

**PMAC weekly update 23rd to 30th September**

1. **Government agencies**: WTO Notifications
2. **New Zealand News:**  New Consul-General for Honolulu; Export NZ Trade update; 'Understanding Chinese Investment in New Zealand'; Work visa and RSE changes welcomed; New Zealand's horticulture industry adapting to meet climate change challenges; New Zealand to host next World Avocado Congress in 2023; New Zealand reports strong fruit export numbers; Huge interest in New Zealand apples and cherries at Asia Fruit Logistica; Big opportunities for NZ exporters in China's smaller cities; Tiny treats for your tastebuds changing eating habits one dish at a time; Māori farming organisations are increasing their investment in horticulture; Next step for Far North water project; New Zealand asparagus season looking good; Seeka sells kiwi orchard for $15.5 million NZD; Hawke's Bay gets $14 million investment for food innovation and employment opportunities.
3. **International news:** Monitoring EU Agri-Food Trade: Developments until July 2019; Trade deal signed by Trump and Abe; EU General Court backs Australians in plant variety dispute; “Trump’s tariffs are killing apple farmers”; China becomes most important export market for Chile; European Art of Taste project receives journalists from China and Hong Kong; Results of FDA sampling of fresh herbs and processed avocado; FDA launches initiative to research risk factors for E.coli contamination; Germany: A vertical farming system for at home

***Editors comments***

*A relatively light week for news but even so some good articles. High on the list of notable articles is the news that NZ Avocados have won the right to host the World Avocado congress in New Zealand in 2023. In doing so they beat the world’s largest avocado growing region in Mexico and achieved it by working with a range of Government Departments to help mount their case.*

*Export NZ has only two articles this week but both deserve a mention. First is the trade negotiation update which starts with comment about the recently signed US / Japan agreement . Not a full FTA this agreement will remove some of the advantages NZ gained under CTPPA. It also sits just outside the WTO view of FTA’s . If you are interested in this area its worth reading this and the two articles later in the International section of the update. Then the second article of interest is a link to report on Understanding Chinese investment in New Zealand . This report looks at the breadth of Chinese investments and some of the benefits that have resulted from these investments .*

*The last comment I’d like to make is on a topic raised last week- the rising star of horticulture . This week we have NZ news that horticulture will be a very attractive alternative to farming in landowners response to the Emissions Trading scheme and increasing interest by cash rich Iwi looking for a business model that can return a profit while aligning with their traditional values. Combined with the article from Hortinvest on the high interest in our products at Asia Fruit Logistica all points to a large potential change in land use towards horticulture over the next few years.*

1. **Agency news**



* 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:

* Brazil a range of food additives
* Korea – amended quarantine list

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



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. **New Consul-General for Honolulu**

Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters last announced the appointment of Kevin Burnett as New Zealand’s next Consul-General in Honolulu. Mr Burnett has previously served as Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and is currently seconded of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. He has also held senior roles in the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Defence following a distinguished career as an NZDF Army Officer. [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-consul-general-honolulu)



* 1. **Export NZ Trade update**

For a review of trade negotiation underway between NZ and other parts of the world and comment on the recent US/ Japan agreement [see here](https://www.exportnz.org.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/179247/Trade-Update-September-2019.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Export%20Sept&utm_content=Export%20Sept+CID_7682ca2df68b77ed00aca46f5a9ba892&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=More%20-)

* 1. **'Understanding Chinese Investment in New Zealand'**

If you would like to have a better understanding of Chinese in Investment in New Zealand, read the 'Understanding Chinese Investment in New Zealand' report commissioned by New Zealand China Council [**here .**](https://businessnz.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jdjhtijy-aekytdhr-q/)

** Commentary**

* 1. **Work visa and RSE changes welcomed**

Regional New Zealand will benefit most from changes to employer assisted visa settings, says BusinessNZ chief executive Kirk Hope. Access to migrants to regions with low unemployment will be improved and sector agreements will be put in place. Horticulture NZ chief executive Mike Chapman says the changes will make it more straightforward to hire skilled workers from overseas. “At the same time, the changes recognise the need to employ NZers wherever possible, but we appreciate this is not always possible. “The changes will take effect over the next couple of years as the detail is worked out with industry input.” [Full article available here](https://ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/work-visa-changes-welcomed?utm_source=Rural+News+Group+Weekly+E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=7e87946c4d-Rural_News_Group_Bulletin_24_SEP_2019&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fb79f8bfe8-7e87946c4d-59798541&ct=t(Rural_News_Group_Bulletin_24_SEP_2019))

