

**PMAC weekly update 1st to 8th November**

1. **Government agencies**: PMAC Annual report 2020/21, ICPR Changes WTO Notifications, NZ Perceptions Update Webinar – Global Pulse Check Research
2. **New Zealand News:**  Webinar X-Ray as a phytosanitary treatment: Exploring the views of retail stakeholders and consumers, Potential for foodborne transmission transmission of COVID-19 literature review update, Significant times for New Zealand plant breeding, Terry Meikle new CE for NZAPI, 'Labor shortages reduced apple export volumes', Hawke's Bay exporters get good news on tariff-free trade, T&G and PFI enter sale and leaseback of 22 Whakatu Road, Hastings, Tomato exports to eight countries still on hold due to plant disease, Lockdown mission for tomato grower, Seeka's funding facilities increase, Business blooming for Southland tulips with $1.6 million Dutch investment, Business blooming for Southland tulips with $1.6 million Dutch investment, Waimea Freshwater Farm Plan prepares growers for upcoming freshwater requirements, Demand for fresh produce boxes soars during lockdown, NZ start-up empowers Kiwis to grow-their-own vegetables, with seed delivery service and world-first digital tools, ‘Humble’ onion to undergo extreme makeover, Farmers warn of looming food supply issues, Confidence in the apple sector, Apple season, Tomato prices ease, Humble to Hero
3. **International news:** GAIN reports; China set to combat soaring vegetable prices, Chinese government urges citizens to stock up on daily necessities ahead of winter, Replacing imported horticultural produce with domestic produce a necessity", UK farmers threaten to stop planting if supermarkets do not raise prices, F&V "can help create healthier planet", 'Reefer container freight rates to stay firm in 2022', Ships queues increase port delays from Singapore to Piraeus, Dole reports on its sustainability, Recycled bioplastic transformed into fertilizers, How to correctly communicate health facts in the EU fruit and vegetable sector

**Comment**

Another good collection of articles – especially about New Zealand activity. Since I’m running a day late this week I won’t talk about any of the articles but I will point you to a couple of webinars. The first is a recording of one held by NZTE last week looking at how consumers in some of our key markets view New Zealand. Evidently a must for those involved in export . The second is a webinar that will be held this coming Thursday which reports on research into the acceptability to consumers of X rays as a phytosanitary treatment .

1. **Agency news** 
   1. **PMAC Annual report 2020/21**

On Monday ( 8th November) PMAC held its AGM and released its 2020/21 annual report. If you are interested in finding out about how MPI uses funds cost recovered from the Plant Product exporting sectors to support exports and how these funds were used in the last financial year the [2020/21 Annual report](http://www.pmac.co.nz/uploads/1/4/1/0/14100200/2021_pmac_annual_report.pdf)  is a good summary.

* 1. **ICPR changes**

The following ICPR have changed for the :

* Cook Islands with changes to Tomatoes and Tomato seeds and re-exported product
* European Union with changes for Rubus spp., Vaccinium corymbosum Stenocarpella maydis for Zea mays (Maize) and an additional declaration for Xylella fastidiosa.
* New Caledonia with changes to fresh tomatoes in
* Tonga with changes to Tomatoes and Tomato seeds and re-exported product

See [Importing Countries Phytosanitary Requirements (ICPRs)](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/export/export-requirements/icpr-importing-countries-phytosanitary-requirements/?utm_source=notification-email)

* 1. **WTO 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](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- measures for nursery stock and tissue culture against Xyella species
* Brazil – Requirements for hydrangea flowers
* EU – updates to the invasive alien species of concern

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* 1. **NZ Perceptions Update Webinar – Global Pulse Check Research**

A PMAC member has commented on the quality if this presentation and recommends it for all those involved in or supporting exports. The copy of the presentation provided at a recent webinar is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zx4ZIkBsMPI>

