

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 12 September 2022**

Kia ora

This week’s update features articles with a regulation focus – from concerns about the Fair Pay Agreement, to allowing new houseplants into NZ, from different approaches to regulating GE crops to considering how to market and certify regenerative agriculture. Also included are ICPR changes, WTO and TBT notifications and MFAT and Gain reports on key markets.

Ngā mihi

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# GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS

#### ICPR changes

The following ICPR have been updated in the last week

* **Cook islands** has added fumigation treatment specification under Brassica spp. to section 4.1.1 [ICPR Cook Islands](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/632-Cook-Islands)
* **Indonesia** has updated requirements for seeds, grains and nuts for consumption under sections 2.3.2 and 3.4.2 [ICPR Indonesia](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/652-Indonesia)
* **Samoa** has been updated with note removed regarding export of fresh tomatoes from section 3.1.1, added requirements for loose tomatoes under section 4.1.1 and updated contact details in section 2.2.4. [ICPR Samoa](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/684-Samoa)

#### 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: Growers don’t need any more hats

In this week’s HortNZ weekly briefing, Nadine Tunley discusses the many hats that growers wear in addition to being growers, and Horticulture New Zealand’s concerns about the Fair Pay Agreement proposal. [Full article here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/nadines-update/growers-dont-need-any-more-hats/)

#### Stephen Jacobi: Is New Zealand too dependent on China as an export market?

China is far and away New Zealand’s key export market. But this comes with risks. China is an authoritarian one-party state. Its human rights record came under fire from the United Nations this week, and China’s growing international assertiveness is seeing it butt heads with the United States and increase its influence in the South Pacific. Against this backdrop, is it possible that NZ is too dependent on China as a destination for our exports? What are the risks to this relationship? And could we diversify by exporting more of our key products to other countries?

In this Of Interest Podcast, Stephen Jacobi, Executive Director of the New Zealand International Business Forum discusses this topic with Gareth Vaughan. [Link to podcast](https://economywatch.simplecast.com/episodes/stephen-jacobi-is-new-zealand-too-dependent-on-china-as-an-export-market-xPzhCtTg)

## Industry news:

#### 'Crazy over peperomias': Plans to get more exotic houseplants into NZ

New Zealand Plant Producers Inc (NZPPI) is trying to get approval to allow 12 houseplant species into New Zealand. The species included jewel orchid (*Macodes petola*), peacock peperomia (*Peperomia albovittata*), trailing jade (*Peperomia rotundifolia*) and bridal bouquet (*Plumeria pudica*).

Only two new exotic houseplant species had been approved to enter New Zealand since 1996, said NZPPI chief executive Matthew Dolan. "I believe if we got these new species into New Zealand, there'd be a huge amount of excitement in that community. They haven't had access to anything new for decades."

The EPA wanted feedback from people about whether the new species should be allowed into the country. Submissions close at midnight on 19 October 22. [Full article here.](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/129809865/crazy-over-peperomias-plans-to-get-more-exotic-houseplants-into-nz)  [Link to make submission](https://www.epa.govt.nz/public-consultations/open-consultations/application-to-release-houseplant-species/).

#### New Container Service Sees New Zealand Shipping Going From Strength To Strength

The Maritime Union of New Zealand says New Zealand coastal shipping is on an unprecedented growth curve as another New Zealand crewed ship comes onto the New Zealand coast. Pacifica Shipping has announced a new 1300-TEU container vessel MV Takutai Chiefwill start on an inter-island run on 19 September between a number of New Zealand ports. The vessel will complement the existing Pacifica container ship MV Moana Chief.

Maritime Union of New Zealand National Secretary Craig Harrison says new shipping services would provide links between regional ports and larger ports, and greater resilience in the supply chain. “These services will provide a low carbon, reliable option for freight that will help solve congestion in ports and overcome the current delays and unreliability of international shipping.” [Full article here](https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO2209/S00029/new-container-service-sees-new-zealand-shipping-going-from-strength-to-strength.htm)

#### Working Holiday Scheme gathers momentum

More than 23,000 Working Holiday Scheme (WHS) visa applications had been received by mid-August 2022.

A total of 21,626 WHS visa applications have been decided, with 21,107 approved and 519 declined. Applications are being processed in nine calendar days.

Since the WHS category reopened in March 2022, 4,022 WHS visa holders have arrived in New Zealand.

The average caseload of Immigration New Zealand officers processing WHS visa applications is 151 applications. Approximately 87 percent of the WHS visa applications that have been received, but are awaiting a decision, are already allocated to an immigration officer for assessment. [Full article here](https://us14.campaign-archive.com/?u=aecda7aaa04d433b3c1267c8e&id=5c32a199ae)

## Reports:

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: Economic update for Singapore - September 2022

Singapore’s economy is forecast to grow between 3% and 4% in 2022, with a recovery in the service sector being offset by dampened trade-related growth due to global economic headwinds.

Like much of the region, inflation in Singapore has been increasing. In July 2022, year-on-year growth headline inflation was 7.8% and core inflation 4.8%. To buffer against the rising cost of living, the Monetary Authority of Singapore has allowed the Singapore dollar to strengthen during 2022. The Government is also providing financial support for middle and lower income Singaporean families.

The Government is also pushing forward with plans to evolve and upgrade the economy – including through significant infrastructure investments such as the Tuas Megaport and Changi Airport Terminal 5.

[Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-asia/economic-update-for-singapore-september-2022/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=306a88cbed-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_09_05_08_50&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1e0c1c37bb-306a88cbed-578465829)

#### AgriTechNZ examines digital adoption

A recently-released report sheds light on barriers and drivers influencing adoption of digital technology - defined as electronic or computerised tools, automatic systems or devices that generate, store or process data - in New Zealand’s primary sector.

