

**PMAC weekly update 17th to 21st December 2018**

1. **Government agencies**: Assistance from MPI over the Xmas break; Access to Myanmar; ICPR changes; Updated requirements for food exports to Canada; MPI acknowledges SSC report into staff misconduct; Special traps set in Tauranga as part of brown marmorated stink bug surveillance; Biosecurity New Zealand and DOC warn of myrtle rust risk this summer; WTO Notifications
2. **New Zealand News:**  Why aren’t there more robots in New Zealand?; How to prepare your New Zealand business for Brexit; Netlogix and Oji Fibre Solutions Launch Large Scale Shipping Solution; Do you want free market research?; Proposed temporary visa changes welcomed by horticulture; Zespri sues for $70m over trademark breach in China; T&G Global profit dented by cheaper tomatoes & small grape harvest; Cherry prices to go up after unseasonable rain New Zealand; New Zealand suspected 'slave boss' arrested; Ngāti Hine people invest in kiwifruit orchards; Still fighting to keep stink bugs off Australian shores
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; USDA Releases 2017 PDP Report; US apple exports decreased by 19%; European promotions of fresh fruit and vegetables; Farm identified as source of romaine lettuce E. coli O157:H7 outbreak; Green leafy vegetables may prevent ‘fatty liver’

***Editors Comments***

*With so many people finishing work on the 21st I’ve brought forward the final update for the year by a day. I’ll have the next Update with you on the 8th January*

*Lots of interesting articles this week which I’ll leave you to enjoy.*

*I’d like to wish you and your family a very very Happy Christmas and New Year.*



1. **Agency news**



* 1. **Assistance from MPI over the Xmas break**

The Plant Exports Team and Plants, Wine & Organics Assurance Team of the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) are on Christmas/New Year’s leave from 5pm on 21 December 2018 until 9am on 7 January 2019.

Should you have an urgent enquiry only i.e. ones that if unanswered will result in an export shipment being delayed or not going ahead, please contact either:

#### Plant Exports team

John Randall from 21 - 28 December 2018 on 029 894 0530.

Maria Lloyd from 29 December - 6 January 2019 on 021 197 2584.

#### Plant, Wine & Organics team

Vicky Sekona from 21 - 30 December 2018 on 029 894 0518

Damian Clarke from 31 December - 6 January on 029 894 4518.

* 1. **Access to Myanmar**

Plant exports has announced Myanmar has announced that Pest Risk Analysis (PRAs)  are no longer needed for a number of commodities to Myanmar [*http://ppdmyanmar.org/allowed-import-plants-and-plant-products-that-do-not-need-data-information-for-pest-list-analysis-pra/*](http://ppdmyanmar.org/allowed-import-plants-and-plant-products-that-do-not-need-data-information-for-pest-list-analysis-pra/)

The list includes all existing products New Zealand has access for and many new commodities, all products will require an import permit and phytosanitary certificate. This is a great result for New Zealand and opens a potential new market for exporters.

This is a great result for New Zealand and hopefully new commodities will take this opportunity to export to Myanmar. MPI will update the ICPR as soon as possible, however  this will take some work as we need to include many new commodities.

* 1. **ICPR changes**

The ICPR for

* the European Union has been updated with a note that Zea mays (Maize) seed for sowing requires an additional declaration specific to France.
* India has been updated with the additions to ports of entry for India and changes to some commodity specific requirements for fresh fruit and vegetables, nursery stock, budwood and cuttings, tissue culture, seed for sowing and miscellaneous items.

To see the full ICPR go to [Importing Countries Phytosanitary Requirements (ICPRs)](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/requirements/icpr-importing-countries-phytosanitary-requirements/)

* 1. **Updated requirements for food exports to Canada**

MPI has produced an FYI (F17/18 [Safe Food for Canadians Act and Regulations – Information and Guidance](https://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/password-protected/fyis/nzl/f17-18.pdf) about the requirements for the export of foods to Canada in 2019 . Click on the link

* 1. **MPI acknowledges SSC report into staff misconduct**

MPI acknowledges the State Services Commission's (SSC's) report into the use of external security consultants by state sector agencies and accepts its findings. MPI will be adopting the new state sector Model Standards to strengthen the transparency and accountability of our operations.