How have perceptions of New Zealand shifted over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic?   
Now more than ever, it is crucial for exporters to understand how New Zealand is perceived around the world. The webinar is presented by Alex Jones at One Picture who will present the Global Perceptions Research for 2021.In Australia, USA, UK, Germany, China, Japan, India, Brazil, UAE



1. **New Zealand News**

** Useful information**

* 1. **Webinar X-Ray as a phytosanitary treatment: Exploring the views of retail stakeholders and consumers**

The Plant and Food Research X-Ray Working Group is providing a research seminar about retailer and consumer attitudes this Thursday (11th November) at 1 pm. Irradiation using X-Ray has significant potential as a phytosanitary treatment for fruit and vegetables and as a potential replacement for methyl bromide fumigation. Global consumer studies have indicated consumer negativity and even fear towards food irradiation, and retailers may be resistant to stocking irradiated products due to labelling requirements and possible consumer reactions.  However, what are the views of New Zealand consumers and retailers?

To join use the following zoom link

<https://plantandfood.zoom.us/j/99796498834?pwd=NFZzNHp5L25wc2Joa09WckpiYzlsdz09>

* 1. Potential for foodborne transmission transmission of COVID-19 literature review update

The following literature review has been prepared for the New Zealand Food Safety Science and Research Centre by ESR.  
  
The understanding of COVID-19 is still evolving, likewise these reviews will continue to evolve. At the time this report was completed there was still no evidence that food is a source or a transmission route for COVID-19 and there is very low risk of spread from food products or packing despite billions of meals having been consumed since the start of the pandemic.  
  
You will find the full report including international consensus on survival rates of COVID-19 in or on food products and packaging [here](https://5aday.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6da879b6faf5dc2e07794a680&id=9956db17f7&e=0ff94fdc1c) on the United fresh website.



* 1. **Significant times for New Zealand plant breeding**

For plant breeders in New Zealand, the next couple of months will mark two significant achievements.

November 8th celebrates the 40th anniversary of NZs accession to the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) Convention. Moreover, by the end of December, Parliament is scheduled to pass the Plant Variety Rights Bill, which will align domestic law with the globally agreed convention.

A major change under the new PVR Bill will enable plant breeders, through the regulations, to seek exemptions to the practice of farm-saved seed. In support of this, a heads of agreement document is being framed between plant breeders and farmer representatives. Post the passage of the Bill, plant breeders and farmers will work with officials to lay the groundwork for a royalty collection system for those varieties where a royalty will be paid on farm-saved seed. Royalties are important, as they help breeders re-invest to support the development and delivery of more choices for farmers and crop end users. [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9371029/significant-times-for-new-zealand-plant-breeding/)

* 1. **Terry Meikle new CE for NZAPI**

New Zealand Apples and Pears (NZAPI) has appointed Terry Meikle as its new chief executive.

Meikle has a strong background in strategic management and international trade relations, having led New Zealand agriculture and horticulture interests across the Americas.

He previously served as the agriculture counsellor at the New Zealand Embassy in Mexico City, regional manager North America for Beef and Lamb New Zealand and as first secretary agriculture and trade for the New Zealand Embassy in Washington DC. “My networking, advocacy and leadership experience has been in both the public sector and through representing a levy funded organisation. These collaborative leadership roles have involved close partnership and engagement with a variety of public and private sector stakeholders,” said Meikle.

“As a levy funded organisation, NZAPI represents the interests and views of the apple and pear member growers. It is the views of these members that must shape the direction of travel of the industry. In that sense, it is imperative I build a deep trust with members and look forward to connecting with growers in orchards and packhouses throughout the country.” Meikle will commence as chief executive on 13 December, replacing Alan Pollard who has been in the role for the past nine years.

[Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/186710/terry-meikle-joins-nzapi)

* 1. **'Labor shortages reduced apple export volumes'**

*The USDA Gain report released last month identifies that* the same problems that beset apple production in 2020/21, especially labour shortages, could persist into 2021/2022. This is expected to constrain production increases, with 2021/22 production forecast at 578,000 tons. Although this is five percent up on the 2020/2021 crop, primarily because of the increased harvested area, it still remains substantially below the record crop harvested in 2019/20. Exports are also forecast to increase to 380,000 tons (up seven percent), but this would still be below the levels reached pre-COVID-19.

It is likely labor shortages at harvest will remain for the 2021/2021 harvest. Increased shipping costs and unreliability of shipping schedules also look set to continue. This, combined with increased post-harvest grading and packing costs, will put pressure on orchard-gate returns. As the apple sector in New Zealand is primarily orientated to production of apples for export, any blocks of apples with older varieties such as Braeburn (with forecast weak in-market pricing) may be voluntarily reduced at harvest or not harvested at all. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9370445/hawke-s-bay-exporters-get-good-news-on-tariff-free-trade/)

* 1. **Hawke's Bay exporters get good news on tariff-free trade**

Hawke's Bay growers are celebrating a tariff-free trade deal that will aid growers realizing cheaper apple and pear exports. The new free trade deal was agreed to in principle between the UK and Aotearoa in October. The deal will eventually end all tariffs on New Zealand exports to the country and is worth an estimated $1 billion over a period of 15 years to the nation’s economy. Aotearoa will also eliminate tariffs on goods originating in the UK from day one of the agreement. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9370445/hawke-s-bay-exporters-get-good-news-on-tariff-free-trade/)

* 1. **T&G and PFI enter sale and leaseback of 22 Whakatu Road, Hastings**

T&G Global is selling and leasing back its Whakatu West site at 22 Whakatu Road, Hastings, in a move which will generate $79.545 million to support its growth strategy.The 9.56 hectare site is being sold to Property for Industry Limited (PFI). The property accommodates in excess of 36,000 square metres of T&G’s post-harvest operations in the Hawke’s Bay, including one of its packhouses, two cool stores, warehousing and 3.7 hectares of storage yard.

T&G Global’s Chief Executive, Gareth Edgecombe, says the transaction will help T&G free up capital to fuel its growth. “By entering into a sale-leaseback agreement with PFI, we can unlock funds to reinvest back into our core business and new growth activities, while continuing to operate our post-harvest

facilities out of the Hawke’s Bay.

“With strong worldwide consumer demand for our premium apples, including Envy™ and JAZZ™, this capital will be used to fund our operations, continue building out our key global markets, and invest in new technology and our physical assets. The 15-year triple-net leaseback arrangement with PFI provides T&G with rights of renewal for a further 20 years. The commencing annual rental is $3.5 million plus GST, with annual fixed rent reviews of 2.25%, with an adjustment to market on the seventh anniversary of the lease commencement date. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9369251/t-g-and-pfi-enter-sale-and-leaseback-of-22-whakatu-road-hastings/)

* 1. **Tomato exports to eight countries still on hold due to plant disease**

In April, the Pepino Mosaic Virus was found in a greenhouse in Auckland. This contagious disease can affect the yield of crops and delay fruit growth. The Ministry for Primary Industries said that, following the initial detection, the virus had since spread to four more glasshouses.

Exports have been put on hold for eight countries where the disease is a biosecurity concern, including Australia and some Pacific nations. Tomatoes NZ general manager Helen Barnes said while its biggest market, Japan, was still open for business, the situation was not ideal given Covid-related freight problems were already testing growers. [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9368827/tomato-exports-to-eight-countries-still-on-hold-due-to-plant-disease/)

* 1. **Lockdown mission for tomato grower**

As the wider Auckland region endures more than two months in lockdown, one tomato grower has embarked on a bold mission to vaccinate 100% of its staff.NZ Hothouse produces about a quarter of the country’s tomatoes across its two glasshouses on the fringe of South Auckland. NZ Hothouse employs nearly 300 staff across its two major sites in the rural towns of Drury and Bombay.“There has been a very active campaign to get more people vaccinated here in Auckland, and pretty successfully too,” says Simon. “We are getting pretty close to that 100% vaccination mark across the NZ Hothouse Group.”

