

**PMAC weekly update 29th July to 5th August**

1. **Government agencies**: ICPR Changes; Stink bug warning to importers; WTO Notifications; Customs consultation on goods clearance fees; MFAT engagement on the EU FTA
2. **New Zealand News:**  Ministers welcome horticulture into the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition; Trade Minister holds talks with UK counterpart; Nathan Guy to retire from politics; Export NZ Trade up date June; SEA CAPE Market Readiness Programme; Doing Business in ASEAN; Calling on young talent - 25 to Watch; Trade survey to improve Government support; Seeka considers sale and leaseback of Australian orchards; Zespri wants more overseas fruit; Kerikeri man calls for ban on Hi-Cane; RSE worker accommodation at Duncannon expands into next door site; Growers slam 'very clunky' process for claiming fuel tax rebates; NZ charities benefit from growers’ generosity; New Zealand must learn to talk about 'evolving technologies' - Sir Peter Gluckman; Report shows value of pesticides to NZ's economy
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; Freshfel highlights access worries; PwC pairs with traceability start-up; Freshfel's latest Headlines; Consumer Reports finds listeria on leafy greens sold in major supermarkets; Wrap reveals scale of UK waste

***Editors comments***

*A mixed bag this week with lots happening. No general theme but a couple of articles I’d like to draw your attention to. The first on a speech delivered by Sir Peter Gluckman at the Hort NZ Conference encourages New Zealanders to reopen the gene editing debate. In doing so he encourages the use of something like the Irish public assembly which enables the conversation to be based on the facts and common sense. I agree with Professor Gluckman that with the recent advances made in breeding this conversation must be had and I particularly like the idea of a public assembly. We certainly cant afford for activists and commercial interest to be seen to capture this debate.*

*The second article is one that reports that Bay of Plenty growers have agreed to self levy each packed tray of fruit so it can be donated to local community groups.* *The sign of not only a profitable industry but also one with a social conscience.*

1. **Agency news**



* 1. **ICPR changes**

The following changes have been made to ICPR’s over the last week

* The [Norfolk Island ICPR has been deleted and information included in the Australia ICPR.](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/621) This includes [links to Norfolk Island legislation and requirements for Allium spp. included in the Australia ICPR.](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/621)
* The ICPR for USA has been updated so that [*the pest list in Appendix 1 now lists the genus Rhizoglyphus spp,  excluding Rhizoglyphus echinopus or Rhizoglyphus robini*](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/702)*. The ICPR also outlines the a*dditional declaration requirements for Acer spp in Section 4.3 Nursery stock noting “ Anoplophora chinensis and Anoplophora glabripennis are not known to occur in New Zealand”

See the [Importing Countries Phytosanitary Requirements (ICPRs)](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/requirements/icpr-importing-countries-phytosanitary-requirements/?utm_source=notification-email) for the updated ICPR’s

* 1. **Stink bug warning to importers**

Biosecurity New Zealand has sent a stark message to shippers, agents, and importers that imported cargo must meet new rules intended to keep brown marmorated stink bugs out of New Zealand.

Biosecurity New Zealand formally issued new import rules on 22 July. They require off-shore treatment of imported vehicles, machinery, and parts from 33 identified risk countries, and all sea containers from Italy during the stink bug season. In the past, only uncontainerised vehicle cargo from risk countries required treatment before arriving in New Zealand. "We can give advice on approved off-shore treatment providers where necessary. Industry should also be aware that sensitive goods that would be damaged by fumigation or heat treatment can be managed by on-arrival inspection in some cases."

MPI are optimistic the rules will reduce clearance delays for cargo this season. "There will be a lot less treatment required onshore, which should speed up the time it takes to get cargo released once it arrives in New Zealand." Similar to previous years, this season will see increased surveillance and inspection of arriving vessels and cargo from countries with established stink bug populations. Last season, Biosecurity New Zealand turned away 4 contaminated vessels from New Zealand waters and intercepted 151 live stink bugs at the border. The stink bug season runs from September to April. [Full article available here](https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/stink-bug-warning-to-importers/?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:

* Australia- conditions to prevent the import of xyella
* Brazil – conditions for selected plants for propagation
* Eygpt Potato seed requirements

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



* 1. **Customs consultation on goods clearance fees**

Customs operating environment has changed significantly since it last reviewed its goods clearance fees in 2006.  Increases in the volumes of imports and exports mean that their fees no longer reflect the true cost of clearing goods.  
  
