

**PMAC weekly update 11th to 19th April**

1. **Government agencies**: ICPR, OAP and FYI Changes, MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 14 April 2022
2. **New Zealand News:**  Prime Minister leads trade mission to Singapore and Japan, Govt helps fast-track organic medicinal cannabis industry, Future food security must start with quality production now, NZFSSRC appoints new director, 2022 Fresh Produce Safety Conference, Freshcare & FPSC A-NZ launch three new food safety resources, Food safety risks of harvesting dropped and drooping produce, Thinking about the future of food safety – A foresight report, Online Food Safety webinars, Fruitful ties for New Zealand and Vietnam, NZ Envy season gets underway, The growing market for NZ-grown organically produced apples, Rockit Global wins NZ-China trade award, New Zealand fruit and vegetable prices up 18% in a year, New Zealand fruit and vegetable prices up 18% in a year, Joy Wing Mau and Zespri welcome the first shipment of New Zealand kiwifruit to China, Kiwifruit picker reveals secret to earning $60 per hour, A good season for kiwiberries, Hawke’s Bay almond-growing trial might be extended, The East Coast's meltdown, Watching from space: keeping pests and diseases out of NZ, Flattening the curve – horticulture style , Radio New Zealand news
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; "China needs own seeds to guarantee country's food bowl", "Agro-science is essential to transition to a more sustainable model", Lidl and Global GAP reveal the first sector-wide biodiversity certification, Could high fertilizer prices create food shortages?, What does the rise of AI in agriculture mean for the future of farming?, Shipping companies cancel calls at Shanghai Port, Containers pile up at ports of Shanghai due to lockdowns, Chinese truckers caught in a web of quarantine controls, Maersk launches Maersk Air Cargo, Coles recalls packets of baby spinach over salmonella fears, Bayer takes "holistic" approach, Bioplastic Breakthroughs and Applications in Food Packaging,

**Comment**

A good collection of articles for a four-day week. This week marks the week when New Zealand is telling the world it’s open for business with a small business delegation visiting Singapore and Japan with the Prime Minister. I think many New Zealand exporters will also be looking to rekindle their personal relationships overseas especially once their customers can visit New Zealand under pre covid conditions .

Other articles worth a look include one asking the Government to invest more funds into research about producing quality food. The article observes with the current levels of concern about Food Insecurity New Zealand’s commodities will find a ready market. However , with other countries looking at alternative ways to grow food we shouldn’t become complacent and we need to invest in our future and further establish out position for quality food . A second forward looking article is called flattening the curve. This article draws on Covid experience and suggests that in the future if pests arrive and cannot be eradicated growers must be ready to slow down their spread and establishment.

Another area of growing importance is food safety. This week there are a number of updates and articles from New Zealand’s Food Safety centre that will be of interest to those involved in growing or packing commodities.

1. **Agency news** 
   1. **ICPR, OAP and FYI changes**

**OAP’s**

A new guidance resource for Official Assurance Programmes (OAPs) has been published.

This introductory guidance for OAPs has been produced to support plant and plant product export stakeholders in understanding the fundamental concepts of OAPs. [Guidance on Official Assurance Programmes (OAPs) for Plants and Plant Products](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/50836-Guidance-on-Official-Assurance-Programmes-OAPs-for-Plants-and-Plant-Products)

**China registration of Food manufacturing Premises**

F14/22 [China Registration of Food Manufacturing Premises](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/50612-F1422-China-Registration-of-Food-Manufacturing-Premises)

(This FYI replaces F56/21, F58/21 and F05/22 , all which were about Decree 248).

This new FYI has the following sections:

* Section 1: Background
* Section 2: Decree 248
* Section 3: Implementation of Decree 248
* Section 4: GACC Registration Website: CIFER
* Section 5: GACC Registration via MPI recommendation
* Section 6: GACC Self-registration
* Section 7: Other requirements under Decree 248

**ICPR for the EU** has been updated with the changes: in 15 areas- these are all listed at the front of the ICPR – see [Importing Countries Phytosanitary Requirements (ICPRs)](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/export/export-requirements/icpr-importing-countries-phytosanitary-requirements/?utm_source=notification-email)

Note -at this time please only use the quarantine pest list for the EU within the ICPR. Updates to ONZPR are still in progress and a notification will be sent once this is complete

** MFAT**

* 1. [**MFAT’s Global Trade and Economic Update for NZ Businesses – 14**](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-global/weekly-global-economic-round-up-14-april-2022) **April 2022**

MFAT update is available at <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-global/global-economic-and-trade-update-for-new-zealand-businesses-18-march-2021/>. Amongst other entries included in this weeks edition are news of :

* Prime Minister Ardern is leading a trade missions this week (18-24 April) to Singapore and Japan, accompanied by Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O’Connor, a business delegation, and Chief Executives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Tourism NZ, and Education NZ. The Prime Minister will deliver the message that ‘New Zealand is open for business’. Read the [full press release](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/465037/pm-jacinda-ardern-to-lead-trade-mission-to-singapore-japan)
* World food prices hit an all-time high in March. The FAO) said its Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in international prices for a basket of commodities, was up 12.6% from February - the highest level since its inception in 1990.
* The Government released new proposals last week in an attempt to combat the challenges of modern slavery. Included in the proposals is a requirement for organisations to take action if they become aware of modern slavery or worker exploitation. In addition, large organisations will be required to undertake due diligence to prevent, mitigate and remedy modern slavery and worker exploitation. [Consultation on the proposals](https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/modern-slavery) has opened and submissions can be made until 7 June 2022.