The article provides the findings of MPI's proactive referral to the SSC of evidence of potential staff misconduct relating to events that occurred some years ago. All these events relate to activities of former employees. In the interests of transparency, MPI has released a range of material provided to the SSC's inquiry. [Documents released by MPI](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/information-releases/the-state-services-commissions-inquiry-into-the-use-of-external-security-consultants/)

"As a consequence the new DG is establishing a new Professional Standards Unit. This team will make information about the professional standards expected of staff more visible across the organisation, and undertake monitoring and checking to ensure these standards are being met. " It will build on good work that was first initiated in 2015 [Full article available here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/ministry-acknowledges-ssc-report-into-staff-misconduct/)

* 1. **Special traps set in Tauranga as part of brown marmorated stink bug surveillance**

Biosecurity New Zealand is laying special traps designed specifically to lure brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB), in an area in Mount Maunganui, following the detection of a lone male bug. This is a precautionary step following this detection.

The single live male BMSB was found on a side table, just inside the main entrance of a house in Mount Maunganui on 15 December. It's not known where the stink bug came from and inquiries are continuing to try to determine a pathway. The investigation to date has found no evidence of an established BMSB population.

Biosecurity New Zealand has some of the most up-to-date detection technology currently available, including the traps we use, along with the lures and our highly effective detector dogs. Around a dozen traps will be laid, with special lures around the area where the stink bug was detected, and near transitional facilities. A transitional facility is a place where imported items are taken to be checked before clearance for delivery to New Zealand buyers. The traps will be checked every couple of days for the first 2 weeks, then every fortnight.

Biosecurity New Zealand and industry have been running active education campaigns in New Zealand asking people to look out for BMSB to enable early detection. "It is due to this publicity that a member of the public reported this pest to us, and we thank them for doing so." "Alerts from the public are an important part of the system, allowing us to act quickly to eliminate any biosecurity threats. This find is a timely reminder that New Zealand's biosecurity system relies on more than just protections at the border." [Full article available here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/special-traps-set-in-tauranga-as-part-of-brown-marmorated-stink-bug-surveillance/)

* 1. **Biosecurity New Zealand and DOC warn of myrtle rust risk this summer**

Biosecurity New Zealand and DOC are encouraging the public to check their local myrtle plants this summer to help track the spread of the fungal disease myrtle rust.Myrtle rust is likely to be more active during warmer weather and is likely to spread to new areas where it hasn't been seen before.

New Zealand's precious native myrtle plants including pōhutukawa, rātā, mānuka, kānuka and ramarama are vulnerable to the disease. The fungus, which is mainly spread by wind, generally infects shoots, buds, and young leaves of myrtle plants. Infected plants show typical symptoms including bright yellow powdery spots on the underside of leaves.

If you think you see symptoms of myrtle rust remember to not touch the plant or collect samples, but take pictures and report it to Biosecurity New Zealand's Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline on 0800 80 99 66.

Biosecurity New Zealand and DOC are currently working in partnership to identify ways to best manage the disease and support the health of our myrtles in the future. In the meantime, it is important to understand where the rust has spread to, what plants it is affecting (especially new ones) and where it is active. [Full article available here](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/biosecurity-new-zealand-and-doc-warn-of-myrtle-rust-risk-this-summer/)