Customs would like to hear your views on proposed new fees that are outlined in a discussion document Recovering the costs of Customs’ goods clearance activities. They are accepting submissions until 5pm on **30 August 2019**. The [consultation page](https://govt.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=5bcebe8ff41247a98e67420c5&id=d62f142544&e=e76458644d) has information on the review, how they set the fees, and how you can provide feedback.



* 1. **MFAT engagement on the EU FTA**

# MFAT is keen to respond to New Zealanders' concerns and interests around trade agreements.

Meeting with New Zealand’s trade negotiators on the European Union – New Zealand Free Trade Agreement and other on-going negotiations will be held around the country over the next few weeks. See information at the base of the [MFAT web page here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/nz-trade-policy/public-engagement-on-trade/)



1. **New Zealand News**



* 1. **Ministers welcome horticulture into the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition**

The Minister for Māori Development, Hon Nanaia Mahuta and the Minister of Agriculture, Damien O’Connor, say bringing horticulture into the prestigious Ahuwhenua Trophy competition is a major milestone for Māori. The 2020 Ahuwhenua competition will mark the first time horticulture is included.

Last week Minister Mahuta told delegates at the Horticulture New Zealand conference in Hamilton that next year will see Māori farmers, trusts and incorporations compete for being the top Māori horticulture enterprise in the country.  Minister O’Connor announced that government financial support for the event would also increase.  Te Puni Kōkiri and MPI will be platinum sponsors of the Excellence in Māori Horticulture Award in 2020.

Minister Mahuta says Māori are now major players in the horticultural sector, producing at least ten percent of the annual kiwifruit crop, as well as avocados and berries as rapidly expanding crops.

“Right across the primary sector Māori are excelling. They are taking ownership of their land, forming collaborative partnerships, taking their products directly to world markets and this all adds to the establishment of profitable and sustainable businesses that are guided by Māori values. [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/ministers-welcome-horticulture-ahuwhenua-trophy-competition)

* 1. **Trade Minister holds talks with UK counterpart**

Trade and Export Growth Minister David Parker has held talks with UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss in London to discuss a future trade deal between the UK and New Zealand. He met Secretary Truss less than a week after her appointment to the Boris Johnson government, and the two discussed a range of areas for future cooperation.

David Parker welcomed the reaffirmation by Secretary Truss of the shared commitment to move ahead quickly on a Free Trade Agreement as soon as the UK leaves the EU. Secretary Truss said: “I want New Zealand to be one of the first free trade agreements the UK signs as we prepare to become an independent trading nation once again.”  The UK and New Zealand established a trade policy dialogue in late 2016.  [Full article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/trade-minister-holds-talks-uk-counterpart)

* 1. **Nathan Guy to retire from politics**

Former Agriculture Minister Nathan Guy will not be seeking re-election next year. Guy became an MP in 2005 and a Minister in 2009. He has held the Otaki seat since 2008 and will have served 15 years in Parliament by next year’s General Election. [Full article available here](https://ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/nathan-guy-to-retire-from-politics?utm_source=Rural+News+Group+Weekly+E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=60237c6b22-Rural_News_Group_Bulletin_30_July_2019&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fb79f8bfe8-60237c6b22-59798541&ct=t(Rural_News_Group_Bulletin_30_July_2019))



* 1. **Export NZ Trade up date June**

***US*** China and the United States are back around the negotiating table in Beijing.  The fact that they are talking is a good thing.  Part of the reason that this is happening, however, is that China has agreed to resume purchasing US agricultural products.  We are monitoring closely the direct and indirect impacts on New Zealand interests.

**Meanwhile** the US tariffs on Chinese products and on steel  and aluminum have now been in place long enough for patterns of trade diversion to become apparent.  Most noticeably we are seeing a blow out in the US trade deficit with Vietnam.  Watch this space…

Decisions on US action against Europe were delayed for six months but anti-EU rhetoric is increasing in Washington DC.  Things will come to a head again just as Brexit is about to occur in

**UK** negotiation between the UK and New Zealand, formerly beginning before the end of the year is now a real possibility. Informal talks have been underway for some time. Exporters with shipments due to arrive in the UK or Europe in late October/early November should begin/resume contingency planning in case there are some delays at both the UK and EU border.

