

**PMAC weekly update 19th to 26th August**

1. **Government agencies**: Biosecurity boost; WTO Notifications; Why a new food collaboration is flying the FernMark in China.
2. **New Zealand News:**  Why nurseries should get involved in the PPBS; New Zealand exports in the World Potato Market; New 21,000m3 post-harvest facility announced in Hastings for Rockit Global; Animations promote New Zealand tomatoes; 2019 Black Box NZ Gold Medal Winner Announced; New Zealand Cherry Corp expands; Another change of plan for cherry lot subdivision; Pay people better – O’Connor; Consumers could pay more than double the price for strawberries this season; Sixty years of being the kiwifruit; New Zealand's Darling Group: 4 New Fruits Coming to China; Weather again thwarts Samoan banana exports; Roadshows define agtech strategy; Fingerprinting Food; Watters to chair AsureQuality
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; 6% increase in number of interceptions of harmful organisms in the EU; New farming model for Middle East; Ethiopia: Shaping the future of high value horticulture; Japan: A bumper tomato crop courtesy of AI; Improved earnings for Maersk in Q2; Asia Fruit Logistica Will Be Held as Scheduled on September 4–6; Tesco could delist suppliers for excessive packaging; Harmless bacteria create biofilm that protects foodborne pathogens
4. **Agency news**



* 1. **Biosecurity boost**

Biosecurity New Zealand has recruited 101 new officers to help secure the country’s borders from invasive pests and diseases. Biosecurity New Zealand now has 600 officers, up from 450 in 2013.

The intake follows a recruitment drive earlier this year that attracted some 2,800 applicants. The new 101 officers will be split between Auckland (70), Wellington (15), Christchurch (12) and Queenstown (4). New Zealand’s main international airports are based in these locations. [Full article available here](https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/biosecurity-boost/?utm_source=notification-email)

* 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](mailto:Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz) so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country. Changes notified over the last week include:

* EU plant health regulations The draft Regulation lays down phytosanitary import conditions for plants plant products and other objects that may pose a phytosanitary risk to the EU.
* Japan MRL’s
* Chinese Taipei – MRL’s
* Korea Foreign food facilities that comply with ‘Food safety management certification standards' of the Food Sanitation Act will be acknowledged as ‘Facilities adopting food safety management certification standards'.

The embedded files for the last week (which has links through to the original notifications)is available here  and 



* 1. **Why a new food collaboration is flying the FernMark in China.**

In April this year, a collection of 18 of the country’s favourite household brands launched a flagship store on Tmall (the world’s biggest online shopping site) and banded together under the FernMark.

Called the New Zealand Food Basket Coalition, the store draws on the kete metaphor and includes Pics Peanut Butter, Babich Wines, Vogels, Rockit Apple, Future Cuisine, Pamu, Zealong Tea Estate, Fiordland Lobster and Oha Honey. A further nine brands, Zespri, Sanford, Kapiti, Lewis Road Creamery, Sealord, Pure South (Alliance Group), Shott Beverages, New Zealand Wild Catch and Cherri will launch within the next three months.

A condition of entry to the NZFB is that all brands must be covered by a FernMark licence (either individually or via the [Coalition FernMark Licence](https://www.fernmark.nzstory.govt.nz/brands/100227)).

NZFB chair Nicola O’Rourke says it has been an incredible experience in the three months since launch and early sales results are promising. “We are seeing early conversion rate success from site traffic, with the average purchase around 200 RMB ($45 NZD) and average units per purchase of 2.5-3 units across brands.”

The key to this success is the power of the collective brand, and uniting under the FernMark. Research shows that Chinese consumers are very discerning, looking for six-to-eight ‘trust’ or ‘proof points’ before they will invest in a premium product, especially from other countries. “When Chinese consumers come to the site, they see FernMark, and can see that it is a legitimate New Zealand Government-backed licence and this is hugely important,” says Nicola.

The brands also use personalised QR codes to connect with the Chinese consumer with a more detailed and rich brand story, a branded website and a branded WeChat (a social media and mobile payment app) – all proudly sporting the FernMark accreditation. The NZFB is working with Alibaba to drive consumers to the flagship store through innovative marketing programmes.

NZFB is focused on building a successful marketing and promotional platform and expect to add other premium New Zealand food and beverage brands in the future.  [Full article available here](https://www.nzstory.govt.nz/blog/together-were-better/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=eNewsletter&utm_campaign=August&utm_content=Together%2C%20we%E2%80%99re%20better)



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. **Why nurseries should get involved in the PPBS**

A pilot for the Plant Production Biosecurity Scheme (PPBS) has been underway in 20 nurseries around New Zealand since February and the benefits of the scheme are fast becoming apparent, says PPBS project lead John Liddle.