A leading grower says the government's move to allow more seasonal workers into the country still isn't enough to keep up with demand. The government will lift the cap on the number of seasonal support workers allowed into the country in a bid to bring more workers into the regions. The cap on the number of temporary visas that can be granted to employ foreign seasonal workers will rise by 3150 over two years to 16,000. Starting next year, the cap will increase by 1550 to 14,400 and approval has also been given for the cap to be raised by a further 1600 places to 16,000 starting in 2020. However Francie Perry from Perrys Berrys told Mike Hosking she's hearing of kiwifruit volumes doubling in Auckland in the next two years. "I have also heard from someone in the cherry industry he will need 100 workers to keep up with the demand." [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9148072/australian-growers-welcome-increased-backpacker-numbers/)

Industry organisation Horticulture New Zealand says the New Zealand government is moving in the right direction with its 1550 increase in Recognised Seasonal Employers (RSE) workers, but more workers are still needed to support the horticulture's industry's growth. The industry says the RSE scheme has enabled the continued expansion of fruit, vegetable and wine grape growing in New Zealand. New Zealand's horticulture export revenue jumped 13.7 per cent to $6.1 billion in the year to 30 June 2019 and it is expected to grow by another 3.8 per cent to $6.3 billion in the current financial year said Chapman. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9147622/more-pacific-rse-workers-needed/)

* 1. **New Zealand's horticulture industry adapting to meet climate change challenges**

Environmentalist and Executive Director of the Ecologic Foundation Guy Salmon reports that the Emissions Trading Scheme will place more financial pressure on ruminant agriculture which will provide strong incentives for farmers to move into horticulture and forestry. Horticulture crops often use far less water and produce less emissions than dairy, sheep and beef. Plant and Food Research Principal Scientist Brent Clothier states that out of two million hectares of viable horticultural land in New Zealand, only 16,000 hectares of land is currently in use for horticulture. Climate change will require growers to use tactical and strategic adaption as well as transformational change. Mr Clothier states however, that it is important for horticulture to have reliability of water. [Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/115845613/new-zealands-horticulture-industry-adapting-to-meet-climate-change-challenges)

* 1. **New Zealand to host next World Avocado Congress in 2023**

On the last day of the World Avocado Congress in Columbia it was announced that New Zealand would host the next edition in 2023. They won the vote against stiff competition from Mexico and Kenya.

Jen Scoular, president of New Zealand Avocado, said it had taken an incredible team effort to present this offer, from the New Zealand Avocado team, Tourism New Zealand, the New Zealand Embassy in Colombia and NZTE. Tony Ponder, president of the Board of Directors of New Zealand Avocado, recognized this victory as an opportunity for the industry and for New Zealand to host the next World Avocado Congress and demonstrate how production and productivity has evolved in this area of the planet. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9148009/new-zealand-to-host-next-world-avocado-congress-in-2023/)



* 1. **New Zealand reports strong fruit export numbers**

Exports of several commodities including crude oil, fruit, and dairy products increased in value in August 2019, but these rises were partly offset by a fall in log exports, Stats NZ said today.

Exports of fruit in August rose $57 million, with both gold kiwifruit and apples up on a year earlier.

Exports of gold kiwifruit in the 2019 season to date (April – August) were 17 percent higher in value and 13 percent higher in quantity than in 2018. Exports of apples in the 2019 season to date (March – August) were 13 percent higher in value and 6.9 percent higher in quantity than in 2018.

