, establishing themselves as the sole supplier of New Zealand kiwifruit to the region.

Timutimu stated that the funding will help to elevate Māori growers and broaden their opportunities in the export market. He also expressed plans to continue marketing alongside Zespri, targeting markets with indigenous links or alignment with Māori values. "Our next market we're thinking about was Taiwan, which is a lot more substantial [than Hawaii]." [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/508230/maori-kiwifruit-growers-gets-nearly-1m-boost-to-help-increase-exports)

#### New Zealand's apple industry faces challenging recovery post-Cyclone Gabrielle

In New Zealand, particularly within Hawke’s Bay, the apple sector has experienced a significant setback due to Cyclone Gabrielle, with the industry's market manager, Danielle Adsett, revealing a loss of 610 hectares out of 6500 hectares of apple orchards. This loss, she explained to Hort News, could be an underestimation as it doesn't account for partially damaged orchards.

Adsett highlights the resilience within the sector, noting that not all land impacted will be barren forever. Some areas, despite the devastation, still possess fertile soil conducive to replanting, with efforts underway to rehabilitate the land. This includes the introduction of vegetable crops to enhance soil fertility in preparation for future apple orchards. Despite the visible devastation and the estimated $200 million in lost income, there's a wave of optimism among growers.

This optimism is buoyed by a surprisingly good crop on the trees and the reconstruction of a packhouse destroyed by the cyclone, poised to resume operations this season. Adsett underscores the positive outlook towards the market's reception of New Zealand apples, including new varieties that are gaining popularity among consumers. [Full article here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/hort-news/hort-general-news/a-heavy-cost)

#### Boosting grower returns is the number one priority for new NZ Avocado chief executive Brad Siebert.

The avocado sector is facing a significant drop in export volumes while operating costs are rising. This season, export volumes are down a million trays due to weather-related impacts on fruit quality. Siebert, along with a new NZ Avocado board, is drawing up a new strategy to meet those challenges. They plan to review their structure and an approach to export systems that are agile and efficient and bring long term resilience.

"Our inherent challenges are achieving consistent yields of high-quality fruit and building demand in export markets," Siebert told Hort News. "For this reason, we are pursuing market opportunities, removing unnecessary compliance and advocating for growers' views to ensure policy settings with central and regional governments that are fit for purpose. "To overcome the competition that we now face in some of our key markets, the sector will need to prioritise market development offshore and within New Zealand at a sufficient intensity to overcome these challenges." [Full article here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/hort-news/hort-general-news/new-avocado-boss-eyes-boosting-grower-returns)

## Reports & Insights

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: European Union Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence

New mandatory requirements for corporate due diligence reporting on the environmental and social impacts of certain companies have been agreed by the European Union, and are expected to enter into force following European elections in June 2024.

Companies which come under the scope of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (‘CSDDD’) will be required to assess their operations and supply chains for negative impacts on people and the planet.

The CSDDD is the latest example of the European and United Kingdom markets trending towards more, not less, data collection and corporate due diligence towards sustainability. Consequently, firms looking to enter, maintain, or grow their presence in Europe may need to approach sustainability due diligence as a minimum requirement of doing business as opposed to something that adds additional value. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/european-union-corporate-sustainability-due-diligence-february-2024/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=c572b48055-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_02_08_10_30&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-c572b48055-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: Implications of shipping disruptions in the Red Sea

Houthi attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea are currently disrupting goods trade between Europe and New Zealand, leading to many shipping companies now avoiding transit through the Suez Canal. Exacerbating these global maritime trade challenges, the events in the Red Sea come at a time when shipping via other routes (namely the Panama Canal) are also facing capacity constraints.

Europe, the UK, and North Africa are a sizable source of goods trade for New Zealand. In the year to September 2023, 11% ($7.7bn) of New Zealand’s goods exports and 20% ($15.7bn) of goods imports were traded with these regions. Some New Zealand exporters are already reporting shipping delays, rising transport costs, and in some cases cancelled export orders. These impacts are likely to worsen as we move into New Zealand’s peak exporting period to Europe from April to May.