The PPBS is a systematic approach to biosecurity risk management. The scheme’s systems and supporting documentation, enables plant producers to identify, control, manage or avoid biosecurity hazards in their nursery and production processes. “The resulting biosecurity outcomes protect not just plant producers but also their customers, the environment and the New Zealand economy as a whole,” says John.

“We recognise that the process will be easier for some nurseries than others and want to emphasise that gaining certification is not a race. We provide support and advice to nurseries as they go through the required steps. [Read more at NZPPI](https://nzppi.co.nz/advocacy/107-717/ppbs-why-nurseries-should-get-involved) [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9135998/new-zealand-why-nurseries-should-get-involved-in-the-ppbs/)

* 1. **New Zealand exports in the World Potato Market**

Total sales for June reached 7 384 tonnes, 18.7% up on a year ago. New Zealand’s second largest buyer in June was Malaysia which took 1 347 tonnes. The article provides detail on exports to all of New Zealand’s main markets.

Crucial to New Zealand’s future exports hopes to South East Asia market will be parity of price to the Australia market. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9135694/new-zealand-exports-in-the-world-potato-market/)

* 1. **New 21,000m3 post-harvest facility announced in Hastings for Rockit Global**

Rockit Global Ltd., the Hawke’s Bay apple company experiencing  growth in the highly competitive snack sector, is making a “significant investment” in a new site for its headquarters and post-harvest activity. The company has purchased land in the Irongate Industrial Park, in Longlands, Hastings, and aims to open the state-of-the-art facility in advance of the 2021 apple harvest.

Austin says moving forward with the purpose-built coolstore, packhouse and global headquarters is a monumental milestone for Rockit Global, who have outgrown their current Havelock North premises.

The build will take place over two stages. Stage one will create the new office suite, cool storage and highly automated, high spec  packhouse, with a mezzanine level allowing packaging material to be gravity fed. The second phase, earmarked for 2025, is likely to add in further processing technology to provide further capacity for  production through to 2030 and beyond. “

Rockit Global is known for its miniature Rockit™ apples which are now sold in Asia, Australia, the Middle East, Europe, the US and here in New Zealand. Earlier this year, the company launched a new, kraft cardboard pack for its snack-sized apples. The 100% biodegradable and recyclable cardboard is a more environmentally conscious packaging option, is sourced from sustainably managed forests and is PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) approved. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9136002/new-21-000m3-post-harvest-facility-announced-in-hastings/)

* 1. **Animations promote New Zealand tomatoes**

TomatoesNZ has released two fun and informative animations about New Zealand fresh tomatoes.

The animations share facts about how these fresh tomatoes are grown. They also provide key information about the industry including requirements for labelling of imported tomatoes which are treated with ionising radiation. [Full article available here](https://www.tomatoesnz.co.nz/hot-topics/new-tomatoes-animations/)

* 1. **2019 Black Box NZ Gold Medal Winner Announced**

Hawke’s Bay’s beverage company, The Apple Press, have scooped another award to add to their collection, this time the highly coveted Black Box NZ Gold Medal. The Black Box is New Zealand’s first In-Home Marketing Agency, connecting thousands of Kiwis to consumer brands and products, with their Gold Medal only awarded to products that receive 90%+ recommendation scores from consumers.

The Apple Press is a Hawke’s Bay based beverage company, who hand pick and cold press tree-ripe Hawkes Bay apple and craft it into apple juice made from individual varieties such as JAZZ™, Braeburn, Royal Gala, Pink Lady® & Envy™ (No added sugar or preservatives).[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9136024/2019-black-box-nz-gold-medal-winner-announced/)

* 1. **New Zealand Cherry Corp expands**

New Zealand Cherry Corp has purchased an additional 240ha of land in the Central Otago region of New Zealand’s South Island. The company, which already operates the country’s largest netted cherry orchard, will use the land to double its production area to approximately 60ha. It also plans to build worker accommodation onsite.

