



AGRIBUSINESS

Field Notes

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness network



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Agribusiness Education

[Japanese public education board considers sending agricultural students to Feilding](#) [09 February, Sam Kilmister, Stuff NZ] Feilding High School is being visited by the Hokkaido Board of Education in order for them to decide whether they should send Japanese students to New Zealand for English language and agricultural training. The board oversees public schools in Hokkaido which has a population around five million people. The board and Education New Zealand have agreed on a joint educational exchange to start in August 2021. Feilding High School has invested in two farms which are both used for practical teaching. The Japanese delegation also intends to visit Massey University's Palmerston North campus.



Apiculture

[Bumblebees are disappearing at rates 'consistent with mass extinction'](#) [08 February, Doyle Rice, Stuff NZ] A long term study by the journal Science has reported that climate change has contributed to drastic declines in both the number and diversity of bumblebees across North America and Europe. The researchers have stated that the declining levels of bumblebees is consistent with a mass extinction and were hardest hit throughout the warming southern regions such as in Mexico. The researchers state that if the decline continues at its current pace then some of the bumblebee species could be gone within the next few decades. Bumblebees are the greatest pollinators in wild landscapes.

[Supermarkets putting the squeeze on beekeepers](#) [11 February, Pam Tipa, Rural News] NZ Beekeeping President Jane Lorimer reports that supermarkets are paying suppliers less whilst the price on the shelf remains the same, and that this is seriously impacting non-mānuka small beekeeper operations. Prices for non-

mānuka honey have fallen from \$10-12 per kilogram two years ago, to \$4 per kilogram currently which has placed pressure on suppliers. This is occurring due to an over-supply of non-mānuka honey. Foodstuffs NZ Head of Corporate Affairs, Antoinette Laird has reported that retail prices have softened as a result of the over-supply such as Airborne Honey Liquid 500g which has dropped from \$12.19 last year to \$7.99 currently at New World and that this has resulted in an increase in consumption.



Agribusiness

[New risks for dairy, meat products](#) [10 February, Sally Rae, Rural Life]

ANZ Research's most recent Agri Focus report has stated that new global risks are impacting demand of meat and dairy products, despite global supply being expected to remain constrained. One of these is the coronavirus outbreak which has caused disruption to the lamb industry as there are limited alternative markets and it is an evolving situation with no certain outcomes. In good news, the issues surrounding cold storage and processing capacity for Silver Fern Farms has been reported as being solved and is back on track. Sam McIvor, Chief Executive of Beef + Lamb New Zealand has reported that they are working hard to figure out an accurate picture of China's market situation in order to plan and move forward. "The ANZ World Commodity Price Index fell 0.9% in January as weaker meat prices pulled the overall index down".

[Drought declared in Northland- at last- and 80k in government assistance](#) [12 February, The Country] An \$80,000 support package has been released to help those affected by the drought in Northland. All areas north of the Auckland Harbour Bridge have been labelled as experiencing a medium scale adverse weather event by Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor. Little rainfall is predicted for the region in the next fortnight. The money is able to be used to access social welfare for those in extreme

hardship. The region is promoting water conservation as the water flow in the Awanui River is at the lowest on record for over 50 years.



Horticulture

[Kiwifruit marketer Zespri reveals new brand identity](#) [07 February,

Angie Skerrett, Newshub] Zespri International have revealed a new logo and branding for the first time since it was established in 1998 and will be rolling it out from May this year. The new branding was reported by the company that it aims to “capture the burst of flavour consumers have” when they bite into the fruit. The refresh has been aligned with a new phase of growth for the company and has been planned to help increase emotional connectivity with consumers, with the new tagline being “make your healthy irresistible”. The logo has a red wordmark as well as a green fan inspired by a cross section of the kiwifruit. By 2025, Zespri aims to reach \$4.5 billion in annual sales.

[Coronavirus: 'Business as usual' for fruit exports](#) [07 February, Esther Taunton, Stuff NZ] NZ

Apples and Pears Chief Executive Alan Pollard has reported that it looks like business as usual for the first shipments of pip fruit despite the outbreak in coronavirus in China. Although air freight has been significantly disrupted, sea freight has remained relatively unscathed. The situation is being closely monitored, however export plans currently remain on track. Zespri International has also reported that it expects the season will play out as planned, however is preparing for if the situation does worsen, with 25 percent of its fruit sent to China.