* 1. **WTO Notifications**

Please find attached the most recent WTO 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 so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country. Changes notified over the last week include:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Notifying Member** | **Products covered** | **Description of content** | **English doco** |
| Australia | Foods sold in Australia (both imported and domestically produced) | This Proposal seeks to amend the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* to align maximum residue limits (MRLs) for various agricultural and veterinary chemicals with  | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NAUS465.DOCX) |
| Canada | Pesticide bifenthrin in or on highbush blueberries (ICS Codes: 65.020, 65.100, 67.040, 67.080) | The proposed maximum residue limit (PMRL) document for bifenthrin  | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NCAN1201A1.DOCX) |
| Canada | Pesticide Fenhexamid in or on eggplants (ICS Codes: 65.020, 65.100, 67.040, 67.080) | The proposed maximum residue limit (PMRL) document for fenhexamid  | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NCAN1202A1.DOCX) |
| Canada | Pesticide afidopyropen in or on various commodities (ICS Codes: 65.020, 65.100, 67.040, 67.060, 67.080, 67.100, 67.120, 67.200) | The proposed maximum residue limit (PMRL) document for afidopyropen  | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NCAN1203A1.DOCX) |
| Canada | Pesticide picoxystrobin in or on various commodities  | The proposed maximum residue limit (PMRL) document for picoxystrobin | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NCAN1207A1.DOCX) |
| Canada | Pesticide fenamidone in or on various  | To consult on the listed maximum residue limits (MRLs) for fenamidone | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NCAN1226.DOCX) |
| Canada | Pesticide clomazone in or on cilantro  | To consult on the listed maximum residue limits (MRLs) for clomazone  | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NCAN1227.DOCX) |
| Canada | Pesticide spiromesifen in or on caneberries and cucurbit vegetables ( | To consult on the listed maximum residue limits (MRLs) for spiromesifen  | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NCAN1228.DOCX) |
| Canada | Pesticide fluazifop-butyl in or on various commodities ( | To consult on the listed maximum residue limits (MRLs) for fluazifop-butyl  | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NCAN1229.DOCX) |
| Canada | Pesticide flumioxazin in or on sunflowers  | To consult on the listed maximum residue limit (MRL) for flumioxazin  | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NCAN1230.DOCX) |
| Costa Rica | Plants for planting ---- from any country in which the presence of Adoretus sinicus (Chinese rose beetle)  | The following mandatory phytosanitary measures are established (in addition to existing requirements)  | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NCRI205.DOCX) |
| Costa Rica | Plants for planting of all reported hosts of the pest Cassida bivittata (L.) from any country where the pest is reported;  | The following mandatory phytosanitary measures are established for the importation of plants for planting of all reported hosts of the pest Cassida bivittata  | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NCRI206.DOCX) |
| Costa Rica | Plants for planting of all reported host species of Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum haplotypes  | Phytosanitary requirements for the importation of plants for planting of all reported host species of Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum haplotypes C, D and E. | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NCRI207.DOCX) |
| India | Food products | Draft Food Safety and Standards ---- TSS content in the fruits and vegetables products. | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NIND227.DOCX) |
| India | Food products | Draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2018 relating to amendment in microbiological standards. | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NIND228.DOCX) |
| Korea, Republic  | Plants | Updated the hosts and distributed areas of *Xylella fastidiosa* and the vectors,  | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NKOR622.DOCX) |
| Malaysia | Foods in general | Draft amendment of the Sixteenth Schedule for a range ogf MRL’s | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NMYS43.DOCX) |
| Thailand | Cleaning or sanitizing products for food production and products | Establish a regulation to control the usage of chemicals in food production or directly in contact with food products  | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NTHA261.DOCX) |
| USA | A range of seeds and vegatables | Tolerances for residues of clomazone in or on multiple commodities. | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NUSA3041.DOCX) |
| USA | Fruit, citrus, group 10-10 | tolerances for residues of oxytetracycline in or on fruit, citrus, crop group 10-10. | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NUSA3042.DOCX) |
| USA | A range of vegetables | tolerances for residues of bixafen in or on multiple commodities. | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NUSA3043.DOCX) |
| USA | A range of fruit and vegetables  | tolerances for residues of pyrifluquinazon in or on multiple commodities. | [EN](https://docs.wto.org/imrd/directdoc.asp?DDFDocuments/t/G/SPS/NUSA3044.DOCX) |