In another innovative development, New Zealand Cherry Corp will capture an additional grade of cherries (with only cosmetic defects) during the upcoming 2019/20 harvest. This fruit will be used to produce the company’s line of premium dried cherries, along with a Port-style wine. The move reduces crop wastage without compromising the company’s premium grading standards for fresh cherries. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/179536/new-zealand-cherry-corp-expands)

Cromwell residents are being faced with a second significant private plan change in their district in just over a year because NZ Cherry Corp (Leyser) LP Ltd wants to develop a 160-lot subdivision on 142ha of land in Ripponvale Rd, beside a multimillion-dollar 29ha cherry expansion it announced earlier this year. Central Otago district councillors last week accepted the company’s request to apply for a private plan change to rezone land for the development. It does not mean the development has been approved, but instead that the plan change will now be considered.

The application, from Town Planning Group, on behalf of NZ Cherry Corp, is to rezone part of the 244ha Shannon Farm, which Cherry Corp bought earlier this year. Its proposed cherry expansion there – which will be beside its existing orchard – will double its cherry plantings in the Cromwell district. NZ Cherry Corp wants to establish a “rural lifestyle community” of up to 160 allotments between 2000sqm and 3ha, but is proposing to provide greater protection of the Pisa Range hill country areas and provide public access through that area for recreation purposes.[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9136572/another-change-of-plan-for-cherry-lot-subdivision/)

* 1. **Pay people better – O’Connor**

Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor has urged growers to pay people better when he was addressing the Horticulture Conference 2019 at Mystery Creek, near Hamilton.

O’Connor says despite the kiwifruit sector’s latest bumper season, it still struggles to recruit workers -- illogical in a strict market environment. O’Connor says the industry must also give them pathways to a sound career and a reason to do what they want to do. [Full article available here](https://ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-agribusiness/pay-people-better-o-connor?utm_source=Rural+News+Group+Weekly+E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=10ccf609c5-Rural_News_Group_Bulletin_20_AUG_2019&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fb79f8bfe8-10ccf609c5-59798541&ct=t(Rural_News_Group_Bulletin_20_AUG_2019))

* 1. **Consumers could pay more than double the price for strawberries this season**

New Zealand consumers could be paying more than double the price for strawberries this summer, as one of the country's biggest growers fears she will be forced to shut down her business. The owner of Perry's Berrys, Francie Perry, says the government has refused to allocate her vital overseas workers necessary to pick her crop as part of the controversial "recognised seasonal employer" scheme.

She says she is just one of many horticulturalists in the country in crisis and it could cost thousands of local workers their jobs as well .Without foreign pickers she says she'll have to turn her back on a business she has run for 40 years. The 1200 local workers she also employs during the season will lose their jobs, she said.

Immigration New Zealand has turned down her application. It says she's not profitable enough, but Ms Perry says last year she only had 90 overseas pickers and it left her way short. "We couldn't harvest 25 per cent of our crop - the fruit was rotting in the ground - so the prices Christmas week doubled. They doubled overnight." [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9134559/new-zealand-consumers-could-pay-more-than-double-the-price-for-strawberries-this-season/)

* 1. **Sixty years of being the kiwifruit**

On Friday August 9, the kiwifruit industry celebrated the 60th anniversary of renaming the kiwifruit in 1959. The Te Puke War Memorial Hall showcased an event compered by Miriama Smith, with many local pioneer kiwifruit families, including Don Turner and his son David, in attendance.

New Zealand began exporting the fruit to the US in 1959.  Don Turner says the fruit had its name changed from Chinese gooseberry to kiwifruit because gooseberries were known to have anthracnose disease which would pose a marketing issue for the US importers. “The name change was attributed to my uncle Jack Turner,” says Don, “but it was actually a management meeting which included his father Harvey, Jack and my father Graham. They were considering the correspondence that had come in from the importers when we asked them if they’d be ready to receive some Chinese gooseberries. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9134572/sixty-years-of-being-the-kiwifruit/)

* 1. **New Zealand's Darling Group: 4 New Fruits Coming to China**

In 2018, [Darling Group](https://www.darlinggroup.co.nz/) entered the China market with its first shipment of New Zealand avocados while establishing partnerships with multiple Chinese retailers. As Darling Group’s main distributor in China, FreshBridge Supply Chain will soon be introducing more of Darling Group’s premium products to the China market. The company is currently focusing on introducing Darling Group’s lemons, avocados, mandarins, and oranges to the China market.

The Darling Group are sending Lemons, Mandarins and Navel Oranges from Australia to China. The company’s famous Hass avocado brand, Jake’s Avocado, is supplied year-round by Darling Group orchards in Mexico, Australia, and New Zealand. However, Darling Group avocados from New Zealand orchards are special: they contain twice the vitamin B6 and 20% more folate than other avocados while maintaining a good balance of ripeness, oil content, and flavour.