***NZ-EU*** As many were predicting the NZ-EU FTA has not been plain sailing. Indeed progress seems to have halted the moment substantive negotiations began on market access. As expected agriculture is a major stumbling block. Outside of market access the EU position on Geographical Indications is also causing difficulty for New Zealand negotiators. It is good that New Zealand is showing resolve and is not simply agreeing to a quick but poor quality deal.

***NZ-US*** Foreign Minister and Deputy PM Winston Peters made a strong call for a FTA between New Zealand and the US the focus of his speech in Washington DC and his talks with senior US officials, including Vice President Mike Pence. He has returned reporting that his views were received positively in Washington DC. There is still no official US response to his request for a negotiation.

***RCEP*** New Zealand is still part of this negotiation. India and Australia have also not been expelled. There is no sign of any progress beyond this from the last round of negotiations.

***ASEAN FTA Upgrade*** MFAT continues to be keen to hear exporter views on a proposed update of the AANZFTA, the FTA linking Australia, New Zealand and ASEAN.

***Pacific Alliance*** Minister Peters also travelled to Chile recently. There are some positive signals from the region that indicate that negotiations on the expansion of the Pacific Alliance might be possible. Colombia remains the main stumbling block. [Full article available here](https://www.exportnz.org.nz/news-and-information/news/2019/trade-update-july-2019?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ExportNZ&utm_content=ExportNZ+CID_d1db6c9c3fdc9e6c4cef0dbbb302c1b6&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=More%20-)

* 1. **SEA CAPE Market Readiness Programme**

The Southeast Asia Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence (SEA CAPE) and ExportNZ have organised a one day workshop on the 8th August in Wellington. The SEA Market Readiness Programme aims to provide your business with the mind-set, assessment tools and strategizing preparation work needed for engaging in Southeast Asian markets. You will have the opportunity to tap into the knowledge provided by experts and share experiences with other participants and network with subject matter experts, SEA CAPE network and each other. [***More ->>***](https://businessnz.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jiuyhdjy-aekytdhr-c/)

* 1. **Doing Business in ASEAN**

ASEAN New Zealand Business Council (ANZBC), AUT University and the South East Asian CAPE are offering a full day Forum on September 17th, with plenty of business focused speakers and networking opportunities. This Forum takes a snapshot of our relationship with ASEAN now, as well as looking forward at the possibilities of future potential and development. [Full article available here](https://anzbc.eventbank.com/event/doing-business-in-asean-dynamic-digital-diverse-14735/)

* 1. **Calling on young talent - 25 to Watch**

The Asia New Zealand Foundation Te Whītau Tūhono is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. To mark this special milestone, we are looking for 25 young people who are making important contributions to New Zealand-Asia relations now and have the potential to contribute substantially in the future. 25 to Watch is our way of recognising and celebrating impressive young people (aged 25 or under) who not only appreciate that New Zealand’s present and future - economically, culturally and socially - are firmly tied to Asia, but who have also taken action to contribute to greater understanding and stronger relations.  
  
They are looking for applications in five categories: Business and entrepreneurship ; Education, science and research; Community and not-for-profit; Media, arts, culture and sports and Public sector  
  
Please note that nominees do not need to be New Zealand citizens or residents, but need to be able to demonstrate contribution to New Zealand-Asia relations. [More details on 25 to Watch including the nomination form and terms and conditions are available on our website here.](https://businessnz.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jiuyhdjy-aekytdhr-n/)

* 1. **Trade survey to improve Government support**

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is seeking feedback on your experiences of cross border trade to improve government services to you. The survey is easy and will only take 7-10 minutes. Your feedback is important! [***Click here to start***](https://businessnz.cmail20.com/t/r-l-jiuyhdjy-aekytdhr-m/)



* 1. **Seeka considers sale and leaseback of Australian orchards**

Kiwifruit grower and marketer Seeka have reported it is looking at a potential sale and leaseback on some or all of its orchard portfolio in Australia to accelerate orchard development and repay debt. Seeka Australia currently holds over 273 hectares of orchards in production or development, with approximately 278 hectares available for new development. The portfolio includes 163 hectares of kiwifruit and 110 hectares of European and Asian pears, of which 21 hectares are new variety pears yet to come into full production. Seeka has approximately $49 million invested in Australia across both the post-harvest and orcharding business.