Simon says the government should recognize businesses that have high levels of vaccinated staff by removing restrictions placed on them. “We should become the norm. The restrictions should come off those businesses who have high, or full rates of vaccination, and the restrictions should be placed on unvaccinated people instead. “Our attitude is a fairly hard-line one, but it’s ridiculous that the bulk of the population is treated as the exception. If you’re unvaccinated, you should be the exception. That’s what should happen going forward.” [Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9369193/nz-lockdown-mission-for-tomato-grower/)

* 1. **Seeka's funding facilities increase**

The New Zealand-headquartered fresh produce company has negotiated an improved funding facility with a syndicate of banks. The syndicate is led by Westpac and includes ASB, Rabobank and BNZ.

The move provides facilities of NZ$190m, up from the previous facility limits of approximately NZ$152m.“Whilst borrowings will not increase immediately, the increased facility will support the near term growth of the group including capital expenditure to support anticipated volume increases and potential acquisitions. ”[Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/186711/seeka-increases-funding-facilities)

* 1. **Business blooming for Southland tulips with $1.6 million Dutch investment**

A $1.6 million investment in the Netherlands signals growth for a Southland tulip business. Horizon Flowers NZ plants and processes tulip bulbs for export. The business’ ultimate holding company is Dutch, and the Overseas Investment Office signed off on the deal in September. For the $1.6 million investment, Horizon Flowers NZ has acquired a freehold interest in 41.5 hectares, adjoining its current bulb processing facility.

The investment is likely to result in jobs for planting and harvesting the bulbs. The money could also increase exports to North America and Europe, as well as enhance the viability of its processing facility by securing the land to supply the bulbs, it says in the decision. [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9369302/business-blooming-for-southland-tulips-with-1-6-million-dutch-investment/)

* 1. **Waimea Freshwater Farm Plan prepares growers for upcoming freshwater requirements**

More than 40 New Zealand growers attended the Freshwater Farm Plan meeting recently, to hear about what they’ll need to do to meet new freshwater requirements. HortNZ environmental policy advisor, Jordyn Landers: “It was a great showing of growers from the Waimea Plains. The meeting was to prepare them for the upcoming freshwater requirements. It was also to give the community confidence that growers are using industry good or best practice standards.”

HortNZ is offering free Freshwater Farm Plan workshops to NZGAP and GLOBALG.A.P. certified growers on the Waimea Plains. “Growers were very receptive to the workshops and what they need to do. It’s all about social licence, being proactive and doing your bit to improve freshwater quality. We are wanting growers to sign up to the NZGAP Environment Management System (EMS), attend the upcoming workshops, and work towards getting their Freshwater Farm Plan audited by early 2022.

“Freshwater Farm Plans are the solution for improving water quality. If growers don’t take the opportunity to be proactive and create a Freshwater Farm Plan, they could have prescriptive environmental measures imposed on them.” [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9369598/waimea-freshwater-farm-plan-prepares-growers-for-upcoming-freshwater-requirements/)

* 1. **Demand for fresh produce boxes soars during lockdown**

Covid-19 has meant a huge increase in business for Joanne Webb, who manages Christchurch-based business Eatlocal.nz. The company saw orders skyrocket when the recent New Zealand lockdown was announced.Eatlocal.nz delivers boxes of fruit, vegetables and artisan food products to homes across New Zealand, with their produce all locally sourced. Webb bought the business about a year ago, after it had been operating for six months. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9370079/demand-for-fresh-produce-boxes-soars-during-lockdown/)

* 1. **NZ start-up empowers Kiwis to grow-their-own vegetables, with seed delivery service and world-first digital tools**