Led by founder and Managing Director Andrew Darling, Darling Group is a family-owned company from New Zealand with avocado, kiwifruit, citrus, and blueberry orchards in New Zealand. For 20 years, Darling Group has been expanding its fresh produce supply chain and developing global partnerships with dedication to preserving quality and freshness while offering an uninterrupted year-round supply of fresh fruits to markets around the world.

In 2016, Darling Group acquired Australian fresh fruit logistics provider [JH Leavy & Co](http://jhleavy.com.au/)., and expanded to include orchards in North America, including Mexico and the United States, achieving a full 12-month fresh fruit supply capability. Additionally, Darling Group cooperates with avocado producers [Just Avocados Ltd](https://justavocados.co.nz/). and orchard management company Avoworks, and holds a 50% stake in [Zeafruit](https://www.zeafruit.co.nz/).

[Full article available here](https://www.producereport.com/article/new-zealands-darling-group-4-new-fruits-coming-china)

* 1. **Weather again thwarts Samoan banana exports**

Unpredictable weather over Samoa has negatively affected the exports of bananas to New Zealand. The country's largest commercial banana operation, Ah Liki Farms, had 30 percent of its crops - deemed ready for export - affected by strong winds in July.

Samoa's banana industry took a major hit with 2018's Cyclone Gita and has been slowly growing back, with government assistance. Exports stopped until October, when the Banana Grower's Association sent off its first container to New Zealand since the storm. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9134662/weather-again-thwarts-samoan-banana-exports/)

** Bits and pieces**

* 1. **Roadshows define agtech strategy**

The Agritech Strategy Roadshow is travelling around the country seeking feedback from farmers to help identify key priority areas for Government action and what types of technology will be of most benefit to the sector.

Agritech NZ has also begun conversations to the Precision Agriculture Association to see how the two organisations can collaborate. Agritech New Zealand is also partnering with several government agencies to develop a range of industry-led initiatives and actions to help the agricultural technology sector, lift export earnings and provide more innovation. Agritech NZ recently hosted a workshop for a delegation of NZ companies heading to Ireland and Britain next month while in June New Zealand agri robotic and automation researchers and entrepreneurs visited northern California to look at opportunities for NZ agritech companies. [. Full article available here](https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/other-sectors/view/roadshows-define-agtech-strategy)

* 1. **Fingerprinting Food**

AgResearch is using a mass spectrometer to quickly analyse the interaction of genes and the environment. Work that previously took over an hour can now be done in seconds on samples of meat, milk, plants and wine, which will open up new opportunities for food science. The technology is so accurate it can differentiate New Zealand, English and Welsh lamb using a measurement taking only few seconds and can also detect what feed, such as grain, grass or chicory, a carcase was reared on which is an increasingly important issue driving consumer spending.

Food marketers can use AgResearch’s REIMS (Rapid Evaporative Ionisation Mass Spectrometer) machine to provide quality assurance and potentially be incorporated into blockchains to give chemical and digital traceability to prevent food fraud which could save the country millions of dollars through early detection of quality issues as well as the prevention of false labelling. [Full article available here](https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/dairy/view/fingerprinting-food-2)

* 1. **Watters to chair AsureQuality**

The Government has appointed Dr Alison Watters as new Chair of AsureQuality Limited for three years from 01 November 2019. Dr Watters has been on the board for over three years and has served as Deputy Chair over the last 18 months. She is a Director of Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC), and was previously a principal research scientist for Fonterra Cooperative Group. Dr Watters notes she is delighted to have the opportunity to lead the board [Full article available here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/watters-to-chair-asurequality)



