

**WEEKLY UPDATE: 27 September 2022**

Kia ora

Mask-wearing requirements might have been relaxed but labour and supply chain logistics continue to be a challenge as highlighted in this week’s update. Also covered are the regular features of opinion pieces, reports and government agency notifications.

Please note that the next update will be on the 10 October 22 and will cover items over the two-week period.

Ngā mihi

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# GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS

#### ICPR changes

The following ICPR have been updated in the last week

* **Chile** has updated references and requirements under a number of sections [ICPR Chile](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/629-Chile)

#### WTO and TBT Notifications

Please find attached the most recent WTO and TBT notifications from countries that are considering changes to their plant import requirements for specific products. If you have any concerns about the notifications being presented, please contact Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country.



# NEW ZEALAND NEWS

## Opinion pieces:

#### Nadine's update: It’s getting ridiculous out there

Nadine Tunley urges the government to get in behind making it as easy as possible for people to come and work in New Zealand. There is no other way to solve the country’s chronic labour shortage. [Full article here.](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/nadines-update/its-getting-ridiculous-out-there/)

## Industry news:

#### Shipping news: the cost and challenge of getting goods to and from NZ

The Covid pandemic caused huge disruptions in the global supply chain - with businesses struggling to import goods and get products offshore. Now that our borders have reopened and Covid restrictions relaxed, what is the situation? The Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Federation says sky-high shipping rates are coming down - meaning it's slightly cheaper to get products here and away again.

But as consumers tighten their belts, shipping lines may begin to come here less frequently. On RNZs Nine To Noon, Kathryn Ryan speaks with Rachel Madden,  President of the Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Federation, and manager at First Global Logistics Limited; and Simon Dedman, Federation council member and Managing Director at Kuehne+Nagel,  one of New Zealand's largest freight forwarders. [Listen to interview](https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon/audio/2018859921/shipping-news-the-cost-and-challenge-of-getting-goods-to-and-from-nz)

#### Left to rot or mowed down; why some NZ growers aren't bringing their crops to market at all

Produce supplier Darling Group doesn’t usually ship Australian tomatoes to New Zealand. However, according to founder Andrew Darling, the current price of tomatoes in New Zealand means bringing the household staple across the Tasman to sell makes financial sense.

Still, there are political sensitivities in bringing Australian tomatoes in, so Darling says the NZ firm is careful to only import when there is a real shortage at hand, which is now, apparently. The latest index showed food prices soared in August this year compared with August in 2021, logging the fastest increase in the price New Zealanders pay at the supermarket since 2009. Overall food inflation was 8.3% annually in August, a price rise not seen for 13 years, with grocery food prices increasing by 8.7%. [Full article here](https://www.interest.co.nz/business/117646/left-rot-or-mowed-down-why-some-nz-growers-arent-bringing-their-crops-market-all)

#### Hepatitis A scare 'might boost local berry sales'

The berry industry is likely to benefit from the recent hepatitis A scare from imported frozen berries. Recently the Ministry for Primary Industries warned berry lovers that there was a risk of contracting hepatitis A from eating imported frozen berries.

Hepatitis A had not been found on berries, but the three people who contracted the disease all regularly ate frozen imported berries. Blueberries New Zealand chairperson Liz Te Amo said there was a tendency for sales of local berries to increase after a health scare, as consumers became wary of imported products, she said. [Full article here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/129912639/hepatitis-a-scare-might-boost-local-berry-sales)

#### TomatoesNZ AGM and speakers event

On 17th August, growers and industry joined the TomatoesNZ (TNZ) annual general meeting, which was held online and in Pukekohe. The AGM saw the election of Ben Smith to the board and approval of the 2022-23 budget. The Annual report is available to download on their website. [Full article here](https://www.tomatoesnz.co.nz/latest-news/september-news/)

#### Zealandia Horticulture teaches students about horticulture

NZPPI member Zealandia Horticulture has been working with students and teachers in Canterbury to promote the exciting career options available in plant production.

Zealandia Horticulture is part of the Secondary School Employer Partnership, a collaboration initiative enabling better connections between education and food and fiber sectors. Working with year 9 and 10 students, employers' representatives such as Zealandia Horticulture provide opportunities for students to see their science curriculum learning applied to real-world contexts. [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9462011/nz-zealandia-horticulture-teaches-students-about-horticulture/)

## Upcoming events:

* Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Industry Virtual Global Sustainability Symposium Friday 11th November 22at 5am-8.30am NZ time. [Full details here](https://www.unitedfresh.co.nz/news-events/newsletters/fresh-fruit-vegetable-industry-virtual-global-sustainability-symposium-5am-friday-11th-november-2022).
* World Avocado Congress 2023, 2-5 April 2023, Auckland. [Full details here.](https://www.wacnz2023.com/)

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Market Reports

#### Sustainable Food Monitor 2021: Share of sustainable food purchases increases

Consumers spent €9.5 billion on sustainable food in 2021. We are spending more and more on products with sustainability labels like Beter Leven, Organic, and Rainforest Alliance.

