

UPDATE: 25 October 2022

Kia ora

As the end of the year fast approaches, governments in New Zealand and overseas are introducing proposed new regulations at pace for consultation and the weather continues to play havoc with the growing season and impact on food prices. You’ll find news items and links for these as well as the regular items of opinion pieces, reports and upcoming events in our latest update.

Ngā mihi

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# GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS

#### ICPR changes

The following ICPR have been updated in the last two weeks

* **USA** has updated prohibition for Pieris under section 2.1 Prohibitions and updated phytosanitary certificate requirements under section 3.2.1 Fresh Cut Flowers and Foliage. [ICPR USA](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/702-United-States-of-America)

#### Changes to Food Safety Requirements for Berries, Leafy Vegetables and Melons

On 12 August 2022, new primary production and processing standards were introduced by Food Standards Australia New Zealand for berries, leafy vegetables and melons. Three new standards have been included in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code:

* [Standard 4.2.7 – Primary Production and Processing Standard for Berries](https://fpsc-anz.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c73673335989d1fc2801530c8&id=b684621bc3&e=f93013672e)
* [Standard 4.2.8 – Primary Production and Processing Standard for Leafy Vegetables](https://fpsc-anz.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c73673335989d1fc2801530c8&id=ad1d463fe0&e=f93013672e)
* [Standard 4.2.9 – Primary Production and Processing Standard for Melons](https://fpsc-anz.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c73673335989d1fc2801530c8&id=c1219965d8&e=f93013672e)

The standards aim to strengthen food safety management on-farm and during initial processing to reduce food safety risks along the supply chain from farm to fork. The new requirements will take effect from 12 February 2025. Guidance material to support implementation will be developed in collaboration with industry and governments. [More information here](https://www.foodstandards.gov.au/code/proposals/Pages/P1052.aspx?mc_cid=18ae878ec7&mc_eid=UNIQID%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).

## 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 proposed amendments and how to provide a submission on the MPI website,

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).

#### 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 piece:

#### Nadine's update: The promise of Spring

In this week’s update, Nadine Tunley continues to raise concern about the volume of regulatory changes in the lead up to Christmas, the resource cost to support these and suggests an alternative path for government to achieve the outcomes. [Full article here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/nadines-update/the-promise-of-spring/).

## Government News

#### Next Ambassador to Italy announced

Foreign Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta has announced the appointment of Jacqueline Frizelle as New Zealand’s next ambassador to Italy. Jacqueline Frizelle is a career diplomat with a background in international development. She has previously worked in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Bhutan on aid and development programmes. She has also held a number of roles at the Ministry of Foreign of Affairs and Trade, most recently as principal adviser for the Pacific and Development Group,. From 2013 to 2017, Ms Frizelle was New Zealand’s High Commissioner to Samoa. She will take up her appointment in the new year. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/next-ambassador-italy-announced)

#### New Ambassador to Seoul announced

Foreign Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta has announced the appointment of Dawn Bennett as New Zealand’s next ambassador to Seoul, South Korea. Dawn Bennett has most recently served as the divisional manager of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Australia division. She has also been a senior trade adviser for the Minister of Trade, an economic counsellor at the New Zealand Embassy in Beijing and previously served as a diplomat and International Relations Consultant in Paris. Dawn Bennett takes up her position in November. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-ambassador-seoul-announced)

#### Muller is opposition's agriculture spokesman

Former National leader Todd Muller has taken over as acting spokesman for agriculture, biosecurity and food safety. Muller replaces Barbara Kuriger, who resigned recently over an ongoing dispute between her family and the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI). [Full article here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/muller-is-opposition-s-ag-spokesman?ct=t(RNG_18_OCTOBER_2022_COPY_01))

#### Law requiring passengers be provided with biosecurity info passed

A new law requiring craft entering New Zealand to provide biosecurity information to incoming passengers has been passed. Labour MP Steph Lewis said New Zealand's natural environment and primary sector would be better protected from threats at the border as a result.

The Biosecurity (Information for Incoming Passengers) Amendment Bill amends the Biosecurity Act 1993 to protect farmers and growers from biosecurity threats. It is also designed to provide stronger safeguards for the natural environment. It is currently optional to provide biosecurity information to incoming passengers, creating an unnecessary biosecurity risk. "This bill is adds another layer of defence at our borders," Lewis said. [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/477049/law-requiring-passengers-be-provided-with-biosecurity-info-passed)

## Industry news

#### **Revised Guidelines for Fresh Produce Food Safety 2022**

The Fresh Produce Safety Centre (FPSC) launched the revised Guidelines for Fresh Produce Food Safety 2022 at its recent Conference. The Guidelines include a revised Section 6.2 Microbial Contamination. [Guidelines available here](https://fpsc-anz.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c73673335989d1fc2801530c8&id=77ee20e106&e=f93013672e).