Shipping and logistics companies are adapting to current disruptions by increasing long-haul shipping between Europe and Asia, utilising a land bridge over the Arabian Peninsula, and setting up new transhipment hubs in the Mediterranean. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/implications-of-shipping-disruptions-in-the-red-sea-february-2024/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=2fce19217a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_02_20_12_41&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-2fce19217a-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

#### Upcoming events and webinars:

Freight Futures Summit, 11-12 April 2024, Grand Millennium Auckland, Auckland [Full details here](https://event.brightstar.co.nz/FreightFuturesConference2024)

Hort Connections, 3-5 June 2024, Melbourne Convention Centre, Australia. [Full details here](https://hortconnections.com.au/)

Horticulture Conference and RSE Conference, 28-30 August 2024, Mercury Baypark, Tauranga.

CBAFF Annual Conference, 18-20 September, 2024, Christchurch.

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| 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 Ministry of Agriculture Invites Comments on Assessment and Labeling Guidelines for GHG Reduction for Agricultural Products

On February 7, Japan Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) published a draft guideline for assessment and labeling of greenhouse gas reduction for agricultural products. MAFF intends to implement the labeling scheme by March 2024. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Japan%20Ministry%20of%20Agriculture%20Invites%20Comments%20on%20Assessment%20and%20Labeling%20Guidelines%20for%20GHG%20Reduction%20for%20Agricultural%20Products_Tokyo_Japan_JA2024-0008)

Economic Woes Slows Growth in EU Organic Sales

EU organic sales decreased slightly in 2022, but rebounded in 2023 due to recovering economic conditions. Despite the slowdown, good prospects for U.S. organic product exports to the EU remain. This report provides an overview of the EU market, policy, and trade related to U.S. organic exports. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Economic%20Woes%20Slows%20Growth%20in%20EU%20Organic%20Sales_Vienna_European%20Union_E42024-0003)

Economic Outlook for Chilean Agriculture.

In 2024, political uncertainty will continue to diminish, and GDP will grow between 1.25 and 2.25 percent due to a recovery in consumption. This will bring opportunities for U.S. exporters looking to ship products to Chile. Agricultural GDP grew firmly in the past three years, reaching $28.9 billion in 2023. One of the most relevant challenges for Chilean agricultural is drought. Drought is particularly severe in the Atacama and the Coquimbo regions, where planted area is decreasing sharply and producers have few alternatives to table grapes. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Economic%20Outlook%20for%20Chilean%20Agriculture_Santiago_Chile_CI2024-0001)

Exporter Guide: [Canada](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_Ottawa_Canada_CA2023-0060)

A resource for US exporters that provides an economic and market overview for each country, as well as demographic trends, practical tips and information on local business practices, consumer preferences, and trends.

FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual : [India](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_New%20Delhi_India_IN2023-0086), [United Kingdom](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_London_United%20Kingdom_UK2023-0026)

These reports provide information on the regulations and procedures for the importation of food and agricultural products from the United States to each country.

FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual: [India](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_New%20Delhi_India_IN2023-0082), [United Kingdom](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_London_United%20Kingdom_UK2023-0027)

These reports include requirements such as registration, technical information, certificates and other documentation for food and agriculture product exports from the US to each country.

## In The News:

#### Australian government approves release of QUT-developed GM Cavendish QCAV-4

The Australian Government has issued QUT a licence to commercially release QCAV-4, a genetically modified (GM) variety of Cavendish banana designed to help save the world’s Cavendish banana production. Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has also today notified the Food Ministers’ Meeting (FMM) that it has approved QCAV-4 as suitable for human consumption. The FMM, made up of ministers from Australian state and territory governments and the Australian and New Zealand governments, has 60 days to either ratify FSANZ’s decision or request a review.