The one-stop digital platform PlantMe.io, launched in 2019, showcases its new innovative seed delivery service and digital growing guide complete with a world-first rewards system. PlantMe founder and CEO Fliss Roberts says, “the idea is to encourage more people to get growing at home as meaningful climate action while also improving nutrition, health and wellness and your bank balance.” PlantMe has also added new features showing each subscriber’s climate impact and dollar savings when they log plants, progress and record harvests with pictures. [Full article available here](https://idealog.co.nz/venture/2021/10/nz-start-up-empowers-kiwis-to-grow-their-own-vegetables-with-seed-delivery-service-and-world-first-digital-tools?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=nz-start-up-empowers-kiwis-to-grow-their-own-vegetables-with-seed-delivery-service-and-world-first-digital-tools)

* 1. **‘Humble’ onion to undergo extreme makeover**

Agriculture Minister Damien O’Connor has announced the Government’s plan to invest NZ$2.83 million into a six-year programme to enhance the competitive advantage of New Zealand’s onion industry called “Humble to Hero: Transforming the New Zealand Onion Industry.” O’Connor says, “the programme complements our Fit For a Better World roadmap to increase exports, lower emissions, improve the environment and employ more people in the food and fibre sector – helping to boost economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.” [Ful article available here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/%E2%80%98humble%E2%80%99-onion-undergo-extreme-makeover)

* 1. **Farmers warn of looming food supply issues**

Farmers are facing mounting costs and delays in accessing agricultural chemicals, which could cause a flow-on effect of higher prices for consumers, says reporter Whena Owen. Most of New Zealand’s agricultural chemicals come from China, however, plants throughout China are closing as they reduce coal supplies and grapple with an energy crisis. Amidst this problem, global supply chains are under extreme strain with ports around the world being clogged up, Owen adds [Full article available here](https://www.1news.co.nz/2021/10/31/farmers-warn-of-looming-food-supply-issues/)

** Podcasts/ video’s**

***Apples***  
[**Confidence in the apple sector**](https://hortnz.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=aecda7aaa04d433b3c1267c8e&id=8ae7c7f7ef&e=2b699d0a67) RNZ  
[**Apple season**](https://hortnz.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=aecda7aaa04d433b3c1267c8e&id=ff7a154d28&e=2b699d0a67) RNZ  
   
***Tomatoes***  
[**Tomato prices ease**](https://hortnz.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=aecda7aaa04d433b3c1267c8e&id=bc70b76062&e=2b699d0a67) RNZ  
   
***Onions***  
[**Humble to Hero**](https://hortnz.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=aecda7aaa04d433b3c1267c8e&id=4c22519d94&e=2b699d0a67) RNZ



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. To see the full report, click on the link in each notification This week see:

1. **China Decree 248 Foreign Facilities Self-Registration Website Launched** [Decree 248 Foreign Facilities Self-Registration Website Launched\_Beijing\_China - People's Republic of\_10-27-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Decree%20248%20Foreign%20Facilities%20Self-Registration%20Website%20Launched_Beijing_China%20-%20People's%20Republic%20of_10-27-2021)
2. **China Fresh Deciduous Fruit** [Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual\_Beijing\_China - People's Republic of\_11-01-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Beijing_China%20-%20People's%20Republic%20of_11-01-2021)
3. **Chile Fresh Deciduous Fruit** [Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual\_Santiago\_Chile\_11-01-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Santiago_Chile_11-01-2021)
4. **India Fresh Deciduous Fruit** [Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual\_New Delhi\_India\_11-01-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_New%20Delhi_India_11-01-2021)
5. **Jordan Import Regulations and Standards Country Report** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report\_Amman\_Jordan\_09-30-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Country%20Report_Amman_Jordan_09-30-2021)
6. **South Korean Consumer Survey** [US Food Fairs Well in New Consumer Survey\_Seoul ATO\_Korea - Republic of\_10-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=US%20Food%20Fairs%20Well%20in%20New%20Consumer%20Survey_Seoul%20ATO_Korea%20-%20Republic%20of_10-31-2021)
7. **South Korea Fresh Deciduous Fruit** [Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual\_Seoul\_Korea - Republic of\_11-01-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Seoul_Korea%20-%20Republic%20of_11-01-2021)
8. **Spain Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate** [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report\_Madrid\_Spain\_12-31-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Export%20Certificate%20Report_Madrid_Spain_12-31-2021)
9. **South Africa Fresh Deciduous Fruit** [Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual\_Pretoria\_South Africa - Republic of\_11-01-2021](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Fresh%20Deciduous%20Fruit%20Annual_Pretoria_South%20Africa%20-%20Republic%20of_11-01-2021)