[BayWa's T&G Global expands blueberry business in New Zealand, Chile](#) [10 February,

Simon Harvey, Just-Food] German based business BayWa has partnered with the Plant & Food Research institute in New Zealand in an exclusive fruit cultivation and marketing programme. BayWa's subsidiary is T&G Global

who launched the project in order to develop higher-yielding blueberry varieties that are more pathogen resistant. The first varieties are expected to be released through the course of the year.

[Hort NZ resets its priorities](#) [11 February, Pam Tipa, Rural News] Horticulture NZ is at the signing off stage of its new strategy refresh, and topping the priority list are people, climate, water and sustainability. Chief Executive Mike Chapman has reported that trade is no longer an emphasis, as the individual companies are doing it themselves. Mr Chapman stated that the year will be a tough one, facing the challenges posed to the industry as a whole and that the new strategy will help tackle these issues. Mr Chapman stated that they have had very good feedback surrounded the proposed strategy and that the next step is to put an implementation plan into place to get the ball moving.



Emerging Markets

[Taking NZ oat milk global](#) [06

February, Nigel Malthus, Rural News] The Humble Oat Company have announced expansion plans to meet its surging demand both nationally and internationally. The company launched their oat milk nine months ago, and their product is now being sold in 150 stores across New Zealand. They plan to triple the amount of cafes they supply to and also initiate sales in Australia this year. Humble Oat is planning to build a processing facility for plant-based dairy alternatives near Dunedin. Harraways mill will continue to be their supplier for oats moving forward. The company sees growth potential in Asian markets, especially due to the increasing number of people with a lactose intolerance in the region.

['World-class site' for medicinal cannabis](#) [07

February, Rural Life] Aaron Murphy, Queenstown Businessman has teamed up with two Australian investors Todd McClellan and Adam Guskic to start a new medicinal cannabis

cultivation, research and manufacturing business near Cromwell. Their company has been coined Medigrowth New Zealand and plans to market Central Otago-grown cannabinoid medicines to the pharmaceutical industry as they believe the region offers an ideal growing climate for the plant. The company is currently working on licensing to cultivate and manufacture medicinal cannabis and associated products.



Rural Health

[Workshops to help ease financial stress](#) [06 February, Dairy News]

The Dairy Women's Network are putting on a new pilot workshop aimed at reducing financial pressures on farmers. The workshops are supported by NZ CA, Figured and Xero and will help farmers to plan for the future including new environmental and employment regulatory changes and grow confidence in making business decisions. The first workshop will be held on the 18 February in Timaru.

[Southland farmers urged to seek help](#) [07 February, Emergency Management Southland-Press Release, Scoop Independent News] Emergency Management Southland have reminded Southland farmers that there is a range of support available for them in light of the recent flooding. Different services are available from sources such as the Ministry for Primary Industries, Emergency Management Southland, the Rural Support Trust, and industry organisations. Farmers should boil drinking water for at least a minute if they have had any surface flooding near a farm water supply. Temporary accommodation is available to those whose houses have been contaminated and there is help for vulnerable young stock if needed. Federated Farmers are helping to relocate dairy cows, and farmers have been reminded to take photos of their damaged belongings and lodge their insurance claims as soon as possible.

[Kids encouraged to consume fruit and veg](#) [11 February, Chris Komorek, Fruit Net] Fruits and

Vegetables in Schools (FIS) has begun again for its 15th year of operations and will provide an expected 25 million servings of fruit and vegetable to 123,000 children at 553 of the country's lowest decile schools. FIS is managed by 5+ A Day Charitable Trust and United Fresh and funded by the Ministry of Health. Nine out of ten participating school principals report that the programme helps to create a sense of equality and remove stigma, and 96 percent report it improving attitudes towards fruit and vegetables as healthy options. Parents of the students also praise the programme and the benefits it provides.