**MFATs reports released in the last week**

* [MFAT – Monitoring Global Supply Chains: January – March 2022](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-global/mfat-monitoring-global-supply-chains-january-march-2022/)
* [Expo 2020 Dubai: Food, agriculture and livelihoods, April 2022](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/market-reports-middle-east/expo-2020-dubai-food-agriculture-and-livelihoods-april-2022/)



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. [**Prime Minister leads trade mission to Singapore and Japan**](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/prime-minister-lead-trade-mission-singapore-and-japan)

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern will lead a trade mission to Singapore and Japan to support New Zealand’s economic rebuild through reconnecting with two of its closest Indo-Pacific economic and security partners. The Prime Minister will be accompanied by Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O’Connor and 13 business leaders.

In Singapore the Prime Minister will meet with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and make a call on President Halimah Yacob. She will also address key Singapore entrepreneurs and business leaders as part of a NZ hosted gala dinner. The Prime Minister will also; visit one of Singapore’s major ports to discuss ways to future proof our supply chain, engage with aviation sector leaders on making aviation more sustainable, take part in a customary welcome ceremony, at the request of the Singapore government, and will attend a Kūwaha unveiling at Gardens by the Bay as a symbol of the strong cultural ties between the two countries.

In Japan, the Prime Minister will, for the first time, meet with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to discuss global and regional challenges. She will also address the Japan-New Zealand Business Council, meet with high profile business and industry leader’s including in the clean energy and tech sectors. The Prime Minister and her accompanying delegation will be travelling on a NZDF Boeing 757 and will depart New Zealand on April 18 and return on April 24.

* 1. [**Govt helps fast-track organic medicinal cannabis industry**](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/govt-helps-fast-track-organic-medicinal-cannabis-industry)

The Government has partnered with the country’s largest and only organic certified medicinal cannabis grower to accelerate the growth of the industry – support which could see it become as successful as our wine industry in the near future. The $32.2 million joint project will run from 2022 to 2027, with the Government contributing $13 million through the Ministry for Primary Industries’ Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures fund, to help Marlborough-based company Puro Ltd fast-track the establishment of an organic medical cannabis industry in New Zealand.

“Matatihi Economic Research has calculated that the project’s potential economic benefit to New Zealand could be up to $236 million by 2032. Founded in 2018, Puro harvested its first crop of medical cannabis last year. The company is New Zealand’s largest medical cannabis grower, with the only organic certification in Australasia. The global medical cannabis market is valued at $28 billion and is growing at 27 per cent annually.

** Commentary**

* 1. [**Future food security must start with quality production now**](https://www.odt.co.nz/opinion/future-food-security-must-start-quality-production-now)

Many agricultural and horticultural products globally are in shortage and there are ramifications across food supply chains. We are about to experience massive shortages in wheat production — Ukraine and Russia make up 30% of the world’s wheat trade. Prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, China was already stockpiling record amounts of wheat. Canada, a large crop producer, has had massive droughts, and there are similar scenarios playing out in the United States.

Dairy prices are at a global high and there will be countries stockpiling dairy products. This bodes well for New Zealand dairy producers who make dairy products from grass (not grain). It doesn’t bode well for any company buying those raw ingredients and turning them into higher value products.

The best position to be in right now is to be a low-input, commodity producer. How long is this going to last? We probably have a window of 10 years before alternate food production methods, like precision fermentation, make a dent. Which they will — the high commodity prices we are experiencing are not sustainable and will drive investment into food technology — country leaders cannot afford national food shortages and associated political instability.

The New Zealand Government will be reaping a big tax payout from farmers this year — horticulture, dairy and sheep and beef. Please, can we siphon more into determining our food future — domestic and exports. The politicisation and polarisation of farming and food production in New Zealand horrifies me — urban armchair critics and food producers need to work together, instead of against each other firing ignorant pot-shots. Only the countries which innovate and collaborate to support quality food production, will attain food security and land resilience.

**The New Zealand Food Safety Science and Research Centre (NZFSSRC) news**

* 1. **NZFSSRC appoints new director**

The New Zealand Food Safety Science and Research Centre (NZFSSRC) have announced the appointment of a new director. Dr Libby Harrison, currently General Manager Health and Environment at ESR, with overall responsibility for ESR's food safety research, will be joining the NZFSSRC team on 18 July 2022. . [More](https://fpsc-anz.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c73673335989d1fc2801530c8&id=a76c5f2161&e=f93013672e).

* 1. **2022 Fresh Produce Safety Conference**

This years Fresh Produce Safety Conference theme is "Promoting Skills, Science, Systems and Standards. It will be held on **11 August** at the Refectory, Holme Building, University of Sydney and broadcast live via online production.

* 1. **Freshcare & FPSC A-NZ launch three new food safety resources**

The Fresh Produce Safety Centre Australia & New Zealand  in collaboration with Freshcare have launched three new simple food safety flyers for the fresh produce industry. These flyers developed with Freshcare draw from chapters from the FPSC’s [Guidelines for Fresh Produce Food Safety](https://fpsc-anz.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c73673335989d1fc2801530c8&id=e3e82c6367&e=f93013672e) and are easy-to-understand tools for businesses across the supply chain. [More](https://fpsc-anz.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c73673335989d1fc2801530c8&id=c08e75663c&e=f93013672e) .