1. **New Zealand News**

**Export NZ**

* 1. [**Why aren’t there more robots in New Zealand?**](https://businessnz.cmail19.com/t/r-l-jtjiuyid-gljiulyur-d/)

A report written by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation found that Southeast Asian nations significantly outperform the rest of the world in wage-controlled robot adoption, while Europe and the United States lag significantly behind. There is a table in the report that puts Australia down the bottom of the list in terms of robots per 10,000 workers, and NZ does not get a mention. If nations want to boost their productivity and competitiveness, one of the most important things they can do is implement policies that spur faster, deeper, and wider adoption of robots—not just in manufacturing, but, as robots get better, in many sectors of the economy.

[Full article available here](https://www.businessnz.org.nz/resources/surveys-and-statistics/pmi/2018/welcome-change-pmi?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Manufacturing%20Newsletter&utm_content=Manufacturing%20Newsletter+CID_ee25bae17ee4a17d6db3a88c408ce1f1&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=Why%20arent%20there%20more%20robots%20in%20New%20Zealand)

* 1. **How to prepare your New Zealand business for Brexit**

*A good article produced bt Russell McVeagh that points out some of the areas that businesses will need to consider. Here are a few of its main points*

If Brexit happens, it will cause significant disruption for most New Zealand businesses dealing with the UK market. The big question would be "when?", and the increasingly likely answer is "before 29 March 2019". This alert explains the disruption that Brexit would cause for New Zealand businesses, and identifies steps that they can take to minimise their Brexit-related risks in two key areas: export logistics and contracts.

The EU is a 'Single Market' and a 'Customs Union'. This means that goods, services, capital and people move freely around the EU, as if the EU member states were one country. If Brexit happens, the UK would leave the Single Market and the Customs Union on 29 March 2019 at the earliest. If it leaves with a deal of some sort, the UK Government will try to negotiate an ambitious free trade agreement to govern future UK:EU economic relations. If it leaves with no deal, the UK and the EU would trade with each other according to non-preferential, World Trade Organisation rules, from 29 March 2019 onwards.

The UK's departure from the EU would have major implications for New Zealand businesses dealing with the UK and the EU, as it would necessitate fundamental changes in the laws, policies and operational arrangements governing customs, competition, data protection, employment, immigration, intellectual property, product standards, tax and trade, among other areas. The financial services, food and beverage, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, transportation and distribution sectors would probably be the most significantly disrupted. Traders should expect continued GBP depreciation and volatility, shortages of warehousing space in key UK centres, and significant border delays as the UK's departure date gets closer.

New Zealand businesses dealing with the UK and the EU are encouraged to plan for all possible Brexit scenarios. If Brexit happens, there would be major changes in the laws, policies and operational arrangements governing the movement of goods across the UK:EU border. These changes would principally affect parties trading across the UK:EU border, as many New Zealand businesses do. However, some of these changes would also affect goods traded between the UK and New Zealand. *The full article provides a number of questions businesses should consider*

Brexit would not alter the fundamentals of contract law in the UK. However, it would have a significant impact on underlying commercial bargains with a UK nexus. Affected businesses are encouraged to review all their contracts (or arrangements) with a UK nexus. This includes contracts involving: counterparties based in the UK; business transiting the UK; and business priced in GBP. All new contracts should be drafted in anticipation of the specific changes that Brexit would bring, and in a way that limits exposure to remaining uncertainty.. As part of this process, businesses may want to consider the following areas- **Pricing , Exchange rates** and **Change control mechanisms –-**[Full article available here](https://www.russellmcveagh.com/insights/december-2018/how-to-prepare-your-new-zealand-business-for-brexi)

* 1. **Netlogix and Oji Fibre Solutions Launch Large Scale Shipping Solution**

A new joint venture aims to provide Kiwi SME exporters a greater presence and an improved representation at the negotiation table with the world’s largest international shipping companies in the wake of changing global trends.