The strategy is consistent with Seeka’s recent approach in New Zealand where orchards were purchased in Northland and sold to third parties with a secure term packing commitment. Seeka shares last traded at $5.15 and have gained about 21 percent so far this year. [Full article available here](http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/BU1907/S00717/seeka-considers-sale-and-leaseback-of-australian-orchards.htm)

* 1. **Zespri wants more overseas fruit**

Although Zespri International’s supplies of foreign kiwifruit rose by 20 percent last year, Chief Executive Dan Mathieson reports that they are still well short of potential demand. Mr Mathieson stated that the increase to 18.4 million trays in the year ended March 31, from 15.5m a year earlier, is an important step towards the ambition of 12-month supply. Globally sourced fruit are still a small part of the overall volumes. Zespri’s sales include 76.6 million trays of NZ-grown Green kiwifruit, up from 64.4 million, and 65.4 million trays of Gold, up from 52.1 million. They expect continuing growth in gold as new orchards come to full production. Zespri plans big spending to replace outdated operating systems, covering the whole supply chain. A decision on whether to commercialise new Red and Green kiwifruit varieties will be made in September [Full article available here](https://farmersweekly.co.nz/section/horticulture/view/zespri-wants-more-overseas-fruit)

* 1. **Kerikeri man calls for ban on Hi-Cane**

Kerikeri man John Levers wants the use of Hi-Cane spray banned. John Levers claims that ''cowboy operators'' are ignoring the kiwifruit industry's guidelines about not spraying next to waterways or public roads or on windy days. Many orchards also lacked shelter belts or screens to catch spray drift, as required in the guidelines.

Levers' main concern is with the use of Hi-Cane, a spray used to trigger bud-burst but banned in the European Union in 2010 amid concerns for the health of workers and the wider public. In 2006 it was re-assessed by New Zealand's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which allowed its continued use subject to rules set by the industry.

Levers said, however, those rules were not enforced and some — such as not spraying on windy days — were almost impossible to meet. The former pilot, who now owns a lodge near Kerikeri, said he had dipped into his own pocket in a bid to get Hi-Cane re-assessed again. He expected to hear from the EPA in the coming week whether his application had been successful.

New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Inc (NZKGI) chief executive Nikki Johnson said the organisation took spraying compliance ''very seriously''. ''While the majority of kiwifruit growers follow best practice, there are some isolated situations where growers need to improve,'' she said. The NZKGI had undertaken a number of initiative, such as appointing a spray advisor and holding grower meetings, to make sure growers understood their obligations and the public knew what to expect.

Precautions required by the industry included special spray nozzles, using drift-reducing materials in the spray and only spraying in low wind conditions. Growers who didn't comply with the standards could be hit with financial penalties or their fruit could be refused. When applicable, complaints made to the NZKGI spray hotline were followed up by the industry and passed on to the Northland Regional Council. However, only two complaints had been made to the hotline in Northland in the last four years, Johnson said.

The industry was continuing to investigate alternatives to Hi-Cane and had seen some positive results with new products such as Advance Gold.

WorkSafe chief inspector Darren Handforth said ''targeted workplace assessments'' focusing on spray contractors and owners who sprayed their own Hi-Cane would be carried out in Northland, the Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay and Nelson this month.The assessments aimed to determine the level of compliance with the required hazardous substance controls for the use of Hi-Cane, as detailed in the EPA's 2006 reassessment. Any non-compliance could result in enforcement action, Handforth said.

[Full article available here](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=12254871)

* 1. **RSE worker accommodation at Duncannon expands into next door site**

A multi-million dollar expansion at Duncannon, East of Blenheim is expected to move 160 people out of motels and backpackers into custom-built accommodation for Hortus, whose owner Aaron Jay, purchased a neighbouring paddock earlier this year. The expansion is expected to cost around $7 million, and workers themselves have helped with the design, including suggestions for sports fields, and a small shop at reception for basic necessities.