* 1. **Food** **safety risks of harvesting dropped and drooping produce**

A new publication in the Journal of Food Protection aims to answer the questions (i) what are the risk factors that influence transferability of pathogens from touching the ground to produce and (ii) what are the risks associated with harvesting dropped or drooping produce? It finds that there is a lack of literature on this topic, but what is available points to soil and mulch posing a differential risk, with bare soil generally presenting a lower risk than plastic mulch. [More](https://fpsc-anz.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c73673335989d1fc2801530c8&id=77c4cd0c0b&e=f93013672e).

* 1. **Thinking about the future of food safety – A foresight report**

FAO have produce a foresight report about the future of food safety. Food safety is a keystone to agrifood systems and all food safety actors need to keep pace with the ongoing transformation while preparing to navigate the potential threats, disruptions, and challenges that may arise. In this publication, the FAO Food Safety Foresight programme provides an overview of the major global drivers and trends by describing their implications for food safety in particular and for agrifood systems by extrapolation. [More](https://fpsc-anz.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c73673335989d1fc2801530c8&id=8ac967e6db&e=f93013672e).

* 1. **Online Food Safety webinars**

Join IFPA ANZ Head of Food Safety Deon Mahoney for a series of online webinars looking at fresh produce inputs, regulatory requirements and food safety challenges.

Register to attend using the links below:

20 April - [Food Safety 2: Keeping on top of regulatory requirements and standards](https://fpsc-anz.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c73673335989d1fc2801530c8&id=a47774b295&e=f93013672e)

11 May - [Food Safety 3: Emerging food safety challenges for the fresh produce sector](https://fpsc-anz.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c73673335989d1fc2801530c8&id=3546db9274&e=f93013672e)



* 1. [**Fruitful ties for New Zealand and Vietnam**](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/188036/fruitful-ties-for-new-zealand-and-vietnam)

New Zealand and Vietnam have committed to expanding their agricultural cooperation and expanding access for fruit exports from both counties. On 6 April representatives from the two countries met for the second New Zealand - Vietnam Agricultural Dialogue. The dialogue was held virtually by chief executive of the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, Ray Smith, and vice minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Le Quoc Doanh.

At the event both countries committed to enhancing bilateral trade, agricultural sustainability, promoting food safety, utilising agriculture research and technology for in rural development. Smith said there was an opportunity for both sides to consider how they can work together to build the resilience of their agricultural industries following the Covid-19 pandemic.“We also look forward to finalising new fruit access for each other this year so consumers can enjoy New Zealand strawberries and squash in Vietnam and Vietnam’s limes and pomelos in New Zealand,” said Smith.

New Zealand has been supporting the development of Vietnam’s dragon fruit industry since 2013, through the [Vietnam-New Zealand Premium Fruit Variety Development Project](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/179127/dragon-fruit-partnership-delivers). Doanh proposed further collaboration in this area and said his country’s industry could learn from the success of New Zealand’s kiwifruit industry.

* 1. **[NZ Envy season gets underway](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/188063/nz-envy-season-underway-1)**

**T**&G Global began exporting new season New Zealand-grown Envy apples last week to Asia from the Port of Napier Around 2m cartons of New Zealand-grown Envy will be shipped to consumers in 60 countries this season. Despite the continued volatility and global supply chain challenges caused by Covid-19, T&G Global has confidence in the shipping programme it has put in place.

The company is working closely with shipping partners and collaborating de fellow exporters, including Zespri and Bostock New Zealand, to charter and co-ship our fresh produce to the States.

* 1. [**The growing market for NZ-grown organically produced apples**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9418885/the-growing-market-for-nz-grown-organically-produced-apples/)

A New Zealand apple grower says organic production has become a strong, growing market in recent years, with rewarding advantages - but it is not without its challenges. Bayleaf Organics, at Haumona on the country's North Island, manages 50 hectares of organic apple orchards. There is an increasing market of consumers who want to eat nil residue, nutritionally dense food that has been grown in an ethical, environmentally safe system.

The owners says organic apple growing is a challenge, as they do not have the full range of options available to them, that conventional growers do to combat all the pests and diseases and sprays are often weather-based, rather than calendar sprays.

This year has been a challenging season, producing a smaller volume than predicted, but a good quality crop. Mrs Dowling says there are some blocks that have poor pollination, and blocks that had poor thinning last season, due to labour issues with COVID-19, have shown signs of going biennial bearing.

Their crop is exported, sold domestically and seconds are juiced at Coral Tree Organics, for high-quality Organic Apple Cider Vinegar and other products.

* 1. [**Rockit Global wins NZ-China trade award**](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/188049/rockit-global-wins-nz-china-trade-award)

**R**ockit Global was among the winners at the 2021 HSBC New Zealand China Trade Association China Business Awards. The awards were presented via an online broadcast Thursday 7 April. Rockit Global, the New Zealand-based company behind the miniature Rockit apple, was presented with the Large Business Trade Award. The company’s China market manager, Yue D, said the award recognised the work that went into establishing a premium brand positioning for Rockit apples in China.“At the time of entering these awards, our New Zealand export volume was up 43 per cent (2021 vs 2020), our e-commerce sales had tripled since 2019 and localised China activity had seen Rockit sales increase 42 per cent (July 2020 vs July 2021),” Yue explained.

* 1. [**New Zealand fruit and vegetable prices up 18% in a year**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9418457/new-zealand-fruit-and-vegetable-prices-up-18-in-a-year/)

According to Stats NZ, food prices in New Zealand have risen 7.6% in the last year - the highest annual increase in over a decade. The 7.6% increase in food prices between March 2021 and March 2022 was the largest increase since 2011, when prices rose 7.9% on the previous year, influenced by a GST increase from 12.5% to 15% in October 2010.