Bearing360 is a shipping solutions company, set to launch early next year. It is a joint venture between logistics service provider Netlogix and pulp, paper & packaging manufacturer Oji Fibre Solutions. It will, from inception manage more than 70,000 twenty-foot equivalent (TEU) of containerised export cargo volumes from New Zealand. Murray Horne, General Manager Lodestar (OJI’s logistics arm) says the joint venture is of strategic importance to Oji Fibre Solutions as they move to strengthen reliability across their export supply chain.

“Due to the global over supply of shipping capacity, there has been significant downward pressure on ocean freight rates to a point where some rates are at historic lows. This is not a sustainable position for the industry, and it is already impacting on shipping services across New Zealand.”

Horne says that whereas three years ago there were around 12 or more separately owned & operated shipping lines servicing the New Zealand market, there are now only seven due to recent merger and acquisition activity.

“Through this joint venture we want to ensure that a range of shipping services continue to support the New Zealand market, and we will use our scale and market presence to help drive that outcome”.

The newly appointed general manager of Bearing360 Dritan Ramohitaj says the intention is to help keep the market sustainable for shipping lines by levelling out cargo flows to improve predictability.

Their innovative model has been enabled through technology provided by Netlogix who have successfully built a freight service business in the domestic market. The technology is based on a platform that links otherwise disparate truck companies allowing customers to send cargo across the country via the most efficient manner. “We recognise that we cannot influence the global market. Therefore we are trying to use our combined scale to do what we can on the local level to maintain relevance and ensure the continued level of choice and frequency of services to New Zealand.  [Full article available here](https://www.exportnz.org.nz/news-and-information/news/2018/netlogix-and-oji-fibre-solutions-launch-large-scale-shipping-solution?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Exporter%202018&utm_content=Exporter%202018+CID_1c87c2d15215ecb8bb78d6cdd010eca4&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=Netlogix%20and%20OJI%20fibre%20solutions%20launch%20large%20scale%20shipping%20solution)

* 1. [**Do you want free market research?**](https://businessnz.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jtjtilul-aekytdhr-n/)

ExportNZ is exploring the potential to work with universities to introduce an exporter-focused MBA research project.  The purpose of the programme would be to ask MBA students to produce a report for an exporting business, to meet the exporters needs (market research, market validation, channel selection etc).

The aim would be to have limited touch points with the business (ie a few meetings as opposed to committing 5-10 hours a week) in order to reduce the time burden on the business itself, but allow the student to work on a project based on a real business’ needs. They would also have an option to run focus groups etc to gain more insight than desk-based research would provide

Please complete this short survey to [register your interest](https://businessnz.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jtjtilul-aekytdhr-p/)

**General**

* 1. **Proposed temporary visa changes welcomed by horticulture**

Addressing labour needs by region will lead to more productive primary industries, says Horticulture New Zealand chief executive Mike Chapman. The proposed changes to temporary work visas aim to make placing workers into specific regions and industries easier.

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"This will also help prevent oversaturation of labour markets. We don’t want competition for work between Kiwis and migrants, we want migrants to shore up numbers where Kiwis are unavailable. Our industry aims to get New Zealanders into work first, but some regions have virtually no New Zealanders available during harvest and pruning. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9054922/proposed-temporary-visa-changes-welcomed-by-horticulture/)

**Industry news**

* 1. **Zespri sues for $70m over trademark breach in China**

Zespri has gone to court regarding kiwifruit orchards, illegally planted in China.. The company is seeking an award of damages by the court amounting to $70 million. Zespri said the supply of the plants, which had been developed by the company itself and was a trademarked property, breached intellectual property rights. The company said initial investigations confirmed plantings in China of around 160 hectares, but there could be more. The $70 million in damages, which has been calculated based on the licence value of SunGold licences in New Zealand and the loss of opportunity for Zespri to licence them in China.