Of New Zealand’s main export markets, China had the largest increase, up $118 million to $1.0 billion, led by increases in beef, kiwifruit, and dairy products. [Full article available here](https://www.stats.govt.nz/news/fruit-exports-strong-but-logs-fall)

* 1. **Huge interest in New Zealand apples and cherries at** **Asia Fruit Logistica**

A major New Zealand apple and cherry exporter noted an increase in the amount of "serious interest" in the company's produce at this year’s Asia Fruit Logistica – a response which has resulted in demand outstripping supply for next season. Horticultural investment company, Hortinvest, worked with North Island-based apple grower JR's Orchards, and Otago's Trophy Ridge Cherries at the annual trade show, marketing premium New Zealand apples and cherries to the world. Marketing and sales manager, Sharon Kirk said representatives fielded many enquiries from serious fruit buyers.

JR's Orchards was showcasing the premium ECCO-branded Sunglow Red variety. It is a derivative of Red Delicious, but Ms Kirk says it is sweeter, and juicier, and shaped like a Fuji. Our customers in Asia and India in particular just love it, and we even have had some interest from Germany, which is exciting. It is definitely a premium apple, and we get premium prices in Taiwan and China."

Sunglow's dark red colour is proving popular in Asian countries, where other red apple varieties are also having plenty of success with sales; particularly in India where Royal Gala is popular.

Ms Kirk was also selling for Trophy Ridge Cherries, who also had a separate stand at Asia Fruit Logistica. The company, now in its third year of production, will increase volume over time, with demand already outweighing supply. She is hopeful of a big crop out of New Zealand this year, with some "kind" growing conditions so far this spring. There is also a high demand for New Zealand cherries across Asia and even into Europe, in particular China and Taiwan, while India is a growing market. With the export season spanning from late December to early February Ms Kirk says the country usually misses the main Australian season. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9147098/huge-interest-in-new-zealand-apples-and-cherries-following-successful-asia-fruit-logistica/)

* 1. **Big opportunities for NZ exporters in China's smaller cities**

Chengdu, China's panda capital, has no less than 16 million humans who are attracting the attention of New Zealand exporters (along with other western cities such as Xi'an, population 12 million). Because the focus for trade is often on Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, so-called tier 1 cities on the eastern seaboard, but that is changing. More than 40 Kiwi businesses and tourism organisations recently attended "opening doors to the west" forums in Chengdu and Xi'an organised by the China Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand.

In China what you buy says something about your social status, the type of person you are, and because New Zealand brands are more expensive they need to "tell a strong sustainability story".

Food Basket chairwoman, Nicola O'Rourke who is also general manager of Lewis Road Creamery, says it is a difficult balancing act for exporters. On one hand, some Chinese consumers embrace sustainability, but they still want their imported produce to arrive in perfect condition

Zespri's China spokesman, Ivan Kinsella says it is important that kiwifruit arrives undamaged, but mindful of environmental concerns, its packaging is recyclable and labels are compostable. As well as preventing physical damage to its fruit, Zespri is also assiduously protecting its intellectual property (IP). Kinsella says Chinese regulators have helped crack down on counterfeit branding.

Over the last three years they have taken more than 150 administrative and criminal actions over counterfeit Zespri product leading to the seizure of 13,000 trays of fake fruit and a million fake labels.

Kinsella says six people are in jail for Zespri counterfeit offences, including offenders operating a printing plant that made counterfeit packaging, and a group of traders in a major fruit wholesale market selling fake labels so local fruit could be passed off as imported. "As China goes world-wide, they want to make sure their own backyard is clean, so they can also claim some IP protection when they go around the world." [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9146249/big-opportunities-for-nz-exporters-in-china-s-smaller-cities/)

* 1. **Tiny treats for your tastebuds changing eating habits one dish at a time**

Dan McKean, the owner of True Leaf Microgreens: "Microgreens are vegetable or herb seeds that are grown to the first set of leaves, the cotyledon leaves, rather than being allowed to grow into seedlings for planting in the garden." It is at this point in their growth when they are at their most nutrient-dense stage, if you look into the research, microgreens are anywhere between four to 40 times more nutrient-dense than their adult counterpart.  [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9147220/nz-tiny-treats-for-your-tastebuds-changing-eating-habits-one-dish-at-a-time/)

* 1. **Māori farming organisations are increasing their investment in horticulture**

As Māori farming organisations are increasing their horticulture investments, the new investment strategy isn’t only for better financial returns and job prospects, but also a step towards a more sustainable future for the next generation.