"Average prices for vegetables like tomatoes, broccoli, iceberg lettuce, and cabbage were notably higher than they were in March 2020 and 2021,” consumer prices manager Katrina Dewbery said.

Fruit and vegetable prices also rose 1.2% in March from February, influenced by higher prices for cabbage, tomatoes, strawberries, and kumara. “The average price of cabbage increased 28% in March, from $3.92 to $5.03 per kilogram,” The price of Avocados fell.

* 1. **F**[**irst Europe-bound Zespri kiwifruit charter set to arrive at the end of April**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9418476/first-europe-bound-zespri-kiwifruit-charter-set-to-arrive-at-the-end-of-april/)

The first of this season’s Zespri SunGold Kiwifruit have left Port of Tauranga, bound for the Port of Zeebrugge where they will arrive at the end of April. The first shipment of Zespri Green Kiwifruit is expected to arrive in Europe in May. This season, Zespri expects to undertake four charter sailings to North Europe with latest estimates showing a supply of more than 63 million trays of Zespri Kiwifruit (SunGold and Green) in 2022 to the EU*. The article provides details of the marketing support for the* *EU*

* 1. **[Joy Wing Mau and Zespri welcome the first shipment of New Zealand kiwifruit to China](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9417954/joy-wing-mau-and-zespri-welcome-the-first-shipment-of-new-zealand-kiwifruit-to-china/)**

Sharing the dividends of economic development and boosting the China-Singapore fruit trade. On April 10, the cargo ship STAR SPIRIT loaded with the new season Zespri kiwifruit from New Zealand departed from Tauranga Port, New Zealand, and docked at Damaiyu Port, Taizhou, Zhejiang.

Joy Wing Mau Fruit Technology Group and Zespri China have joined forces to start the new fruit season in 2022. After a close cooperation between the two parties for 20 years, China has become the main export market for Zespri New Zealand kiwifruit, setting a model for cross-border economic and trade cooperation in the fruit industry.

The first shipment of Zespri New Zealand kiwifruit this year amounted to 6,000 tons made up of Sun gold and RubyRed In November 2021, Joy Wing Mau signed a contract with Zespri China to become a strategic partner for the next five years to jointly promote the in-depth development of the Zespri ecosystem against the background of normalized pandemic prevention and controls. With the arrival of the new Zespri fruit season in 2022, Joy Wing Mau will concentrate resources to provide Zespri China with more professional and efficient services. The world's most advanced small packaging processing and the subcontracting system can meet the personalized and refined customer needs of different channels

* 1. [**Kiwifruit picker reveals secret to earning $60 per hour**](https://www.stuff.co.nz/bay-of-plenty/300559856/kiwifruit-picker-reveals-secret-to-earning-60-per-hour)

Is it really possible to earn $60 an hour picking fruit? “Absolutely,” says Maketū’s Trish Townsend, who has been a kiwifruit picker in the Bay of Plenty for four years. “I did $60 per hour yesterday, and I am looking forward to $90 an hour at Easter when we’ll be on time-and-a-half.. “If you are in a good team you can make $60 an hour or more on a contract basis, as you get paid by the bin.” Townsend says bin rates have increased since last year, but advises potential pickers to shop around, ask about terms, and join teams that have experienced pickers to learn from.

Now 52, the mother of six says she is one of the oldest pickers. “But I am the best! I can go harder than a 20-year-old- she can fill a bin on her own in less than 20 minutes, and works eight hours a day, seven days a week unless it is raining.

Townsend works in orchards around Te Puke and says while newcomers start every week, some of them simply don’t work out. “If you are new and haven’t picked before, you might go on an hourly rate from $24 to $26 while you learn the ropes,” said Townsend. “I always get pulled in to help train them because good picking is not about speed, it’s about technique. “You have to put the bag tight and high on your body and hold your shoulders upright, so your arms are doing the work.. You do have to be fit, but it is learning a good technique that gets you the big money.”

Packhouses have been further hit by the ongoing Covid crisis, meaning some days they can be down by hundreds of staff. Last month post-harvest firm Trevelyn’s estimated that they were operating at 60 per cent, but were still getting the job done by moving shifts around and getting office workers and bosses to pitch in. Wages start from $24 per hour plus holiday pay and incentives, which vary from each packhouse. They also include bonuses, free transport, spot prizes for fuel or food vouchers, subsidised food, and wellness programmes.

Anita Rosentreter, First Union strategic project coordinator, said the rate of $24 an hour is higher than previous years, when packhouses paid the minimum wage. But she fears the extra money will be shaved off when overseas workers return. First Union, which represents the rights of all workers in sectors that have been traditionally non-union industries such as horticulture, is currently in collective bargaining with industry leader Seeka for workers in Northland. There are currently no union agreements in place in the Bay of Plenty, with Rosentreter alleging that Seeka refuse to negotiate and that workers are “scared”.

Rosentreter has accused Bay of Plenty industry leaders of “playing fast and loose with the truth” regarding pay and exploiting their workers as “cheap” and “expendable” despite multi-million dollar profits and big payouts to bosses. She claims when First Union representatives initially asked Seeka chief executive Michael Franks if the current rate of $24 an hour would be continued beyond the pandemic, he described it as an added incentive due to Covid. Now First Union is putting pressure on Seeka to agree to a minimum of $24 an hour as a permanent starting wage for all workers, including those in the Bay of Plenty.