[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9055444/zespri-sues-for-70m-over-trademark-breach-in-china/)

* 1. **T&G Global profit dented by cheaper tomatoes & small grape harvest**

T&G Global says its annual profit will more than halve this year after cheaper tomatoes and a weather-affected grape harvest in Peru dented earnings. T&G has now turned its focus to growing its core businesses, which led it to divest several non-core businesses and investments during the latest period. That included the sale of ENZAFoods to Cedenco Foods New Zealand and the sale of its Kerikeri-based kiwifruit orchards, post-harvest facilities and business assets to Seeka. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9055388/t-g-global-profit-dented-by-cheaper-tomatoes-small-grape-harvest/)

**Crop news**

* 1. **Cherry prices to go up after unseasonable rain New Zealand**

The rain drenching New Zealand during the last weeks has caused crops of the stone fruit to split and rot, meaning there will be a lower supply at New Zealand's fruit stalls and supermarkets. Waihopai Valley Eden Orchards’ Gary Bignell agreed cherries would be expensive "When you get too much rain, the cherries ripen and they split. When cherries split, they rot." Bignell had lost about 30 per cent of his crop. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9054483/cherry-prices-to-go-up-after-unseasonable-rain-new-zealand/)

**Other**

* 1. **New Zealand suspected 'slave boss' arrested**

Combined slavery and human trafficking charges have been laid for the first time ever as Immigration NZ cracks down on what they allege is a major scam involving Samoan migrants. Immigration NZ's chief investigator, former policeman Peter Devoy, called the Hawke's Bay case "a new low". A 64-year-old Samoan, who holds New Zealand residency, has been charged with both human trafficking and slavery. The first offence carries a maximum tariff of 20 years and the latter  one of 14 years. He is named as Viliamu Samu, also known as Joseph Matamata. The charges are the result of a two-year joint investigation by a 15-strong combined police and Immigration team.

Devoy said the man had allegedly imported migrant workers from Samoa since 1994 to work in stone fruit picking gangs.Devoy said the man was of "some standing" back in Samoa, but would not say if he held a matai title. His alleged victims were described by Foster as "vulnerable", who said they were often of limited education and poor language skills.They had ten alleged victims willing to testify about how they were treated. Immigration say the workers claim the man confiscated passports, underpaid them, subjected them to assaults and threats. They also say their movements were heavily controlled.

" Sources have told [Stuff](https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/109401842/suspected-slave-boss-arrested%20)during the recent Big Scam investigation series into immigration fraud that the horticulture sector is rife with such scams, particularly among sub-contractors who undercut law-abiding rivals by paying workers in cash, and below minimum wage [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9054510/new-zealand-suspected-slave-boss-arrested/)

* 1. **Ngāti Hine people invest in kiwifruit orchards**

Ngāti Hine are a part of the Māori people in Northland, New Zealand. Members of this tribe or iwi, are set to benefit as the iwi works to build its asset base by exploring investment into kiwifruit orchards. The Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust recently acquired orchards in the North of around 43 hectares. It’s predicted the orchards will yield around 300,000 trays of fruit, to sell at a cost of around $5 upwards per tray.

“It's not just about buying land, we have an opportunity to train our Ngāti Hine people, our families, our subtribes of this region. “The objectives of Seeka is to encourage Ngāti Hine to do the best for Ngāti Hine, to encourage them to develop their businesses, and more specifically their business in the kiwifruit industry,” says Tipene. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9055433/new-zealand-ngati-hine-people-invest-in-kiwifruit-orchards/)

**Biosecurity**

* 1. **Still fighting to keep stink bugs off Australian shores**

Australian officials have directed a second vessel to leave Australian Territory, as a result of significant risks associated with brown marmorated stink bugs (BMSB). The vessel arrived at Fremantle port. No cargo was off-loaded and the vessel did not visit any other Australian ports. While it was anchored off-shore, biosecurity officers conducted an inspection and six different species of exotic insects, including BMSB, were detected.