The QCAV-4 banana is the world’s first GM banana to be approved for commercial production and also the first Australian GM fruit approved for growing in Australia. QCAV-4 offers a potential safety net against the devastating Panama Disease tropical race 4 (TR4) which threatens the global US$20 billion banana industry. There are no plans to grow or sell QCAV-4 bananas to consumers in Australia at this time. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/oceania/article/9601090/australian-government-approves-release-of-qut-developed-gm-cavendish-qcav-4/?utm_medium=email)

#### Apple & Pear Australia launches new IP development venture Twenty Degrees

Apple & Pear Australia (Apal) has announced its latest venture Twenty Degrees, a new commercial entity partnering with clients to transform their produce IP into global fresh produce brands.

Twenty Degrees will integrate Apal’s strengths in licensing and intellectual property (IP) management skills with the expertise of Coregeo, Apal’s wholly-owned UK subsidiary responsible for marketing Pink Lady and other fresh produce brands. Phil Turnbull, group chief executive of Twenty Degrees said this new entity aims to transform fresh produce into globally recognised fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) brands by maximising the combined capabilities of its international teams and global resource. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/apple-and-pear-australia-launches-new-ip-development-venture-twenty-degrees/258464.article)

#### New biosecurity treatment facility for South Australia

Horticulture exports to receive boost from A$50m post-harvest treatment facility located at the South Australian Produce Market. The Australian and South Australian governments, along with the South Australian Produce Market, have announced the development of a new A$50m facility, based in Pooraka, in Adelaide’s northern suburbs. It will be the first post-harvest treatment facility of its kind in the state and will provide inspection, quarantine and treatment of fruit and vegetable produce which is vital for exporting the state’s produce globally. The facility will use pressure cooling and treatment technology and will be the largest-scale multi-treatment and inspection facility in South Australia.

Construction will commence in February 2024 and once completed the project is expected to unlock more than A$100m in additional fresh produce exports over a five-year period. Currently, South Australian producers are required to send their produce to Victoria or Queensland for treatment. This new facility is set to reduce those transport costs and improve profitability. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/oceania/article/9601085/new-biosecurity-treatment-facility-for-south-australia/?utm_medium=email)

#### Indonesia trade resumes after import permits issued

The Indonesian government has issued the first import permits for horticulture products in 2024 after a five-week delay which has impacted shipments from key supplying countries and contributed to a shortage of imported fruits for the Lunar New Year sales period. The first horticulture import permits were issued on 2 February, allowing 2024 trade to commence, according to a source from the Australian Embassy in Jakarta.

Under Indonesia’s import process for horticulture products, importers must apply for an import licence from the Ministry of Agriculture known as a Recommendation to Import Horticulture (RIPH). Once they receive this licence, they can apply to the Ministry of Trade for import permits. Importers apply to import a certain volume by commodity, supply country and arrival port over a set time-period.

The delay in issuing import permits has affected all Indonesia’s trading partners and comes after only a limited number of permits (quotas) were issued towards the end of 2023. This has resulted in a shortage of imported fruits for the Lunar New Year sales period in Indonesia. Supply of fruit from Thailand and China has been worst affected, according to the importer.

The import permit delays have coincided with the build-up to Indonesia’s general election. Indonesian voters are heading to the polls on Wednesday (14 February) for what will be the world’s largest single-day election, with more than 200m people expected to vote. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/indonesia-trade-resumes-after-import-permits-issued/258539.article)

#### Indian government allows export of onions in limited quantities

Following the Ministry of External Affairs' advisement, India has sanctioned the export of onions on a government-to-government (G2G) basis to specific countries, albeit in restricted quantities. The identities of the recipient nations have been disclosed, including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Bahrain, Bhutan, and Nepal. Despite this partial alleviation, the comprehensive ban on onion exports remains, with the exporting agency yet to be announced.