Franks also said their 2021 pre-tax profit included a $7.6m legal settlement with the Crown, while the prior year was impacted by $10 million in Covid costs and drought. “We have assets of $482 million,” he said. “You can draw your own conclusions on the operating profit level.”

* 1. [**A good season for kiwiberries**](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/media-releases/good-season-for-kiwiberries-despite-challenges/)

Kiwiberries are small (usually between 5g and 20g) with smooth, hairless edible skins and shapes varying from round to elongated. Like grapes they are a single mouthful, but unlike grapes they are considered a superfood due to the high density of vitamins, minerals, pigments and phenols.

Harvested between early February and mid-March, the New Zealand kiwiberry is recognised globally for its high quality and nutritional value. It has higher levels of vitamin C (gram for gram) than kiwifruit and oranges. The main producing countries who supply the international market are New Zealand, the United States, Canada and Chile.

One of the Industries big markets is Australia. “It’s a fruit that doesn’t have a hugely long shelf-life so it doesn’t travel that well. The Asian markets are the best for us. As for the United States, we compete with Chile who produce cheaper kiwiberries but lower quality. They also fruit earlier so they control that market. Right at the moment we are very close to getting back into China. We had access there up until 2016 when Chinese authorities reviewed the kiwifruit category and we were dropped off.”

Numbers of kiwiberry growers have dropped over the past few years while returns have been lower, Geoff says. There are only around 25 commercial kiwiberry growers in the country. Overall, this season’s New Zealand production will be down slightly

The packhouse arm of operations is rebranding from Kiwi Produce to Yieldia. It was established in 1986 as a specialist kiwifruit packhouse, pre-packer and distributor. It is operational 12 months of the year and handles a large range of New Zealand produce including avocados, kiwifruit, feijoas, kiwiberry, citrus, passionfruit and other sub-tropical fruits. Yieldia packs over 2 million tray equivalents of locally grown fruit a year and employs 60 staff at the peak of the season. The site also incorporates six fully-monitored coolstores. Newer products include Kiwilicious Dried Kiwifruit and Kiwilicious IQF (Individually Quick Frozen) Kiwifruit.

* 1. [**Hawke’s Bay almond-growing trial might be extended**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9418874/hawke-s-bay-almond-growing-trial-might-be-extended/)

Almonds have grown wild in Central Otago for many years. But only now, Plant & Food Research is embarking on a $100 k feasibility study to see if almonds can be grown sustainably in Hawke’s Bay. AgFirst will undertake a financial analysis as part of the project in Hawke’s Bay. It will consider the economics of setting up a profitable almond orchard system — factoring in market prices, climatic volatility, and environmental sustainability challenges.

* 1. **[The East Coast's meltdown](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/the-east-coast-s-meltdown?ct=t(RNG_12_APR_2022_COPY_01))**

Last week the rain stopped and the sun came out in Gisborne, enabling farmers and local authorities to fully assess the extent of the damage. Some horticultural crops, especially processed vegetables, have suffered and some crops completely ruined. Vegetable production is touch-and-go but maize may be okay. The article reports that the kiwifruit harvest should be all right but warns the challenge for apple orchardists is simply getting on the wet boggy land  - especially with tractors and other machines used in the harvesting operation.

* 1. [**Watching from space: keeping pests and diseases out of NZ**](https://hortnz.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=aecda7aaa04d433b3c1267c8e&id=8fa3922162&e=2b699d0a67)

A conversation with MPI's recent Ko tātou Biosecurity Supreme Award Winner is Central Otago-based [Xerra Earth Observation Institute](https://www.xerra.nz/).  Xerra is tracking pests and viruses hitch-hiking on vessels here, observing them from up in space, helping the Ministry for Primary Industries perform risk assessments usng satellite data.

** Bits and pieces**

* 1. [**Flattening the curve – horticulture style**](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/media-releases/flattening-the-curve-horticulture-style/)

In New Zealand we are fortunate to be free from many pests and diseases that occur in other countries. To protect this status and support our primary industries we impose some of the strictest biosecurity border controls in the world. However, as the international movements of people, goods, and mail increases, our country is coming under greater invasion pressure from unwanted pests and diseases and it is not possible for border controls alone to provide 100 percent protection.

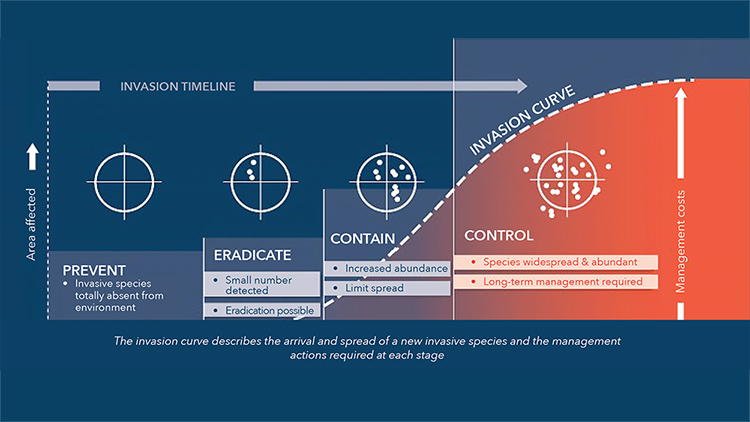
When an invasive plant pest is detected in New Zealand for the first time, MPI works with the affected sector to control the local situation, assess the national situation, and decide on the best control strategy. While eradication of the pest is often the most desirable outcome, the chances of eradication being successful decreases as the length of time the pest has been here and the geographical distance it has spread over increase.