These are the conclusions of the Sustainable Food Monitor 2021, which was carried out by Wageningen University & Research and commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature, and Food Quality. The Monitor scrutinizes consumer spending on products with a sustainability label in three sales channels: supermarkets, food service (such as hospitality and catering businesses), and specialty shops that sell sustainable food. The labels included in the study were ASC, Organic, Beter Leven, Fairtrade, MSC, On the way to PlanetProof, Rainforest Alliance, UTZ Certified, and Vrije Uitloop. [Full article here](https://www.verticalfarmdaily.com/article/9461177/sustainable-food-monitor-2021-share-of-sustainable-food-purchases-increases/)

## In The News:

#### AHEIA elects new board during their AGM and Members Forum

Australian Horticulture Exporters’ & Importers’ Association (AHEIA) held their AGM and Members Forum at the Mantra, Melbourne on 15th September. A new board was elected, and Joseph Saina was re-elected as Chairman and Cameron Carter was re-elected as Vice Chairman. Two new additions to the board were Joseph Ekman from Fresh Produce Group (FPG) and Christian Jones from Perfection Fresh. Both new members are expected to add great value to the board for the year 2022/23.

The Member’s Forum held after the AGM was a great success and included Monica Collins, Acting First Secretary DAFF Biosecurity Plant Division, Douglas Kerruish, Director A/G DAFF Horticulture Imports Program and Joel Sterling, DAFF Inspections who answered some tough questions from members relating to import inspection delays and portal issues. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9461664/aheia-elects-new-board-during-their-agm-and-members-forum/)

#### Traceability delivers benefits throughout the supply chain

Trials have shown that horticulture producers, wholesalers, retailers, and consumers could benefit from the adoption of a digital standards-based traceability system. The pilot program, conducted as part of a Food Agility CRC collaborative project, used GS1 data standards to create a digital map of properties and the movement of products in NSW cherry and potato supply chains.

Project leader and NSW Department of Primary Industries Development Officer, Jessica Fearnley said researchers simulated a product recall in track-and–trace trials. "The project has shown that GS1 data standards can be used to provide instant product identification and recall, something that's critical during an emergency situation such as biosecurity incursion or food safety breach," she said. "The system also supports the electronic flow of information to demonstrate compliance with regulatory requirements, and this has the potential to improve market access and reduce compliance costs for the industry." [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9461588/traceability-delivers-benefits-throughout-the-supply-chain/)

#### Agriculture Ministers in Prague: EU must strengthen food security

Food security and the role of European agriculture and food in sustainable global food production were the main topics of a recent informal meeting of EU Agriculture Ministers in Prague. Ministers agreed that the EU must now act in a coordinated way to maximize sustainable increases in agricultural production and accelerate the use of modern techniques in agriculture. The meeting was chaired by Czech Agriculture Minister Zdeněk Nekula and attended by Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski, representatives of NGOs, the European Parliament, academics, and the Ministers of Agriculture of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova. [Full article here](https://czech-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/agriculture-ministers-in-prague-eu-must-strengthen-food-security-improve-sustainability-of-agriculture-and-promote-the-use-of-modern-techniques-in-agriculture/)

#### Study finds that SARS-CoV-2 can persist for more than a month on frozen berries

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, fears were rampant as researchers worldwide rushed to learn more about modes of transmission for the virus. One concern was the possibility of foodborne transmission of the virus. While the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has since reported that there is no evidence to support the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 associated with food, concern over the persistence of the virus on food prompted a study recently published in the journal Food Microbiology. University of Georgia food scientists began the study in 2021 to establish a preemptive method to measure the virus on foods and to determine whether the virus can persist on fresh or frozen berries.

According to study results, SARS-CoV-2 experimentally introduced onto berries remained infectious on frozen berries for at least a month, while refrigeration at 39 degrees Fahrenheit showed a 90% reduction in SARS-CoV-2 infectivity over the course of three days. However, washing berries in water before freezing was shown to reduce the infectivity of SARS-CoV-2 by 90%, emphasizing the importance of food safety measures in preventing initial contamination, study results show. [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9462447/study-finds-that-sars-cov-2-can-persist-for-more-than-a-month-on-frozen-berries/)

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