Hortus workers come from several Pacific countries, mainly Vanuatu but also the Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and Papua New Guinea, staying in New Zealand on the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme to work in the vineyards. Mr Jay reports that he wants the new complex to be their home away from home, to make workers enjoy their stay. Classrooms are also being built to teach workers new skills. Another new RSE complex, expected to house 240 workers is facing setbacks towards earthquake structuring but is expected to open in April next year. [Full article available here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/property/113941518/rse-worker-accommodation-at-duncannon-expands-into-next-door-site)

* 1. **Growers slam 'very clunky' process for claiming fuel tax rebates**

Some growers say they are being left out of pocket by [Auckland's regional fuel tax](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/389849/fuel-tax-anniversary-auckland-still-cheaper-than-most-of-nz) because there is no simple way to claim back for on-farm vehicles and machinery. The 11.5 cents-a-litre regional fuel tax was introduced last July to fund transport projects around the region. A rebate system, overseen by the Transport Agency, is meant to help growers and farmers claim back for [on-farm vehicles and machinery.](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/369256/growers-left-out-of-pocket-over-complex-fuel-tax-rebate-system)

To claim, growers must record fuel usage for each individual vehicle. That would require staff working in the field to collect information, taking up more time and imposing further cost. As a grower group our biggest frustration really is, it's in effect a tax on the consumption of healthy vegetables. We are producing something healthy for our communities here in New Zealand. "When our off-road vehicles are spending the clear majority of their time off-road, we don't see that as fair and equitable,"

[Full article available here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/395709/growers-slam-very-clunky-process-for-claiming-fuel-tax-rebates)

* 1. **NZ charities benefit from growers’ generosity**

One of New Zealand’s leading post-harvest operators is giving back to the community it operates in.

DMS Progrowers has donated NZ$186,675 to community groups in New Zealand’s Western Bay region. The money has been raised through the DMS Progrowers Charitable Trust, launched last year.

Since its inception, kiwifruit and avocado growers who pack with DMS have voluntarily contributed one or two cents per tray of fruit to the trust. The money raised by the growers has been matched by DMS.

“In recent years the kiwifruit industry has not only recovered from the effects of Psa but has had remarkable earnings growth,” explained Craig Greenlees, joint managing director of DMS Progrowers.

“It is absolutely appropriate to enjoy that prosperity given the turbulence in recent years. However, it is also appropriate to acknowledge that at this time when we are doing so well financially, that is not true for all of New Zealand and many members of our communities require help.”

Andre Hickson, chair of the DMS Progrowers Charitable Trust, said the five trustees agreed to focus on two core groups when considering which charities to donate to – general care for all ages and demographics, along with children and families in need. Hickson says. “This is an investment by growers in the future but instead of R&D and Psa, it is this time about community and social outcomes.” [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/produceplus/article/179354/nz-charities-benefit-from-growers-generosity)

** Bits and pieces**

* 1. **NZ must learn to talk about 'evolving technologies' - Sir Peter Gluckman**

In a speech to the annual conference of Horticulture New Zealand, Sir Peter said New Zealanders must seriously debate evolving technology such as gene editing, and not leave it mired in rhetoric, and conflated with politics.

From the start, there were strong objections to this: unwanted genes could be transferred from one species to another, genetically modified food would be unsafe to eat, playing with the genome was philosophically wrong and huge corporations would use technology to take over the food industry.

"In New Zealand, the debate quickly became conflated with politics, and still is," Sir Peter told his audience. "Activism and extreme rhetoric reduced the quality of informed debate." In 2001, a Royal Commission effectively put a moratorium on genetic development. Yet that development soon surpassed the commission's own level of technological debate. Most notably, this involved [gene editing,](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/367904/nz-needs-to-embrace-gene-editing-technology-scientist) which altered aspects of a gene, and how it operated, without changing the gene itself.

This differed from genetic modification as considered by the commission, and could have major benefits.

"New Zealand should be much more confident about its ability to engage in debates on values, irrespective of outcome," he said. "Yes, such debates are hard, but avoiding them harms ourselves as a nation." He went on to say matters like this could be considered by a sort of Citizens' Assembly.

These had been used to consider contentious matters in Ireland and involved 99 names randomly chosen from the electoral roll. They would address a particular set of problems, with a Supreme Court judge as chair, and experts giving evidence.