The department considered these findings, along with the risk management plan submitted by the vessel operator, and concluded that the vessel posed an unacceptable risk for Australia. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9055406/still-fighting-to-keep-stink-bugs-off-australian-shores/)



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. This week see:

1. **EU Select Expected Rebound in EU-28 Citrus Production may Reduce Imports** MY 2018/19 EU-28 citrus production is projected to reach 11.6 MMT, an eight percent growth compared to previous year.  The regional increase is due to an expected rebound in Spanish production, the main EU-28 citrus producer.  [Citrus Annual\_Madrid\_EU-28\_12-14-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Citrus%20Annual_Madrid_EU-28_12-14-2018.pdf)
2. **China Citrus Continues to Expand** Overall marketing year (MY) 2018/19 citrus production in China is forecast to continue to increase, although much of this growth will be for mandarins and tangerines.  [Citrus Annual\_Beijing\_China - Peoples Republic of\_12-14-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Citrus%20Annual_Beijing_China%20-%20Peoples%20Republic%20of_12-14-2018.pdf)
3. **Egypt Citrus Continue to Expand** During MY2018/19, FAS Cairo forecasts a 5.1 percent increase in area planted and 9.6 percent increase in production to meet local and international demand for Egyptian oranges. [Citrus Annual\_Cairo\_Egypt\_12-10-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Citrus%20Annual_Cairo_Egypt_12-10-2018.pdf)
4. **Israel Citrus report** Israel’s area planted in citrus in MY 2018/19 is estimated at 17,843 hectares (ha), 957 ha less than the planted area in MY 2017/18. [Citrus Annual\_Tel Aviv\_Israel\_12-13-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Citrus%20Annual_Tel%20Aviv_Israel_12-13-2018.pdf)
5. **Japan Citrus** Japan remains the largest export market for U.S. grapefruit, which are forecast to increase 15 percent to 30,000 metric tons (MT) in market year (MY) 2018/19 due to reports of improved production in Florida.  [Citrus Annual\_Tokyo\_Japan\_12-14-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Citrus%20Annual_Tokyo_Japan_12-14-2018.pdf)
6. **Morocco Expects Record Citrus Production** With the majority of the harvest now complete, Post expects Morocco’s citrus production for MY 2018/19 to reach an estimated 2.6 million metric tons, increasing 18 percent over the previous marketing year.  [Citrus Annual\_Rabat\_Morocco\_12-12-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Citrus%20Annual_Rabat_Morocco_12-12-2018.pdf)
7. **Greece Country Report** This report provides updated contact information for Greece and gives an overview of Greek food laws in the EU context.   [FAIRS Annual Country Report\_Rome\_Greece\_12-12-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report_Rome_Greece_12-12-2018.pdf)
8. **Greece FAIRS Export Certificate Report** Greece, as a member of the European Union, follows EU directives and regulations.   [FAIRS Export Certificate Report\_Rome\_Greece\_12-12-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report_Rome_Greece_12-12-2018.pdf)
9. **India Issues Guidance on use of Stickers on Fruits and Vegetables** The Government of India’s Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued a guidance note summarizing the use of stickers on food products (primarily fresh fruits and vegetables) and stickers’ possible impact on consumer health.   [India Issues Guidance on use of Stickers on Fruits and Vegetables\_New Delhi\_India\_11-2-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/India%20Issues%20Guidance%20on%20use%20of%20Stickers%20on%20Fruits%20and%20Vegetables_New%20Delhi_India_11-2-2018.pdf)
10. **Japan Export Certificate Report** This report lists major export certificates required by the Japanese government to export food and agricultural products to Japan. [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification\_Tokyo\_Japan\_12-15-2017](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20-%20Certification_Tokyo_Japan_12-15-2017.pdf)
11. **Cambodia Quarantine Requirements for Plant Products Transited in Vietnam** Recently, Post received information from the trade that the Vietnamese authorities have started applying plant quarantine requirements for agricultural products that have originated in Cambodia and are transshipped through Vietnam [Quarantine Requirements for Plant Products Transited in Vietnam\_Ho Chi Minh City\_Cambodia\_12-14-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Quarantine%20Requirements%20for%20Plant%20Products%20Transited%20in%20Vietnam_Ho%20Chi%20Minh%20City_Cambodia_12-14-2018.pdf)
12. **Poland Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual 2018**In marketing year (MY) 2018/19, Poland’s total apple crop is estimated at 4.5 million metric tons (MMT), a 61-percent increase over last year[Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual 2018\_Warsaw\_Poland\_12-10-2018](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual%202018_Warsaw_Poland_12-10-2018.pdf)