Eradication is also more difficult if the pest is biologically programmed to be a successful invader. For example, pests capable of spreading across long distances fast, or that reproduce rapidly, or that are hard to detect early are likely to be more challenging to eradicate. Think of the difference between the original strain of Covid-19 that as a country we successfully eliminated using lockdowns and the Omicron strain. Sometimes a strategy other than eradication is forced upon us by the characteristics of the situation.

The pest control options available at different stages of an invasion can be illustrated using an invasion curve. If the size of an invading pest population is already too large for national eradication to be successful, it may still be possible to contain the infestation in a particular part of the country using localised control measures. However, if the pest has well and truly established itself then we all have to learn to live with it and develop the best long-term management strategy to minimise its negative impacts.

In recent years, the United Kingdom and Australia both made quite rapid decisions not to pursue eradication of a significant invasive plant pest. Instead, they focussed on industry, science and government working together to flatten the invasion curve by developing long-term management strategies that effectively minimise pest-related damage and impacts.

Growers play key roles at every stage of an invasion curve. While some actions may be mandated on growers by MPI as part of a biosecurity response, enhancing general biosecurity practices on farms is also important for pest and disease control. It can be the actions of growers that stop a pest in its tracks and achieve eradication, as demonstrated recently by the pea growers of Wairarapa. But when a pest or disease does become locally or nationally established it is also the growers who are the main players in preventing huge population explosions that then become very challenging to control. The actions we take here within New Zealand are critical parts of the overall biosecurity system. Border protection alone cannot keep our businesses and communities safe from harm from unwanted pests and diseases, but there is a lot growers can do to mitigate the risks posed by these invaders to their own farm and the country.



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 **Rural news**

* 1. [**Morning Rural News for 13 April 2022**](https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ruralnews/audio/2018838024/morning-rural-news-for-13-april-2022)

# Zespri managing to getting Kiwifruit into China at a 300 km south of Shanghai but lockdowns will have an impact sales

# Increased food prices and 18% increase in price of vegetables

# Australian grower has had to dump tonnes of strawberries after all his staff tested Covid positive

* 1. [**Morning Rural News for 14 April 2022**](https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ruralnews/audio/2018838205/morning-rural-news-for-14-april-2022)

# EU FTA – still trying to find middle ground on agricultural tariffs

# Clothing company – wants increased quantities of locally grown processed hemp fibre for use in merino / hemp fabric creating a bigger demand for hemp production.

* 1. [**Midday Rural News for 14 April 2022**](https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ruralnews/audio/2018838261/midday-rural-news-for-14-april-2022)

# Otago wing growers have had a dream production season but still struggling with harvesting

# Primary ITO working to place people I primary Industry

* 1. [**Morning Rural News for 19 April 2022**](https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ruralnews/audio/2018838598/morning-rural-news-for-19-april-2022)

# Zespri representative included on the PM’s trip to Singapore plus a representative from the Food Bowl in Palmerston North

# Tamarillo growers being badly affected by Tomato potatoes psyllid (TPP) and many growers are considering leaving the Industry this winter. Growers have decreased from 187 to 25 since TPP arrived in the country



1. **International news**

**Comment**

* 1. **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. With regard to import regulations for a particular market New Zealand exporters should first check the countries ICPR on MPI’s web site. These are collated specifically for New Zealand product. However, the Gain reports often provide additional information that is useful e.g., on grading and labelling, economic profiles. To see the full report, click on the link in each notification This week see:

1. **Beijing Municipal Authorities Announce Strict COVID-19 Control Measures** [Beijing Municipal Authorities Announce Strict COVID-19 Control Measures \_Beijing ATO\_China - People's Republic of\_CH2022-0046](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Beijing%20Municipal%20Authorities%20Announce%20Strict%20COVID-19%20Control%20Measures%20_Beijing%20ATO_China%20-%20People's%20Republic%20of_CH2022-0046)
2. **China Draft Food Safety Standards Issued for Domestic Comment** [Draft Food Safety Standards Issued for Domestic Comment\_Beijing\_China - People's Republic of\_CH2022-0044](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Draft%20Food%20Safety%20Standards%20Issued%20for%20Domestic%20Comment_Beijing_China%20-%20People's%20Republic%20of_CH2022-0044)
3. **European Commission Proposes Revision of Geographical Indications Legislation** [European Commission Proposes Revision of Geographical Indications Legislation \_Brussels USEU\_European Union\_E42022-0032](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=European%20Commission%20Proposes%20Revision%20of%20Geographical%20Indications%20Legislation%20_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42022-0032)
4. **European Commission Authorizes Four GE Crops for Import** [European Commission Authorizes Four GE Crops for Import\_Brussels USEU\_European Union\_E42022-0028](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=European%20Commission%20Authorizes%20Four%20GE%20Crops%20for%20Import_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42022-0028)

 **Regulatory**

* 1. **"**[**China needs own seeds to guarantee country's food bowl**](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9418124/china-needs-own-seeds-to-guarantee-country-s-food-bowl/)**"**

Chinese President Xi Jinping said the country needs to be independent in seeds to achieve food security, reiterating growing concerns about China’s reliance on imports of food. “Only by holding Chinese seeds tightly with our own hands can we stabilize the Chinese food bowl and achieve food security,” Xi is reported to have said. Seed sources must be independent and controllable, and seed industry technology must be self-reliant, he added. China produces most crop seed at home due to quarantine requirements on imports as well as production costs but some vegetables, such as spinach, cauliflower and carrots, are grown largely from foreign seed, according to a state media report last year.