"If our country does not periodically consider how to use or not use evolving technologies, we run the risk of becoming a backwater with a declining competitive position," he said. "We must to find a way to have ongoing conversations about fast moving and evolving technologies; burying our heads in the sands of short-termism can have serious long-term costs.". [Full article available here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/395636/new-zealand-must-learn-to-talk-about-evolving-technologies-sir-peter-gluckman)

* 1. **Report shows value of pesticides to NZ's economy**

[A report from the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research](http://agcarm.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/NZIER-Report.pdf) has revealed that without pesticides, crops would lose 30 percent of their value overall. Agcarm Chief Executive, Mark Ross, stated that the report highlighted the importance of the crop protection industry to New Zealand's economy. Agcarm is a not-for-profit trade association, representing more than 60 companies that takes a lead role in managing issues of importance to the crop protection and animal medicines industries, and is committed to responsible use of protection products. Without pesticides, horticulture would lose 75 percent of value, and the 2010 PSA outbreak would have severely damaged kiwifruit production, whilst vegetable growers would face loses of around 88 percent. [Full article available here](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=12251947)

Removing pesticide products could slash more than $11billion in value across New Zealand commercial crops, without the benefits of fungicides, insecticides or herbicides. [Full article available here](https://www.odt.co.nz/rural-life/horticulture/removal-would-cost-billions-report)



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. **Canada Retail Sector Overview – 2019** Canada is, by far, the largest overseas market for U.S. high-value, consumer-oriented products, with exports reaching $16 billion in 2018.  Canada’s retail market is mature and largely consolidated with five major stores that represent 62 percent of the market and nearly 7,000 independents and convenience stores that represent the remaining 38 pe...[Retail Foods\_Ottawa\_Canada\_7-10-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Retail%20Foods_Ottawa_Canada_7-10-2019.pdf)
2. **France Retail Foods** More than 70 percent of French household food purchases are made in supermarkets and local smaller discount stores. Different types of retailers have experienced growth and success over the last two years, both local stores and some larger discount stores offering innovative services.  [2019\_Paris\_France\_7-23-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/2019_Paris_France_7-23-2019.pdf)
3. **Japan Retail Sector 2019** In 2018, the total value of all retail food and beverage sales in Japan was $479.29 billion (¥53,339 billion) an overall increase of 2.3 percent. Supermarkets represent the bulk of the retail food market, at 70.1 percent, but the fast-growing convenience store sector now represents 14 percent of sales.  [Retail Sector 2019\_Tokyo ATO\_Japan\_7-19-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Retail%20Sector%202019_Tokyo%20ATO_Japan_7-19-2019.pdf)
4. **Russian Federation Exporter Guide** The Exporter Guide provides an economic and food market overview, demographic and consumption trends, and practical tips to U.S. exporters how to conduct business in Russia. The report also describes three market sectors (food retail, food service, and food processing) [Exporter Guide\_Moscow ATO\_Russian Federation\_7-12-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Exporter%20Guide_Moscow%20ATO_Russian%20Federation_7-12-2019.pdf)
5. **Spain Export Certificate Report**This report focuses on Spanish specific certification requirements when they differ or are additional to EU-harmonized certification.  This report should be read in conjunction with the EU-28 FAIRS Export Certificate report [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report\_Madrid\_Spain\_7-23-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Export%20Certificate%20Report_Madrid_Spain_7-23-2019.pdf)
6. **Taiwan Retail Foods Report** Taiwan’s retail food sector is modern and competitive, with Costco, 7-Eleven, PX Mart, and Carrefour competing for retail food sales. These modern food retail outlets provide convenient [Taiwan Retail Foods Report\_Taipei ATO\_Taiwan\_7-29-2019](http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Taiwan%20Retail%20Foods%20Report_Taipei%20ATO_Taiwan_7-29-2019.pdf)

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. **Freshfel highlights access worries**

Freshfel Europe has warned EU market access experts of the need to act urgently to address the challenges that the European fruit and vegetable sector are facing to access third country markets.

During the recent European Commission Market Access Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) matters, an event held in Brussels that gathered European Commission officials, member states and sector representatives, the association the development and implementation of better defined international standards for the treatment of pests to the European Commission.

Currently most EU trade partners operate under what Freshfel described as a "detrimental closed system" for biosecurity and plant health protection, which requires EU producers and exporters to gain access to new markets product by product and country by country with tight conditions fixed in protocols, which require "long negotiations and costly procedures".

"Furthermore there is a complete lack of transparency by trading partners in communicating the pests they are concerned by and any accepted remedies, which is resulting in different conditions being imposed on member states for the same commodity under similar production conditions," the Freshfel representatives said. "Better defined international standards for the treatment of pests would help resolve these issues and facilitate the market access process."