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. **Chile Stone Fruit Annual 2019** Chile’s cherry exports totaled 180,000 metric tons (MT) in marketing year (MY) 2018/19 and eighty-seven percent of all exports went to the Chinese market.  Chile’s cherry planted area grows consistently at a 10 percent rate, adding up to 37,000 hectares (ha) in MY2019/20.  [Stone Fruit Annual 2019\_Santiago\_Chile\_8-12-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Stone%20Fruit%20Annual%202019_Santiago_Chile_8-12-2019.pdf)
2. **Indonesia Retail Foods Update** In 2018, Indonesia’s imports of consumer-oriented agricultural products grew to $5.9 billion, an 8.5 percent increase from the previous year.  Increasing urbanization and a growing middle-class suggest continued modern retail sector growth.   [Retail Foods\_Jakarta\_Indonesia\_7-1-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Retail%20Foods_Jakarta_Indonesia_7-1-2019.pdf)
3. **Japan Summerfruit production** Japan’s commercial cherry production in marketing year (MY) 2019/20 is estimated to fall six percent to 15,200 metric tons (MT) on colder temperatures during the flowering stage and reduced acreage.  Meanwhile, strong U.S. production portends an increase in imports of fresh cherries, projected to soar 31 percent to 4,300 MT in MY 2019/20.  [Stone Fruit Annual\_Tokyo\_Japan\_8-14-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Stone%20Fruit%20Annual_Tokyo_Japan_8-14-2019.pdf)
4. **Taiwan Summerfruit Imports Stable,** In 2018, Taiwan was the third largest export market for U.S. peaches and nectarines and the fourth largest export market for U.S. cherries.  Taiwan’s peach and nectarine production is forecast to decline from 22,506 metric tons (MT) in 2018 to 17,000 MT in 2019 due to poor bearing.   [Stone Fruit Annual\_Taipei\_Taiwan\_8-13-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Stone%20Fruit%20Annual_Taipei_Taiwan_8-13-2019.pdf)

 **Regulatory**

* 1. **6% increase in number of interceptions of harmful organisms in the EU**

According to the agricultural organization Asaja Málaga, in 2018, the number of interceptions of harmful organisms in the European Union grew by 15.9% compared to the previous year, with a total of 8,720 from non-Union countries. The main products intercepted were fruits and vegetables (62.4%), namely Solanum spp. and Citrus spp., which recorded 84.7% and a 12.9% increases, respectively.

The types of interception are broken down as follows: lack of phytosanitary certificates: 2,994 (34.3%); wooden packaging material (treatment) and other objects: 2,279 (26.1%); presence of harmful organisms: 1,712 (19.6%) and non-conforming phytosanitary certificates: 1,585 (18.2%). As for interceptions caused by the presence of harmful organisms in fruits and vegetables (62.4%), there was an increase of 4.5% over the previous year; however, despite this, HO detections in fruits and vegetables in 2018 have fallen by 40.7% since 2015. The main countries of origin with harmful organisms intercepted in the fruit and vegetable sector were: Dominican Republic, Suriname, Nigeria, Israel, Brazil, Ghana and Thailand.[Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9134297/16-increase-in-number-of-interceptions-of-harmful-organisms-in-the-eu/)

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. **New farming model for Middle East**

**O**ne of North America’s leading greenhouse grower-distributors, Mastronardi Produce, has selected the Middle East as the first market to develop what it claims will be one of the world's largest and most technologically-advanced indoor farming projects.

The targets of the project include reducing the Middle East’s dependence on imported food, creating a sustainable source of local employment and increasing the region's non-petroleum-based exports.

GIVE’s proprietary advanced high-density farming systems incorporate a multitude of growing systems, such as water-saving irrigation and energy-efficient lighting. They also take advantage of advanced automation and robotic devices, artificial intelligence processes for predictive analysis, and real-time crop and soil monitoring. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/179517/new-farming-model-for-middle-east-1)

* 1. **Ethiopia: Shaping the future of high value horticulture**

With an ever increasing demand for cutting edge innovative technologies in horticultural crops production in Ethiopia, Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporters Association (EHPEA) and Ethiopian Biotechnology Institute (EBTI) are jointly moving ahead to establish a win-win partnership.

During a recent farm visit, a fruitful discussion was made among the participants and all the three farms farm managers’ have pointed out that their door is wide open for any scientist who is interested to address the multi-pronged challenges of the sector adding value to their produces. Challenges need be addressed to enhance the productivity and quality of the produce by mandated institutions like EBTI and EIAR.

This collaboration will enable to strengthen the capacity of the institute to innovate technologies enabling farms to cope up with the ever changing climate and productivity impacting factors like pests. This will enable the country to harness the huge potential of the horticulture sector. [Full article available here](https://www.hortibiz.com/news/?tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=29726&cHash=da0e937932b5d00271fff39c886aa634)

* 1. **Japan: A bumper tomato crop courtesy of AI**

Bosch AI helped a Japanese tomato grower increase his farm’s yield, save time, and dispense with some worries. The Bosch technology solution called Plantect. Developed specifically for agriculture, Plantect is a data-based early-warning system that alerts farmers to the potential risk of crop infection. The system’s hardware consists of wireless sensors that measure temperature, humidity, and other conditions in the greenhouse. These parameters affect crop development and provide the intelligence needed to detect the risk of infection, not only in tomatoes, but also in other greenhouse crops. The sensors’ readings are uploaded to the Bosch IoT cloud in a data package.