Fifty-nine per cent of those surveyed leant towards the adoption of digital technologies, but for “very different reasons” and with “different pathways to participation” according to the report. The remaining 41 per cent sided with not seeing much value in using digital technology to run their businesses.

Published by AgriTechNZ, the *Baseline of Digital Adoption in Primary Industries* report reflects on the results of a large-scale survey of New Zealand farmers and growers from across the agriculture sector. The research was designed to provide actionable insight for agritech businesses, industry groups and public agencies who seek to unleash the potential of digital agriculture and develop strategies to support farmers and growers. [Full report here](https://agritechnz.org.nz/knowledgehub/download-the-2022-agritechnz-baseline-of-digital-adoption-in-primary-industries-report/)

## Upcoming events:

* Citrus NZ Conference & AGM, 22 September 2022, Gisborne. [Full details here.](https://www.citrus.co.nz/citrus-nz-conference/)
* HortNZ AGM, 21 September 2022, Nelson. [Full details here.](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/media-releases/2022-hortnz-agm-papers/)
* World Avocado Congress 2023, 2-5 April 2023, Auckland. [Full details here.](https://www.wacnz2023.com/)

# 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.

* **Top Five Consumer Trends in Germany 2022-2023 GM2022-0027**

The outcomes of COVID-19 pandemic have undeniably changed the gastronomic habits in Europe for the foreseeable future. Behaviours that developed over the lockdown months are continuing to shape purchasing preferences of German consumers. Today, values and individual lifestyles influence eating patterns much more than they did a few years ago. This report gives you an overview of most popular current food trends in Germany. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Top%20Five%20Consumer%20Trends%20in%20Germany%202022-2023_Berlin_Germany_GM2022-0027)

## In The News:

#### Australia: Weather expected to further impact produce prices

Experts warn that the return of La Nina will see Australian fruit and vegetable prices rise even higher or will cause some staples to disappear from supermarket shelves altogether.

According a report from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, there is a chance of “more localised flooding events later in the year,” which “could again cause significant disruptions to the production and distribution of vegetables and fruits.” [Link to video](https://www.news.com.au/national/wet-weather-expected-to-further-impact-produce-prices/video/a20de118a01d5050295b7d895c5d178e)

#### WA’s agricultural exports surge to record $12.1 billion

Western Australia’s record grain harvest has added a whopping $8.5 billion in export value to the state’s economy and propelled the value of agricultural exports to a record $12.1b on the back of surging demand, strong production and favourable seasonal conditions.

International demand for WA farmers’ products is booming - grain exports increased by $3.7b, up 77.6 per cent, and accounted for 70.3 per cent of the state’s agricultural export value.

WA was well ahead of Queensland ($10.6b), South Australia ($7.6b) and Tasmania ($1b) — all of which experienced growth, while agricultural exports from the Northern Territory plummeted 27.7 per cent to their lowest value since 2013-14, to $413m. [Full article here](https://www.kalminer.com.au/countryman/news/was-agricultural-exports-surge-to-a-record-121-billion-after-the-states-record-243mt-grain-harvest--c-8122107)

#### UK’s ‘Cucumber capital’ growers selling up as Brexit and energy crisis hits vegetable industry

Huge areas of one of Britain's biggest salad growing hubs will be replaced with housing estates as growers give up in despair and cash in their land. The Lea Valley, also known as the cucumber capital and Britain's salad bowl, is one of the diamonds of the UK's embattled horticultural sector. The valley should be a jewel in the crown for a country concerned with homegrown industry and food security. But hit by Brexit, a flawed Home Office plan for workers, and now rising energy prices, more than a third of the growers have applied for planning permission to knock down 60 hectares of greenhouses to replace them with housing estates, warehouses, and small factories. Their applications have been granted. [Full article here](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/sep/06/cucumber-capital-growers-selling-up-as-brexit-and-energy-crisis-hits-britains-vegetable-industry)

#### Organic Grower Summit 2022 Session: "Regenerative organic marketing and certification: what lies ahead?"

As regenerative agriculture is reshaping how food is grown, a panel of organic industry leaders will address the trends and standards of regenerative organic marketing and certification at the upcoming Organic Grower Summit 2022 November 30–December 1 in Monterey, CA. The panellists will offer their insight on growing regenerative crops, the future of regenerative production, and how the retail community can manage and market these items to consumers. [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9457542/regenerative-organic-marketing-and-certification-what-lies-ahead-ed-session-announced/)

#### Researchers propose new framework for regulating engineered crops

A Policy Forum article published this week in Science calls for a new approach to regulating genetically engineered (GE) crops, arguing that current approaches for triggering safety testing vary dramatically among countries and generally lack scientific merit – particularly as advances in crop breeding have blurred the lines between conventional breeding and genetic engineering.

For example, when dealing with varieties made using the powerful gene editing system known as CRISPR, the European Union regulates all varieties while other governments base decisions on the size of the genetic change and the source of inserted genetic material. Meanwhile, in 2020 the U.S. Department of Agriculture established a rule that exempts from regulation conventionally bred crop varieties and GE crop varieties that could have been developed by methods other than genetic engineering.

Rather than focusing on the methods and processes behind the creation of a GE crop to determine if testing is needed, the paper asserts that a more effective framework would examine the specific new characteristics of the crop itself by using so-called “–omics” approaches. In the same way that biomedical sciences can use genomic approaches to scan human genomes for problematic mutations, genomics can be used to scan new crop varieties for unexpected DNA changes. [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9457558/researchers-propose-new-framework-for-regulating-engineered-crops/)

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