#### Wet weather crop delays costing farmers and growers time and money

Wet weather in parts of the North Island over the past few months has been causing huge issues for farmers and growers, who have had to delay planting valuable crops. A cold snap earlier this month froze the asparagus crop of one of the country's largest growers, Boyds Asparagus, in Waikato and strawberry crops on the outskirts of Hamilton were decimated by heavy frost. In Horowhenua, heavy rain and flooding has also delayed potato planting, with growers forced to wait until their fields dry out before planting new crops. And the variable weather is affecting arable crops too, with farmers also having to delay planting their maize and fodder crops. Federated Farmers arable spokesperson Colin Hurst said it had been a run of bad luck for arable farmers in the North Island. [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/476974/wet-weather-crop-delays-costing-arable-farmers-time-and-money)

#### NZ fruit and vegetable prices up 16%

Food prices were 8.3% higher in September than the year before; this constitutes a 13-year high. It was the same rate of price growth recorded in August, and the highest since July 2009. According to Stats NZ, the increase was due to movement of all food categories measured. Grocery food prices were up 7.7% year-on-year, fruit and vegetables up 16%, restaurant and ready-to-eat up 6.9%, meat, poultry and fish increased by 6.7%, and non-alcoholic drinks up 4.8%. The second-largest contributor to the annual movement was fruit and vegetables. The items within this group that influenced this movement the most were capsicums, tomatoes, and broccoli. [Full article here.](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/300711522/food-price-increase-still-running-at-13year-high-but-is-relief-coming)

#### Zespri implements its 100% cardboard trays in the Spanish market

Three important retailers in the country already sell the conventional and organic Zespri Green and Zespri Sungold varieties in this new 100% cardboard packaging. "We are working to make all our packaging in Europe, where Spain is one of our main markets, sustainable. Our main goal is to eliminate plastic and increase the use of recyclable materials in resonance with circular processes. This is a great step in this direction," stated Maria Julia Martinez, Zespri's Sustainability Lead in Europe and North America. To date, 90% of the brand's packaging in Europe is already recyclable, reusable, or compostable; positioning it very close to its goal of reaching 100% by 2025. [Full article here.](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9467580/zespri-implements-its-100-cardboard-trays-in-the-spanish-market/)

#### Zespri switches to compostable labels in European markets

Zespri has announced that all of its kiwifruit in Europe for the upcoming Northern Hemisphere supply season will feature compostable labels. Move is part of marketer’s efforts to ensure that all of its packaging is 100 per cent recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025. The company will also be trialling a home compostable label in France.

Giorgio Comino, Zespri executive officer – Europe and North America, said the move reflects Zespri’s commitment to embracing more sustainable practices across the global supply chain. “Exploring more sustainable fruit label options has been an area of considerable focus for Zespri over a number of years, with our labels providing an important assurance to our customers that the fruit they are purchasing is authentic, safe and high-quality Zespri kiwifruit,” he said. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/zespri-switches-to-compostable-labels-in-european-markets/247426.article)

## Reports

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: EU moves to ban products made with forced labour

The European Commission has proposed a draft law to prohibit the sale in the EU market of products made with forced labour. If approved by the European Parliament and Member States in the Council, national authorities will be able to investigate the risk of forced labour in production processes and decide about the withdrawal of particular products from the EU market. If approved, the new EU rules will apply two years after they enter into force, suggesting that they will not come into force until late 2025 at the earliest. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-europe/eu-moves-to-ban-products-made-with-forced-labour-october-2022/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=4901f1d124-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_10_03_02_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1e0c1c37bb-4901f1d124-578465829)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: EU considers measures to stop products from deforested land

In September the European Parliament released its proposed new rules to ensure that products sold in the EU do not come from deforested or degraded land. The Parliament has proposed extending the list of targeted products from the six originally listed by the European Commission (cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm-oil, soya and wood, and derived products such as chocolate and leather) to pig meat, sheep and goat meat, poultry, maize, rubber, charcoal and printed paper products. The European Parliament also wants a broader definition of ‘deforestation’, more compliance checks on affected products, higher fines for non-complying companies, obligations on the finance sector, an earlier start date, and stronger protection for human rights and indigenous peoples at the frontline of deforestation. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-europe/european-union-considers-measures-to-stop-the-sale-of-products-from-deforested-land-october-2022/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=3f6698f5c3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_09_29_08_10&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1e0c1c37bb-3f6698f5c3-578465829)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: Japan opens its borders to tourists – Economic update

Japan fully relaxed its COVID-19 border restrictions on 11 October 22, one of the last major economies to do so. At the same time, Prime Minister Kishida announced plans to reinvigorate the tourism sector, hoping to maximise the benefits of the weak yen. Japan’s economy recovered to pre-COVID levels in Q2 2022, later than its peers did. Despite Japan’s relatively slow recovery from the impacts of COVID, New Zealand’s goods exports to Japan were up +19% for the 12 months ending August 2022, to a record high of NZD 4.1 billion. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-asia/japan-opens-its-borders-to-tourists-economic-update-october-2022/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=bbfc83d6a7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_10_20_02_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1e0c1c37bb-bbfc83d6a7-578465829)