* 1. **["Agro-science is essential to transition to a more sustainable model"](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9419289/agro-science-is-essential-to-transition-to-a-more-sustainable-model/)**

The Agro-science Manifesto promoted by the Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, ALAS, was presented at a conference about "The role of science in the sustainability of agriculture." The manifesto argues that only decision-making that recognizes the innovative role of agriculture and is based on science will allow maintaining the competitiveness, employment, production, and modernization of the sector, betting on a fair transition that allows combating depopulation in rural areas.

The Director-General of Agricultural Productions and Markets of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, Esperanza Orellana, stressed that agro-science is an essential element for the transition towards a more sustainable agri-food model. "Genetic editing techniques allow reducing food waste, improving health through food, having better crop behavior in the face of pests, and better adaptation to the climate challenges faced by agriculture. The advantage of this biotechnology is that it allows us to produce more with less," she added.

The Manifesto for Agro-science launches seven concrete proposals, aimed at public administrations, economic and social agents, and society in general, such as enhancing the role of the agricultural sector as a carbon sink; considering agriculture and livestock in Spain as a European laboratory for climate change; making the objective of reducing the use of plant protection products by 50% more flexible; having European authorities establish a regulatory framework based on scientific criteria that allow farmers to use the varieties best adapted to plant health challenges, competing on an equal footing, valuing recent advances in genetic editing techniques, and highlighting the role that technology and digitization play throughout the agri-food value chain.

* 1. [**Lidl and Global GAP reveal the first sector-wide biodiversity certification**](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9418816/lidl-and-global-gap-reveal-the-first-sector-wide-certification/)

Lidl and Global GAP, together with partners, have developed a certification for the protection of biodiversity in the conventional production of fruit and vegetables in Europe. The module has been developed at the level of the Global GAP standard and is intended for all market players, from producers to retailers. Lidl will be the first food retailer in Europe to work with this certification.

According to Marion Hammerl, president of the World Wide Fund for Nature, “it is scientifically proven that the loss of biodiversity is the greatest challenge for our planet and for agriculture, after climate change. The creation of this standard will help preserve biodiversity by setting a deadline, among other things, for the conversion of natural ecosystems into farmland, while requiring a biodiversity management plan and establishing more efficient criteria for soil conservation and integrated pest management. Acknowledging the interaction between a farm and its environment is an important first step to develop a global landscape approach, necessary to stop the loss of biodiversity.”

The first step is to identify the raw materials whose cultivation is associated with particularly high risks for biodiversity. In 2022, Lidl France is implementing 3 roadmaps for the empowerment of 6 “high-priority” sectors (banana, potato, and exotic fruit including pineapple, avocado, pink grapefruit, and mango). These roadmaps are a plan to improve the environmental and social aspects specific to these sectors, especially regarding the preservation of biodiversity.

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. [**Could high fertilizer prices create food shortages?**](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9418932/could-high-fertilizer-prices-create-food-shortages/)

Global fertilizer prices have bounced again, and this time it’s not just farmers who are worried. Consumers too are starting to wonder what will this mean for food prices and availability. Senior Commodities Analyst Cheryl Kalisch Gordon is joined by Wes Lefroy, Senior Farm Inputs Analyst, to examine the relationship between fertilizer prices, crop production, and availability.

Listen to the podcast [here](https://research.rabobank.com/far/en/sectors/regional-food-agri/podcast-could-high-fertiliser-prices-create-food-shortages.html).

* 1. [**What does the rise of AI in agriculture mean for the future of farming?**](https://lens.monash.edu/@politics-society/2022/04/14/1384533/what-does-the-rise-of-ai-in-agriculture-mean-for-the-future-of-farming)

“The world is not data,” states a new Monash-led paper on the future of farming, “and plants and animals are not machines.”

A Monash University paper – published by NJAS: Impact in Agricultural and Life Sciences – is titled “[Managing the risks of artificial intelligence in agriculture](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/27685241.2021.2008777)”. The primary focus is the ethical issues raised by the use of AI in agriculture. At issue in farming are the benefits and risks of using more and more machine learning and artificial intelligence, both in large-scale industrial farming “agribusiness” and also smaller properties.

The paper looks at what may happen next, and what it means, not for the economy necessarily, or the GDP of Australia, but for the role and status of the “farmer”. “The world is not data, plants and animals are not machines”. The key question this raises, and the paper addresses in a set of benefits and risks, is to do with the changing face of agricultural work, potentially away from the plants and animals, and towards the data.

[The paper cites US research from 2015 in Rural Sociology](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ruso.12066) journal on the “de-masculinisation” of agribusiness, with the Australian researchers adding: “…by allowing fewer human beings to supervise more machines, AI systems will make farmers’ jobs more white-collar and professional. The risk is losing contact with the ground, the water and the skies. “We’re already losing touch with the natural world that sustains us,” Professor Sparrow says, “and I think that's quite dangerous. But these technologies are the culmination or an extension of existing technologies. It's already the case that most people have no idea where their food comes from.

Can the involvement of fewer people make farming better? “There’s two different visions of farming for the future,” Professor Sparrow says. “One is more localised, more biodiverse, more small-scale enterprises. The other vision is of more efficient, high-technology, large farms, at economies of scale.