[Mike King to join 2000km tractor trek ahead of Gumboot Friday](#) [12 February, Esther Taunton, Stuff NZ] Mental Health Advocate Mike King will be joining 30 others travelling 2000 kilometres by tractor to help raise awareness of suicide in the rural sector. The 20 tractor fleet will be stopping off around the country to host free events ahead of the Gumboot Friday fundraiser on 03 April 2020, and the group aims to raise \$5 million to fund counselling sessions for New Zealanders. Last year \$1.3 million was raised which provided 10,670 counselling sessions to over 2500 people. The group is focusing on rural health and encouraging kiwis to check up on those around them. Katie Milne, President of Federated Farmers reported that rural communities face isolation as well as economic instability and limited access to health services.



Pork

[NZ Pork disgruntled with upcoming food regulation changes](#) [10

February, 1News] New Zealand pork farmers are arguing that an upcoming law change requiring the country of origin to be written on certain foods should be applied to all imported pork. The new regulations will only cover cured pork products such as ham and bacon and they believe all pork should be included. NZ Pork reports that the majority of imported pork in

New Zealand comes from countries that allow farming practices which are illegal here.



Trade & Exports

[Kiwis import dodgy diets](#) [10

February, Farmers Weekly] Elaine

Rush, Emeritus Professor of Auckland University of Technology's Health and Nutrition Department questions whether New Zealand is doing enough to feed its local population when it is sending high quality food exports elsewhere. Mrs Rush reports that New Zealand grows enough to feed 40 million people however there is growing concern about the country's eating habits, as most of our high quality food is sent overseas, whilst imports are largely made up of nutrient-poor foods such as sugar and wheat. The total amount imported each year in terms of energy is enough to feed 10 million people, over double our current population. Mrs Rush proposes that the Government considers a national food policy which can address imbalances in food types that are imported. Another point to note is that the country exports equivalent of 65ml per person per day of fresh water while importing 21ml, which is often packaged in plastic and has environmental consequences.



Forestry

[Coronavirus outbreak hitting forestry industry, Māori families hard](#) [11

February, Leigh-Marama McLachlan NZ Herald] The coronavirus outbreak has resulted in over 1500 forestry workers out of a job due to supply chain disruption. The Forest Industry Contractors Association have stated that around a third of New Zealand's logging crews are currently unable to work and many of those workers are Māori meaning that their whānau are going through a stressful time as a result. Pakiri Logging is offering its employees odd jobs in the bush to help them earn something in the meantime. However they reported that work

needs to turn up relatively soon otherwise the business will be on the line. It is currently unclear how long harvesting will be paused.



Economics & Trade

[Brexit lull brings some export relief](#)

[07 February, Neal Wallace, Farmers

Weekly] Tim Ritchie, Chief Executive of the Meat Industry Association has reported that New Zealand is only exporting as much meat to Britain and Europe as their markets can sustain rather than filling the country's sheep meat quota. Mr Ritchie stated that just over half of New Zealand's export quota to the EU was used last year as economic uncertainty caused by Brexit reduced required levels and other markets strength grew, such as China. NZ lamb exports have tracked below historic levels for the last two years. Simon Limmer, Chief Executive of Silver Fern Farms states that the new timelines for resolving Britain exiting the EU will mean that both Easter and Christmas trade will be unaffected.

[Changes for Māori land 'significant'](#) [08 February, Aaron van Deldon, Gisborne Herald] The Government has announced planned changes to the way rates are calculated for Māori freehold land as well as \$30 million from the Provincial Growth Fund in order to develop Māori-owned land. In total, there are about 1.4 million hectares of Māori-owned land across the country. It has been reported that this will help to reduce barriers to Māori land development. Proposed changes include those which would require councils to consider rates relief for Māori land that is being developed. Accessing rate rebates should be easier, by providing the option of being rated individually. A bill to amend the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 is expected to be introduced to Parliament before July.