Rotorua-based Ngāti Whakaue Tribal Lands (NWTL) general manager, Ray Morrison, says any investments they consider are guided by mana whenua and kaitiakitanga values: “When we look at investment propositions, diversification plays a big part in our decision making along with the value proposition for our owners, including shareholder wealth and job creation.”

United Fresh New Zealand president Jerry Prendergast says the strong interest Māori trusts are showing in investing in horticulture is exciting.  “Iwi trusts have significant capital, and this combined with their long term view of investments is excellent for our industry as a whole. It utilises land in an efficient way, creates jobs, is good for our economy and enhances our reputation for growing and supplying NZ and the world with the world’s best fruit and vegetables.” [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9147648/maori-farming-organisations-are-increasing-their-investment-in-horticulture/)

* 1. **Next step for Far North water project**

A multi-million dollar investigation into water storage and water use options in the Far North and Kaipara has reached the pre-feasibility demand assessment and design stage. Two initial studies, co-funded by the Northland Regional Council and the government, have identified approximately 6300ha, some of which may be suitable for conversion to high-value horticulture, in the Kaipara, along with 1600ha south of Kaikohe and 1700ha west of Lake Omapere.

Supported by an $18.5 million investment from the government's Provincial Growth Fund the next assessment will also look at where and how water could be collected, stored and distributed. The work would also rank the viability of various areas, so by the end of March officials should have a much better idea which, if any, of the areas could be progressed further.

As well as the governance steering group, a separate advisory group had also been set up to provide advice on cultural, community, farming/growing and environmental matters. Group members include Kaipara and Mid North, hapu and iwi, and representatives from Lake Omapere, DoC, Fish & Game, Horticulture NZ, Irrigation NZ and Federated Farmers. Community and land owner representatives had been selected, and the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group had been included.

While some of the funding would be spent on feasibility and commitment phases, the rest would be made available as a construction loan should viable water storage and distribution networks be identified. [Full article available here](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/farming/news/article.cfm?c_id=195&objectid=12271129)

* 1. **New Zealand asparagus season looking good**

New Zealand Asparagus Council chairman Mike Arnold has reported it’s looking like a bumper crop this year. There was ''at least'' a 10% increase in volume this season as newer blocks started to produce higher yields. That would push the combined crop from around 1800 tonnes to around 2000 tonnes, from around 570ha of planted product. The Council says early production is snapped up quickly and about 95% of New Zealand-grown asparagus sold locally. The remainder is exported to markets such as Japan and Singapore. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9147289/new-zealand-asparagus-season-looking-good/)

* 1. **Seeka sells kiwi orchard for $15.5 million NZD**

Seeka Limited has entered into an agreement to sell a 20 canopy hectare Kerikeri SunGold kiwifruit orchard to Booster’s listed Private Land & Property Portfolio, which is the sole investment of the recently listed Private Land and Property Fund. The sale is for $15.5m (plus GST if any), payable on settlement, and there is also a potential further payment in 5 years based on orchard production (of up to approximately a further $1 million).

The orchard is leased back by Seeka for a fixed rate, securing supply of the fruit to Seeka in-line with its stated Northland strategy. Under the lease, Seeka will also manage the orchard. The proceeds of the sale would be used to both repay debt and to fund the continuing infrastructure development project at Seeka’s Waipapa Road Post-Harvest facility. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9147764/seeka-sells-kiwi-orchard-for-15-5-million-nzd/)

** Bits and pieces**

* 1. **Hawke's Bay gets $14 million investment for food innovation and employment opportunities**

New Zealand’s government is investing $14 million into Hawke's Bay for food innovation and employment opportunities. It's the latest round of funding to be announced through the Provincial Growth Fund. The Hawke's Bay Food Innovation Hub, which had already undergone a $215,000 feasibility and business case through the fund, will receive $12 million. Ngāti Pāhauwera Training and Employment Project, will get $1.3 million and $557,000 will go towards a pilot programme run and co-funded by Turners and Growers to up-skill and build leadership capabilities for at least 100 local horticulture workers. As reported by [tvnz.co.nz](https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/hawkes-bay-gets-14-million-pgf-investment)¸ the remaining $300,000 will go towards a feasibility study for expanding the apple press company Apollo Foods. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9146764/hawke-s-bay-gets-14-million-investment-for-food-innovation-and-employment-opportunities/)