“The latter is obviously more productive in the short term, but whether it's actually capable of delivering food security into the future would be much more controversial.

Professor Sparrow leads a team of researchers who have secured Australian Research Council funding for three years to extend the work into AI and agriculture

[](http://upload.evocdn.co.uk/fruitnet/uploads/asset_image/2_1216358_e.jpg) **Freight**

* 1. [**Shipping companies cancel calls at Shanghai Port**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9418338/shipping-companies-cancel-calls-at-shanghai-port-and-some-cargoes-were-transferred-to-other-ports-for-unloading/)

Since the city-wide closure of Shanghai, land transportation has been restricted to a certain extent, which has affected customers' order changing and container pick-up operations. A large number of imported containers have been piled up at the terminal, resulting in tight storage space.

Shipping companies such as Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd, Mediterranean, CMA CGM, and ONE have successively announced that dangerous goods and reefer containers will be transferred to other ports for unloading.

* 1. [**Containers pile up at ports of Shanghai due to lockdowns**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9418338/shipping-companies-cancel-calls-at-shanghai-port-and-some-cargoes-were-transferred-to-other-ports-for-unloading/)

Containers full of frozen food and chemicals are piling up at China’s biggest port in Shanghai as a Covid lockdown in the city and compulsory virus testing means truckers can’t get to the docks to pick up boxes. A shortage of trucks to haul containers from the port is impeding the clearance of imports.

Shanghai is now the epicenter of China’s worst Covid outbreak in two years, with more than 21,000 cases reported last Thursday. The shortage of trucks is also hitting companies in the city, which have been able to continue working through the lockdown.

* 1. **[Chinese truckers caught in a web of quarantine controls](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9419276/chinese-truckers-caught-in-a-web-of-quarantine-controls/)**

In China, Covid-19 restrictions leave hundreds of thousands of truck drivers caught in a web of quarantine controls. The country relies on its 17.3 million truckers to keep store shelves full while also connecting the nation’s ports with its manufacturing hubs.The logjam is preventing crucial deliveries from reaching companies, stalling production in key industrial regions, with the impact likely to continue rippling across the economy even as cities move to loosen lockdowns.

* 1. [**Maersk launches Maersk Air Cargo**](http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/188048/maersk-launches-maersk-air-cargo)

**A**P Moller–Maersk has launched Maersk Air Cargo, a new airfreight business to advance the company’s efforts to deliver a fully-integrated logistics service. Maersk’s ambition is to have approximately one third of its annual air tonnage carried within its own controlled freight network. This will be achieved through a combination of owned and leased aircraft, replicating the structure that the company has within its ocean fleet. Maersk Air Cargo is expected to be fully operational by the second half of 2022.

 **Food safety**

* 1. [**Coles recalls packets of baby spinach over salmonella fears**](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9418196/coles-recalls-60g-120g-280g-packets-of-baby-spinach-over-salmonella-fears/)

Coles in Australia has issued an urgent recall of its baby spinach packets after the bacteria salmonella was detected during routine testing. The supermarket giant has recalled its house-brand baby spinach packets in the 60g, 120g and 280g sizes with use by dates between April 13 and 14.



* 1. [**Bayer takes "holistic" approach**](http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/188079/bayer-takes-holistic-approach)

Bayer Crop Science, the agricultural arm of global pharmaceutical giant Bayer, is repositioning itself from inputs supplier to sustainable solutions provider for the entire fruit and vegetable supply chain.

At a press conference held during the Fruit Logistica trade show in Berlin last week (6 April), a panel of Bayer Crop Science representatives said the company had shifted its focus from supplying chemicals for crops and countries, to looking at horticulture through a “holistic lens” to address the needs of consumers, growers and retailers.

Speakers added that Bayer planned to reduce the environmental impact of its crop protection products by 30 per cent by 2030, and that sustainability was “at the heart of everything” it was trying to do.

Frank Terhorst, head of strategy and sustainability at Bayer’s Crop Science division, said: “By 2030, consumers are expected to increase their spend on fruit and vegetables by 50 per cent. The business interest for us is to make this happen. We want to bring solutions to the farm, develop horticulture on the farm as well as beyond the farm. Our goal here is to provide seeds, plant protection products and digital innovations.”

“That means developing varieties that provide a good yield for the grower and have a good shelf life, but that also have a great taste, colour and texture. It means understanding the needs of consumers to develop new products, also working with growers on how to get their produce known, and working with retailers on how best to market the products.”

Bayer’s current work with growers, are combining its chemical, biological and digital applications to help address producer challenges of disease, pests, and optimise their yield to deliver affordable produce to consumers. “If we harness the right data and analytics to help growers make decisions, we advance precision agriculture” which is better for the environment, he said.

* 1. [**Bioplastic Breakthroughs and Applications in Food Packaging**](https://www.packagingdigest.com/food-packaging/bioplastic-breakthroughs-and-applications-food-packaging)

It's been eight years since The Coca-Cola Co. introduced the [PlantBottle](http://www.packagingdigest.com/smart-packaging/coca-cola-company-introduces-bioplastic-bottle" \t "_blank)? That breakthrough, first-generation PlantBottle replaced one of the two base components of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) with renewable materials made from sugar cane byproducts. *This article provides links to 10* research and commercialization of renewable bioplastics for food packaging found to-date this year. This report sets the stage of the global biopolymers market, which is forecast to expand at a 11.45%

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