Red Meat

[Gloss comes off a good season](#) [07 February, Farmers Weekly] Pressure

is being placed on export and store prices due to unfavourable weather and coronavirus measures. The North Island is being faced with drought-like conditions and the bottom of the South Island has faced severe flooding, and when combined with falling export prices the store prices have taken a hit. Nicola Dennis, Analyst for AgriHQ has stated that it is likely lamb prices will drop another 20 cents per kilogram this week whilst exporters manage the impact of coronavirus. Ports remain congested in China, whilst distribution networks are disrupted and there are staff shortages in workplaces causing staff to stay at home due to movement restrictions. Some product is being diverted however many are hoping that China will begin to free up access when people return to work.

[New troubles hide real problem](#) [07 February, Annette Scott, Farmers Weekly] The Temuka adult ewe fair faced prices dropping by up to \$60 a head last week due to climate and market uncertainty. Record prices were set at the event last year, and this year there were 14,000 ewes advertised in total with expectations set high for the event. However, coronavirus was labelled a global emergency and extreme weather conditions in both the North and South Island meant that 4000 ewes were late withdrawals by vendors anticipating a slump in the market. The market uncertainty for both short and long term meant that there was a low number of buyers. PGG Wrightson South Canterbury Livestock Manager Joe Higgins reported that there is an overall decrease in demand for breeding ewes because of the changing style of sheep farming.

[Coronavirus could mean Kiwis get cheaper meat as export glut continues to grow](#) [11 February, Catherine Harris, Stuff NZ] There is a possibility that New Zealanders may have access to cheaper frozen meat soon, as excess meat that was planned for China's shores could end up

being released locally. China's demand for meat has dropped since the outbreak of Coronavirus due to strong quarantine measures and distribution issues. However others are saying that China consumes different cuts than what we do, and Tim Ritchie of the Meat Industry Association reports that if meat is released locally, that it will not be a flood, but rather what the market can comfortably handle.



Viticulture

[Why the US is important to New Zealand's wine sector](#) [07 February,

Rabobank, The Country] Rabobank's Senior Wine and Horticulture Analyst Hayden Higgins reports that the US has a heavy influence on our wine market, despite most of New Zealand's exports being dependent on China. Mr Higgins reported that the current trade issues occurring between Europe and the US are providing an opportunity to New Zealand to increase their market share and attract new customers.

[New Zealand wine exports rise 8 per cent, reaching a record \\$1.86 billion](#) [10 February, Maia Hart, Stuff NZ] The latest figures from New Zealand Winegrowers show that in 2019, wine exports grew 8 percent for New Zealand, reaching a record \$1.86 billion in sales. New Zealand Winegrowers Chief Executive Philip Gregan reported that Marlborough's wind industry and wine reputation have been critical to the overall success. Mr Gregan also stated that sustainability is integral to our story and success and will continue to be important moving into the future. The United States is our largest market, followed by the United Kingdom and Australia. 231 million litres of Sauvignon Blanc were exported, whilst New Zealand's rosé exports have more than doubled since 2017, nearly reaching 5.2 million litres. Over 100 countries receive New Zealand wine, and it is the country's seventh biggest export good.

[What does the Chinese consumer want?](#) [10 February, Tessa Nicholson, New Zealand

Winegrower] China is soon expected to be the second-largest consumer of wine in the world as their consumption of grape wine increases. 87.3 percent of the wine consumption in China is made up of dry red wine and another 6 percent is dry white wine. Consumers within China are often unsure about varieties and styles so it must be marketed to consider the individual consumer. Professor Demei Li, Associate professor of Wine Tasting and Enology at Beijing Agriculture College reports that consumers are concerned about two main things, the price range, and the packaging.



Farmers & Producers

['Farmy Armies' rally for massive clean up on flood-hit Southland](#)

[farms](#) [07 February, Angie Skerrett, Kaysha Brownlie, Newshub] Volunteer Farmy Armies have been organised by federated Farmers to help relieve those affected by the severe flooding last week across Southland and South Otago. DairyNZ have estimated that over 100 dairy farms have been severely impacted by the flooding. Volunteers can register online, and so can farmers who want help to clear debris on their farms. Hamish Walker, Clutha-Southland MP has estimated that farmers will have lost tens of millions of dollars due to the flooding.