 **Regulatory**

* 1. **China set to combat soaring vegetable prices**

Late last week, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MOA) issued a notice asking local authorities to ensure stable supply and steady prices of vegetables and take that as the major task ahead, especially for the upcoming New Year, the Spring Festival and the Winter Olympics.

Since late September, severe weather, high production and transportation costs, epidemic prevention & control and power cuts have significantly pushed up the prices of some vegetable varieties in some areas. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9369299/china-set-to-combat-soaring-vegetable-prices/)

* 1. **Chinese government urges citizens to stock up on daily necessities ahead of winter**

The Chinese government has told families to keep daily necessities in stock in case of emergencies, after Covid-19 outbreaks and unusually heavy rains have caused a surge in vegetable prices. The directive by the Commerce Ministry caused some concern on domestic social media, some posters suggesting it may have been triggered by heightened tensions with Taiwan.In response, Party-backed newspaper The Economic Daily advised netizens not to have 'too much of an overactive imagination', claiming the directive's purpose was to make sure citizens were not caught off-guard in the case of lockdowns in their area. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9369705/chinese-government-urges-citizens-to-stock-up-on-daily-necessities-ahead-of-winter/)

 **Business/ Industry**

* 1. **Replacing imported horticultural produce with domestic produce a necessity"**

Replacing imported horticultural produce with Irish produce is a “necessity”, according to independent TD Michael McNamara. However, it will be difficult to do that “when carrots are for sale at 49c per bag.” The deputy said recently that there “has to be some correlation between the price at which products are sold and the cost of production.” How can we help horticulture growers from now on to make it a more profitable business for the people involved? [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9369316/replacing-imported-horticultural-produce-with-domestic-produce-a-necessity/)

* 1. **UK farmers threaten to stop planting if supermarkets do not raise prices**

UK fruit and vegetable growers have warned supermarkets that, unless they drop their opposition to price increases, next year’s crops will not be grown. Input costs for farmers, such as fertilizer and energy bills, rose by 22% in the year to September 30.[Full article available here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9369315/uk-farmers-threaten-to-stop-planting-if-supermarkets-do-not-raise-prices/)

* 1. **F&V "can help create healthier planet"**

As the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) continues in Glasgow, Freshfel Europe has urged EU and global decision-makers not to underestimate the role fruit and vegetables can play in achieving a healthy planet and people. COP26 discussions on climate issues to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change should not ignore that fruit and vegetables have one of the lowest environmental impact production out of any food group, Freshfel noted. At the same time fruit and vegetables are part of consumption recommendations for a healthy diet with a recommended minimum of 400g per day by WHO. Freshfel pointed out that the fruit and vegetable sector positively contributed towards the world’s sustainability ambitions to help achieve climate goals. [Full article available here](http://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/article/186709/fv-can-help-create-healthier-planet)

* 1. **'Reefer container freight rates to stay firm in 2022'**

According to independent maritime consultancy Drewry, reefer container freight rates are likely to be higher through 2022, outpacing earlier estimates as well as expectations for dry container freight rates. Reefer traffic is seen recovering from a flat 2020, Drewry said in its report Reefer Shipping Forecaster, and added that container vessel slots continue to remain scarce amid tight supply and continuing supply chain disruption.