1. **International news**

**Comment**

 **Regulatory**

* 1. **Monitoring EU Agri-Food Trade: Developments until July 2019**

The strong start to the EU agri-food exports in 2019 continued in July with another monthly record  figure of EUR 13.07 billion, 12.6% above the level of July 2018. As a result, the monthly agri-food trade surplus stood at EUR 3.15 billion – a 40% increase of the positive trade balance compared to EUR 2.25 billion in July 2018.

The highest increases in monthly export values (July 2019 compared to July 2018, EUR million) were recorded for the US (+393, +20.5%), China (+269, +26.5%) and Japan (+215, +37.5%), while exports decreased most to Hong Kong (-45, -13.6%), Libya (-34, -28%) and Turkey (-22, -8%).

Meanwhile while the value of imports increased notable decreases include the US (-144, -15%), Indonesia (-67, 19%) and New Zealand (-33, -12%). [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9146783/monitoring-eu-agri-food-trade-developments-until-july-2019/)

* 1. **Trade deal signed by Trump and Abe**

On Wednesday, Japan agreed to cut or eliminate tariffs on $7.2 billion worth of U.S. ag commodities and erect new quotas under a trade deal that US President Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Abe signed. About 88% of the roughly $14.1 billion worth of U.S. ag exports to Japan would be either tariff-free or receive preferential treatment once the new deal is in place, a senior U.S. government official told reporters.

Japan has agreed to eliminate all tariffs immediately upon implementation for products like almonds, blueberries, walnuts, sweet corn, sorghum and broccoli. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9147689/trade-deal-signed-by-trump-and-abe/)

This agreement will therefore potentially see the US, once more, competing on a level playing field with New Zealand exporters in the Japan market. This threatens to erode some of the most important gains achieved through CPTPP. *For Tradeworks full analysis on this trade and its potential implications see* [Full article available here](http://www.tradeworks.org.nz/us-japan-mini-deal/) *See also the Export NZ article on this in their trade update*

* 1. **EU General Court backs Australians in plant variety dispute**

The US apple brand 'Pink Lady America' has failed in its bid to have an Australian-owned community plant variety registration overturned at the EU General Court. In the recent judgment, handed down on September 24th, the General Court ruled that the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) was correct in determining that the Western Australian Agriculture Authority’s (WAAA) Cripps Pink apple variety was novel at the time it was registered. It applied to register with the CPVO as Cripps Pink variety in 1995.

In 2014, Pink Lady America filed to have the Cripps Pink registration nullified on the grounds that it lacked novelty under the EU’s Council Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 on Community plant varieties.

Under the terms of that regulation, a variety is considered ‘new’ if it has not been sold in the EU either earlier than one year before the date of application, or four years outside the EU.

In last weeks judgment, the court found that the WAAA’s original application for the apple variety was made in 1995, less than one year after the regulation entered into force. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9147588/eu-general-court-backs-australians-in-plant-variety-dispute/)

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. **“Trump’s tariffs are killing apple farmers”**

This article provides a link to the story of one of the many Northwest fruit farmers who feel like collateral damage in the president’s dealings with China and other countries. The article expresses the growers dismay relating to President Trumps politics and the effects these are having on US growers.