India, recognized as the globe's second-largest onion exporter, had enforced a prohibition on onion exports from December 2023 to March 2024, aiming to mitigate domestic price inflation and avert shortages. This export ban catalyzed a surge in onion prices across neighbouring nations. In response to escalating prices in August 2023, the finance ministry introduced a 40% export duty, which was followed by setting a minimum export price at $800 per tonne from October 28, due to persistent under-invoicing issues.

The export ban's imposition was a reaction to severe weather conditions damaging crops in key areas, leading to a significant reduction in onion supply during the peak season and subsequent price hikes. This decision precipitated a drastic price drop in the wholesale markets, inciting prolonged protests from onion farmers in Maharashtra, India's primary onion-producing region, who demanded the ban's revocation. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/asia/article/9601598/indian-government-allows-export-of-onions-in-limited-quantities-to-various-countries/?utm_medium=email)

#### Southern Hemisphere apple exports set to rise

The six leading topfruit suppliers in the Southern Hemisphere expect to produce a combined crop of just under 4.78m tonnes of apples in 2024, up 1.1 per cent on last year, according to a new forecast released by the World Apple and Pear Association. The group also said it anticipated a 2.3 per cent annual decrease in pear production this year to almost 1.47m tonnes across the same six nations – Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, and South Africa.

South Africa is the largest producer of apples, with 1.4m tonnes (+4.6 per cent), followed by Brazil (1.1m tonnes, equal), Chile (912,000 tonnes, -8.4 per cent), New Zealand (557,871 tonnes, +14.7 per cent), Argentina (501,000 tonnes, -4.8 per cent), and Australia (308,000 tonnes, +5.8 per cent).

Pear growers in Argentina, Chile and Australia all expect a decrease in production, to 614,000 tonnes (-6 per cent), 203,000 tonnes (5.4 per cent), and 72,000 tonnes (2.7 per cent) respectively. South Africa’s output is set to increase, however, to 567,334 tonnes (+3.4 per cent), as is New Zealand’s to 9,066 tonnes (+8.4 per cent). [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/main-navigation/southern-hemisphere-apple-exports-set-to-rise/258522.article) [Production tables here](https://www.producereport.com/article/press-release-world-apple-pear-association-presents-2024-southern-hemisphere-crop-forecast)

#### EU rethinks climate strategy amid farmer protests

In a significant shift, the European Union is re-evaluating its environmental ambitions, influenced by widespread farmer protests across the continent. The European Commission has notably retreated from its pledge to halve pesticide use and excluded agriculture from a rigorous mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90% before 2040. EU Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski expressed satisfaction with these reversals, emphasizing the importance of not coercing farmers into reducing pesticide use but rather encouraging them through increased financial subsidies.

This recalibration occurs as the EU aims for carbon neutrality by 2050 and seeks a minimum 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 relative to 1990 figures. However, Wojciechowski highlighted the necessity of accommodating the unique characteristics of the agricultural sector within these broader objectives. The timing of these policy adjustments aligns with the anticipation of the EU parliamentary elections in June, which are expected to introduce more far-right and fringe elements into Parliament, potentially influencing the EU's green agenda. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9600136/eu-rethinks-climate-strategy-amid-farmer-protests/?utm_medium=email)

#### CDC says the Listeria outbreak linked to peaches is over, with one dead

A multi-year outbreak of Listeria infections traced to peaches, nectarines, and plums has been declared over by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In its final update, the CDC reported that the seven-state outbreak had sickened 11 people and killed one. One of the patients was pregnant and went into pre-term labor. All of the patients except one were hospitalized.

Listeria infection can be challenging to diagnose, and it can be hard to identify outbreaks because symptoms can take up to 70 days after exposure to develop. Patients are generally identified through testing because of symptoms. This outbreak is an example of how whole genome sequencing can identify outbreak patients separated by long periods. Using the technique, investigators can match new cases with previous ones by comparing samples in a database. Then, finding a match between contaminated food and a patient sample reveals the source of an outbreak. [Full article here](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2024/02/cdc-says-listeria-outbreak-linked-to-peaches-is-over-with-one-dead/)

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