During the SPS Working Group, Freshfel Europe also proposed to ease market access for EU fruit and vegetable exporters via Sanitary and Phytosanitary Chapters in EU Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

Freshfel Europe encouraged the European Commission to continue its work in gradually integrating binding SPS provisions in new FTAs. This includes ‘fast track’ procedures, the abolition of pre-clearance, member states’ group applications, the exchange of lists regarding pests of concern and facilitations for audits pre-export. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/179356/freshfel-offers-third-country-access-solutions)

* 1. **PwC pairs with traceability start-up**

## Trade technology start-up DiMuto has joined with PwC Singapore’s Venture Hub to grow the international agri-food coldchain market The partnership will provide DiMuto with expertise, including business and operations advisory support, to scale up its operations in the international agri-food coldchain market.

DiMuto’s Track & Trace blockchain solution, which digitises each fruit into a traceable digital asset, tackles key issues hampering trade in the agri-food coldchain market including financing, supply chain transparency, as well as food safety and wastage the company said. This parnership comes after Dimuto recently [announced](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/179224/digitalising-durians) its platform will be used by Thailand’s largest fresh durian exporter and frozen durian producer – Queen Frozen Fruit. In product trials held between March 2019 and June 2019, DiMuto tagged 1.2m fruits (durians, apples, avocados, lemons and oranges) for various companies in the US, Thailand, Mexico, Australia and China.[Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/americafruit/article/179331/pwc-pairs-with-traceability-start-up)

* 1. **Freshfel's latest Headlines**

Freshfel's latest Headlines for the period June and July 2019 are now available. [here](https://freshfel.org/freshfel-headlines-4-2019/). The Headlines gives an overview of the most recent Freshfel activities which include articles on

* Its launch of #400gChallenge with the ‘Follow me to be healthy with Europe’ campaign
* Its solutions to urgently tackle SPS barriers to access third country markets
* Lead in EU fresh fruit & vegetable representative in European Commission High Level market access initiatives in Japan & Mexico
* Contributing to formulation of UNECE food waste Code of Good Practice
* Recommendations to European Commission on simple & multi programmes
* Welcome to the CIQA delegation to Brussels
* Hosting the delegation from the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan
* Readiness to participate in new European Commission Market Observatory

 **Food safety**

* 1. **Consumer Reports finds listeria on leafy greens sold in major supermarkets**

Recent tests done by Consumer Reports , in the USA, found listeria on six out of 284 samples of leafy greens randomly purchased at grocery stores in Connecticut, New Jersey and New York. Two of the contaminated samples were packaged whilst the other four were loose heads or bunches of kale, lettuce and spinach. One sample of Spinach mix from Hannaford had a strain of the pathogen linked to two listeriosis cases reported to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, however Hannaford said that they had not received any reports of illness associated with the product.

Listeria can grow in refrigerated temperatures, so it can be particularly challenging to control. Consumer Reports stated that the findings were concerning and that this information was immediately shared with the Food and Drug Administration(FDA) and affected marketers and retailers. The FDA has a zero-tolerance policy for listeria and will take immediate action if it is found, including removing products from the marketplace. [Full article available here](https://www.fooddive.com/news/consumer-reports-finds-listeria-on-leafy-greens-sold-in-major-supermarkets/559778/)



* 1. **Wrap reveals scale of UK waste**

Food destined for UK supermarkets, or 7.2 per cent of all food harvested, is discarded or fed to animals before it leaves farms each year. This latest report, conducted by Wrap, the government-backed waste reduction body, is likely to lead to calls for more urgent action on the issue.

The report identifies 3.6m tonnes of food that is wasted in primary production, with crops rejected by retailers because they do not meet quality standards, or due to fluctuations in demand or problems during storage or packing. This figure is more than ten times the amount thrown away by the retailers themselves.

It includes 2m tonnes of surplus edible food that fails to reach a retailer or buyer and is diverted to feed livestock or distributed to charities, the rest being ploughed back into fields, composted or used to create energy.

According to the results, sugar beet, potatoes and carrots make up more than half of the overall estimate for food waste in primary production (by weight), with the top ten products contributing 80 per cent of the total. Other items of fruit and vegetables that made it into the top 20 most wasted food products were onions, cabbages, lettuce, apples, peas, parsnips, strawberries, Brussels sprouts and tomatoes.

The report’s authors stressed that, since the report was a combination of single-year studies, and given the strong influence of climatic conditions, pests and diseases on production, waste rates could not be expected to remain stable from season to season. They also warned that the report’s method of using self-reporting from farmers might well lead to an underestimation of the total amount of waste. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/179316/wrap-reveals-scale-of-uk-waste)

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