**Regulatory**

* 1. **USDA Releases 2017 PDP Report**

This week the USDA released its 2017 Pesticide Data Program (PDP) residue monitoring results.  The new USDA report states: "The PDP annual summaries consistently show that 99 percent of sampled products had residues below EPA tolerances. The PDP data demonstrate that overall pesticide residues found on foods tested are at levels below the tolerances established by EPA and pose no safety concern.  Based on the PDP data, consumers can feel confident about eating a diet that is rich in fresh fruits and vegetables." You can review the USDA PDP report [here.](https://safefruitsandveggies.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4178ef539c5e10aedac20e325&id=d59038bf8c&e=741ddeee2c)

  **China**

* 1. **US apple exports decreased by 19%**

The latest US export statistics for apples confirm that exporters face difficult situations in global markets. Trade data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) show that the US exported. 19% less than the 68,666 metric tons it shipped in the same month of the previous year.

The retaliatory tariffs established by Mexico and China, and a tariff that India threatened to impose, have contributed to slow exports, said Mark Powers, the president of the Northwest Horticultural Council in Yakima, Washington.

Mexico imposed a retaliatory 20% tariff on US apples, and China a 40% retaliatory tariff. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9054315/us-apple-exports-decreased-by-19/)

 **Marketing**

* 1. **European promotions of fresh fruit and vegetables**

Please find below the link to the 6th and final edition of Freshfel's Fresh Times Series for 2018.
Fresh Times Edition 6, 2018 is available [here](https://freshfel.org/fresh-times-6-2018/).

In this edition, you can find the following initiatives:

* Editor's Note: Have a fruity Christmas!
* The Netherlands: Stamps for your Xmas cards
* Spain: Pomegranates for Christmas
* Poland: 100 apples in 100 days
* Italy: Opera-aaaa!
* U.K: Good apples
* The Netherlands: BFF for life
* Italy: Apple recipes galore
* U.K: Colours of sustainability
* U.S: Healthy holiday eating
* Poland: Changing attitudes
* Chile: Enjoy the red moment

All the latest editions of the Fresh Times can be found at <http://freshfel.org/newsroom/fresh-times/>

 **Food safety**

* 1. **Farm identified as source of romaine lettuce E. coli O157:H7 outbreak**

On Nov. 20, the U the American public were warned of a multi-state outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 linked to romaine lettuce and advised against eating any romaine lettuce on the market at that time.

Shortly after the FDA’s initial public warning, it was able to narrow down the scope of implicated product. Based on these initial findings, there was an updated public warning to consumers to avoid consuming romaine lettuce specifically from Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Ventura counties in California.

Now there is a positive sample result for the outbreak strain in the sediment of a local irrigation reservoir used by a single farm owned and operated by Adam Bros. Farms in Santa Barbara County.

Adams Bros. Farms is cooperating with the FDA in this outbreak investigation and this farm hasn’t shipped any romaine lettuce since Nov. 20.  [Full article available here](https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm628400.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

  **Health**

* 1. **Green leafy vegetables may prevent ‘fatty liver’**

Consuming larger portions of green leafy vegetables may reduce the risk of developing liver steatosis, or fatty liver. In a study published in PNAS researchers from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden show how a larger intake of inorganic nitrate, which occurs naturally in many types of vegetables, reduces accumulation of fat in the liver. There is currently no approved treatment for the disease, which can deteriorate into life-threatening conditions such as cirrhosis and liver cancer. Liver steatosis, or fatty liver, is a common liver disease that affects approximately 25 per cent of the population. The most important causes are overweight or high alcohol consumption.  [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9054932/green-leafy-vegetables-may-prevent-fatty-liver/)

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