Drewry’s Global Reefer Container Freight Rate Index, a weighted average of rates across the top 15 reefer intensive deep-sea trade routes, increased 48 percent over the year to 3Q21. The increase is expected to reach as much as 55 percent by the end of 4Q21.[Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9370524/reefer-container-freight-rates-to-stay-firm-in-2022/)

* 1. **Ships queues increase port delays from Singapore to Piraeus**

The world’s biggest shipping hubs are suffering increased levels of congestion as containers pile up at seaports from Singapore to Greece’s Piraeus. Near Singapore on Monday, the backlog was 22% above normal; 53 container ships were anchored off the cargo-transit hub, the highest count since Bloomberg News started tracking the data in April.

Like all major container hubs, Singapore is in fact a delicate logistical ecosystem, where a storm or a Covid-19 outbreak in another port, transit way or transportation sector can ripple widely. Typhoon Kompasu scattered ships out of Hong Kong and Shenzhen over two weeks ago and congestion rates off that port were still 10.4% higher than on a normal Monday. [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9369737/ships-queues-increase-port-delays-from-singapore-to-piraeus/)



* 1. **Dole reports on its sustainability**

In the food industry, it is becoming increasingly unsustainable not to be sustainable.

While the concept of sustainability is multifaceted, with applications from farm to fork, consumer demands for more transparency around the ethical, environmental, and health facets of food production have caused many food companies to reassess their operations. Sustainability has transitioned from corporate social responsibility to an integral part of business, driving market share and growth.

The 120-year old Dole Sunshine Company, a world leader in growing, sourcing, distributing and marketing fruit and healthy snacks, believes that sustainable solutions to global problems will require commitments and innovation from private companies and is transforming its business practices to be more in keeping with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Dole is basing its mission on “Sampo Yochi,” a Japanese philosophy in which businesses operate for the good of the seller, the buyer and society. bIn August, the company released its [Sunshine for All™ Progress Report](https://dolesunshine.com/us/en/our-purpose/our-promises.html), tracking its commitments.

The article provides some details on how Dole is addressing the following issues –

* On how Dole is helping to fix food systems?
* **Whether its** possible to marry sustainability with profitability?
* How it is helping to reduce food insecurity?
* **Whether its**  possible to be more sustainable while still achieving economies of scale? How does Dole achieve this? [Full article available here](https://www.forbes.com/sites/daphneewingchow/2021/10/30/this-is-how-dole-is-marrying-sustainability-with-profitability/?sh=7ad5d1104941)
  1. **Recycled bioplastic transformed into fertilizers**

Researchers in Japan have chemically recycled bioplastics into nitrogen-rich fertilizer in a process described as ‘facile and environmentally friendly’. The team focused on PIC (poly (isosorbide carbonate)), a type of bio-based polycarbonate produced using a non-toxic material derived from glucose called isosorbide (ISB) as a monomer. They are convinced that our work represents a milestone toward developing sustainable and recyclable polymer materials in the near future,” [Full article available here](https://www.floraldaily.com/article/9370192/recycled-bioplastic-transformed-into-fertilizers/)

  **Health**

* 1. **How to correctly communicate health facts in the EU fruit and vegetable sector**

Often there is confusion between the term nutrition and the term nutraceuticals. They often tend to be mistaken for each other when it comes to communicating information by companies seeking to improve the positioning of their fruit and vegetable and processed products.

Another source of confusion is the existing legislative framework, which must be interpreted on the basis of existing Italian and European laws. *This article provides information about the differences between the two from a legislative perspective and how this will influence information that can be supplied to customers .* [Full article available here](https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9369878/how-to-correctly-communicate-health-facts-in-the-fruit-and-vegetable-sector/)

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