With the help of AI, the agricultural data is processed in the cloud, and the risk of disease is predicted. The AI system has to learn everything about a disease before it can draw the right conclusions from the agricultural data. To make this machine learning process possible, Bosch’s FUJI (Future with Japanese Innovation) growth initiative, and the Bosch Center for Artificial Intelligence (BCAI), collected a vast trove of data from Plantect devices over several years. Every ten minutes, new data packets arrive in the cloud, around ten million of which have been assessed to date. In Japan, more than 4,000 orders have been received for Plantect devices. And in 2019, these connected agricultural systems will go on sale in South Korea.

Plantect’s data flows into an online browser-based presentation that the farmer can call up anytime. An alert pops up on the owners tablet the moment Plantect detects a likely risk of infection in his greenhouses. He can then respond with the appropriate measures to fight the disease at an early stage and thus avoid crop loss. Managing incident sunlight is a big part of plant care, so Plantect also offers relevant suggestions to the grower that allow him to better plan and adapt the irrigation regime for his tomatoes. [Full article available here](https://www.hortibiz.com/news/?tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=29730&cHash=7201f6b83078d40ea69da65bb166992b)

* 1. **Improved earnings for Maersk in Q2**

Logistics giant AP Moller-Maersk has turned in an improved set of results for the second quarter (Q2) of the year, with an increase in EBITDA and stability in group revenue. Looking ahead, Maersk noted that, while EBITDA for the first half-year improved by US$500m to US$2.6bn, the group reiterated its full-year guidance for 2019 of an EBITDA of around US$5bn including effects from IFRS 16. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/179499/improved-earnings-for-maersk-in-q2)

* 1. **Asia Fruit Logistica Will Be Held as Scheduled on September 4–6**

Global Produce Events GmbH, organizer of ASIA FRUIT LOGISTICA, the leading continental trade show for Asia’s fresh produce business, has announced ASIA FRUIT LOGISTICA will be held as scheduled at AsiaWorld-Expo, Hong Kong, on September 4–6, 2019. Show preparation is in full swing despite recent public incidents in Hong Kong. Business remains largely as usual in Hong Kong and protest activities are normally announced well in advance.

The organizing team will continue to closely monitor the situation and provide timely updates as needed.” [Full article available here](https://www.producereport.com/article/press-release-asia-fruit-logistica-will-be-held-scheduled-september-4%E2%80%936)

 **Sustainability**

* 1. **Tesco could delist suppliers for excessive packaging**

Tesco has told its suppliers that it may delist companies if they do not meet sustainable packaging standards. Britain’s largest supermarket said it will include packaging suitability as part of category reviews and ranging decisions as it looks to further cut plastic and unnecessary packaging use.

The retailer said it was part of the second phase of its Remove, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle plan.

At four meetings with over 1,500 suppliers, Tesco set out its vision for the next stage of its packaging agenda, with removing all hard-to-recycle packaging from its stores by the end of 2019, a top priority.  [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/fpj/article/179541/tesco-could-delist-suppliers-for-excessive-packaging)

 **Innovation**

* 1. **Harmless bacteria create biofilm that protects foodborne pathogens**

Pathogenic bacteria that stubbornly lurk in some apple-packing facilities may be sheltered and protected by harmless bacteria that are known for their ability to form biofilms, according to Penn State researchers, who suggest the discovery could lead to development of alternative foodborne-pathogen-control strategies.

That was the key finding that emerged from a study of three tree-fruit-packing facilities in the Northeast where contamination with *Listeria monocytogenes* was a concern. Their testing revealed that a packing plant with a significantly higher Listeria monocytogenes occurrence was uniquely dominated by the bacterial family *Pseudomonadaceae* and the fungal family *Dipodascaceae.*

" Based on our findings, we hypothesize that these harmless microorganisms are supporting the persistence of Listeria monocytogenes because they protect the harmful bacteria by enclosing them in biofilms.

"If a pathogenic bacterium is enclosed in a biofilm formed by microbiota, it is more likely that cleaning and sanitizing procedures will be less effective and may well explain how *Listeria monocytogenes* has persisted in food-processing plants despite repeated efforts to remove it." [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9135901/harmless-bacteria-create-biofilm-that-protects-foodborne-pathogens/)

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