[Click here for the article.](https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2019/09/opinion-trumps-tariffs-are-killing-apple-farmers-like-us.html)

* 1. **China becomes most important export market for Chile**

Chilean export data shows that the most important export market for Chile is China. The Chinese market buys around one third of all Chilean exports. That is twice as much as the US market. The Chilean minister of finance, Felipe Larraín Bascuñán, stated that China is one of the most open new and upcoming markets in the world. Chile plans to open the market even further. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9144726/china-becomes-most-important-export-market-for-chile/)

* 1. **European Art of Taste project receives journalists from China and Hong Kong**

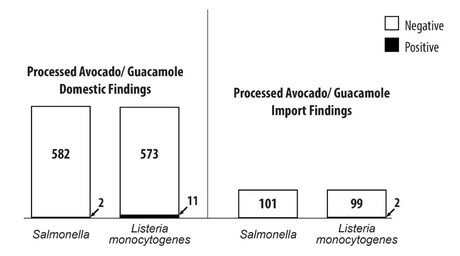
The promotion of the European Art of Taste – Italian Fruit & Veg Masterpieces Project has taken a large group of journalists from China and Hong Kong to experience production excellence directly in the areas of origin.

The wider EU project will be operative from 1 February, 2019 to 31 January, 2022 and will implement promotion and communication measures for a total cost of 3.7 million euros. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9146276/european-art-of-taste-project-receives-journalists-from-china-and-hong-kong/)

 **Food safety**

* 1. **Results of FDA sampling of fresh herbs and processed avocado**

Fresh cilantro, parsley and basil are typically eaten without having undergone a ‘kill step,’ such as cooking, to reduce or eliminate bacteria. These herbs are grown low to the ground and therefore are susceptible to contamination (e.g., from irrigation water splashing off the soil). As of July 1, 2019, the FDA has tested 958 fresh herb samples (521 domestic, 437 import), and 685 processed avocado or guacamole samples (584 domestic, 101 import). Testing for all pathogens is still underway and no conclusions can be drawn at this time.



Of the fresh herb samples, 12 tested positive for Salmonella (4 domestic, 8 import), and seven tested positive for Shiga-toxin producing E. coli (STEC). Further study showed that the STEC were incapable of causing severe illness. The FDA did not detect E. coli O157:H7 in any of the fresh herb samples. Of the processed avocado or guacamole samples, 13 tested positive for Listeria monocytogenes (11 domestic, 2 import), and two tested positive for Salmonella (both domestic samples).

The FDA also began testing its fresh herb samples for Cyclospora cayetanensis in July 2018, given that Cyclospora-related illnesses typically occur during the summer. The agency detected Cyclospora cayetanensis in two of the 221 samples of domestically grown fresh herbs, and in eight of the 205 samples of imported fresh herbs. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9146255/results-of-fda-sampling-of-fresh-herbs-and-processed-avocado/)

* 1. **FDA launches initiative to research risk factors for E.coli contamination**

Following the largest E.coli O157:H7 outbreak in the United States since 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has launched a new initiative to better understand the ecology of human pathogens in the environment in the Yuma agricultural region. This initiative will be a multi-year study which will focus on how these pathogens survive, move and possibly contaminate produce prior to harvest.

The findings of the FDA’s review of the outbreak made clear that further collaboration among leafy greens stakeholders and FDA is needed to better understand potential sources of microbial contamination, the prevalence and persistence of human pathogens in the ecosystem near growing areas, and the best management practices to prevent future outbreaks from occurring.

Throughout this initiative, FDA will work in partnership with water quality, food safety, and agricultural experts from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, representatives from the WMIDD, and members of the Yuma area leafy greens industry. Research teams will be collecting and examining samples from the environment such as surface waters, canal sediment, and dust. The team will also be collecting scat samples to assess the impact that animal intrusion and native wildlife may have on the growing environment.

The findings from this study will contribute new knowledge on how various environmental factors may influence bacterial persistence and distribution in this region, and how those factors may impact the risk of this commodity becoming contaminated. Results from this collaboration will lead to improved practices to prevent or mitigate food safety risks, and ultimately enhance the safety of produce grown in the region. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9146766/fda-launches-initiative-to-research-risk-factors-for-e-coli-contamination/)



* 1. **Germany: A vertical farming system for at home**

A video explores Plantcube, an intelligent vertical farming system for the home. The Plantcube - will set you back 2,979 euros - provides an indoor garden for growing lettuce, microgreens and herbs on eight ‘fields’, with automated watering, optimal LED lighting and sensor-based climate control.

This vertical farming system even notifies you via an app of the perfect time to harvest your food.

[Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9141636/germany-a-vertical-farming-system-for-at-home/)

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