## 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.

* **Updated Catalogue of National Food Safety Standards Released, China CH2022-0115**

On August 17, 2022, the People’s Republic of China (PRC), National Health Commission (NHC) released an updated Catalogue of National Food Safety Standards. The updated list features 1,455 standards covering food products, additives, quality specifications, testing methods, and production practices. This report provides an unofficial translation of the Catalogue. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Updated%20Catalogue%20of%20National%20Food%20Safety%20Standards%20Released%20_Beijing_China%20-%20People%27s%20Republic%20of_CH2022-0115)

## In The News:

#### Australian avocados advert a smash hit in Asia

An advertising campaign promoting Australian avocados in the Asia-Pacific region has smashed digital campaign projections, directly engaging close to 2m people in Singapore and Malaysia alone. The three-month, A$300,000 (US$187,000) campaign was funded by Australian growers through Hort Innovation’s international trade programmes and ran on social media and television across the region. The campaign engaged international audiences using iconic Australian imagery including koalas, the outback, and beaches. [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/produce-plus/australian-avocados-a-smash-hit-in-asia/247422.article).

#### Australia: Artificial intelligence tool trialled for high-risk bug detection

Some of Australia’s brightest minds are collaborating to finalise a portable device that uses artificial intelligence to help biosecurity officers more quickly identify high-risk brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB) on the frontline. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has partnered with CSIRO, Australia’s national science agency, and Microsoft to develop and trial a mobile phone application. This app will help operational staff identify the BMSB (*Halyomorpha halys*) and other invasive and endemic stink bug species in the field and in real-time. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9467220/artificial-intelligence-tool-trialled-for-high-risk-bug-detection/)

#### “Ruiyu", the new kiwifruit variety launched

Recently, a new kiwifruit variety "Ruiyu" cultivated in Shaanxi Province was launched on the shelves of Hema Fresh. This is the first time this variety has been launched on a large scale in recent years. At the same time, Hema Fresh also released a "2022 Kiwi Fruit Tasting Guide". Among them, Ruiyu has almost no shortcomings and surpasses other varieties of kiwifruit on the market in an all-around way. "Ruiyu" is a new kiwifruit variety cultivated by Shaanxi Rural Science and Technology Development Center and Shaanxi Bairui Kiwi Research Institute Co., Ltd. after more than 10 years. This year is the first year that the fruit has been launched on a large scale. It is also the first time that this new product has entered a new retail channel. [Full article here.](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9467629/ruiyu-the-new-kiwifruit-variety-launched/)

#### Cost of international freight biggest problem faced by Brazilian exporters

Rising fuel prices and the disruption of global transportation chains have pushed the cost of international freight to the top of the problems faced by Brazilian exporters, according to one of the latest surveys by the National Confederation of Industry (CNI). In addition to logistics costs, exporters are impacted by the high volatility of the dollar, the rise of trade barriers, and the so-called “Brazil cost.” [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9469649/cost-of-international-freight-biggest-problem-faced-by-brazilian-exporters/)

#### Congested European ports not enough to cushion falling volumes

While unrelenting port congestion in Europe has made liner operators skip some calls, it has been insufficient to prop up the freefall in freight rates. Alphaliner, in its latest report today, stated that Shanghai - North Europe spot freight rates have fallen by 48.5% in Q3. Its count of vessel arrivals for the 18 mega-alliance services between the Far East and North Europe (six for 2M, seven for OCEAN Alliance and five for THE Alliance) in Rotterdam, Hamburg, Bremerhaven, Wilhelmshaven, Antwerp, Zeebrugge, Felixstowe, Southampton, London Gateway and Le Havre proves that 687 actual calls were made in the third quarter of 22. The 18 loops would normally have made 827 port calls in the aforementioned ports, but congestion has caused many ships to return to Asia late. [Full article here](https://container-news.com/congested-european-ports-not-enough-to-cushion-falling-volumes/).

#### 3D food printers will become just another kitchen tool to make preparing meals easier and faster’

In a recent survey by 3D printing experts Hub.com, it was revealed that 3D printed food garnered an impressive number of Google searches per month when looking at a range of 3D printed advancements. In the category of 3D printed food, meat received 4,500 searches a month, thanks to what Hubs.com refers to as a “breakthrough” advancement last year. That’s when an Israeli bioprinting company announced that it had actually printed a 104-gram (3.67 ounces) cultivated steak, perhaps the largest cultured steak produced until that time. This leads to a tentative prediction that before long, every consumer’s kitchen will have a 3D food printer on one of its counter tops. It will become just another kitchen tool to make preparing meals (or snacks) easier and faster. [Full article here.](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9469003/3d-food-printers-will-become-just-another-kitchen-tool-to-make-preparing-meals-easier-and-faster/)

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