Rural Lending

[Federated Farmers SC welcomes next steps in farm debt mediation](#)

[scheme](#) [10 February, Samesh Mohanlall, Timaru Herald/Stuff NZ] The Ministry for Primary Industries is making moves to establish the new Farm Debt Mediation scheme which will start operating in July this year. The new Farm Debt Mediation Act brings a new approach to farm debt mediation and aims to reduce power imbalances between farm businesses and creditors. It will require creditors to offer mediation to farmers before they can default a debt and help to reduce the stress of farmers

whilst offering practical solutions for both parties. MPI is now accepting applications from mediation organisations to participate in the scheme. Once organisations are approved they will undergo necessary training provided by MPI.



Dairy

[Oceania Dairy pipeline proposal labelled a "cultural abhorrence"](#) [07

February, Matthew Littlewood, Stuff NZ] Arowhenua Rūnanga has stated that Oceania Dairy's wastewater pipeline proposal is a "cultural abhorrence". Oceania Dairy has proposed a 7.5 kilometre pipeline which will discharge up to 10 million litres of treated wastewater into the Pacific Ocean each day. Currently all the wastewater created by the company is discharged via irrigation, however they have applied to Environment Canterbury (ECan) for the consents for a pipeline. In their submission, Arowhenua state that the discharged wastewater has the possibility of significantly impacting the eco system of the Pacific Ocean. 126 submissions were made in total, with 117 of those opposing the proposal. A hearing will be held later this year by ECan.

[Virus chews dairy prices](#) [07 February, Hugh Stringleman, Farmers Weekly] The Global Dairy Trade Index fell 4.7 percent at the latest auction and this has been put down to the impact of Coronavirus. Despite this, Chinese buyers have not yet been deterred and the New Zealand farmgate milk price has not been threatened as of yet. Nathan Penny, ASB Senior Rural Economist Nathan Penny has stated that there were signs in the auction that displayed the impact of the virus on dairy markets may be brief. Miles Hurrell, Chief Executive for Fonterra Co-operative Group reports that the drop was not unexpected and that there will be a little bit of volatility as buyers take a cautious approach.

[Couple gift rare \\$12,000 diamond to show their love for dairy farmers](#) [10 February, Angie

Skerrett, Newshub] A promotion organised by

DairyNZ has a rare \$12,000 green diamond as its prize. Mark and Pamela Beckett donated the diamond as they wanted to show their support for dairy farmers. Both of them come from dairy farming families and wanted to show their appreciation for the hard work of farmers. Nominations are open for deserving farmers until 10 March and the winner will be announced the following week.

[Appleby Farms taking A2 icecream to Australia](#) [11 February, Bonnie Flaws, Stuff NZ] In April, Nelson ice-cream company Appleby Farms will be soft-launching its premium A2 ice-cream in Australia to gain brand awareness ahead of next summer. The company was started in 2017 and now sells its products in 175 supermarkets and cafes around New Zealand and has 3 percent of the premium ice-cream market here. It is also sold currently in Singapore. The company have plans to launch in a number of other South East Asian markets shortly. Over 10 percent of the Australian dairy market is made up of A2 milk protein, providing an opportunity to gain interest being the only A2 milk protein ice-cream on the market currently. Their ice-cream factory was built to handle greater volumes and currently runs at around 15 percent of capacity. The company is currently researching alternative packaging for its products.

[a2 Milk's big donation towards coronavirus vaccine](#) [12 February, Pam Tipa, Rural News] The A2 Milk Company is donating \$1.1 million to the Shanghai Red Cross to help support those seriously affected by the Coronavirus and has also pledged to contribute up to \$1 million towards researchers in Australia who are playing a leading role in the international effort to develop a vaccine. On top of this it will be donating \$1.1 million worth of a2 milk dairy products to medical teams and families affected by Covid-19.



Fisheries

[Govt to help with returning crayfish to ocean](#) [07 February, Jacob

McSweeney, Otago Daily Times] The Government have announced that a limited release of rock lobster can be made back into the wild after the outbreak of the coronavirus resulted in Chinese orders being cancelled in the busy period for the industry. This will allow them to be re-harvested once trade disruptions are resolved. Up to 180 tonnes of live rock lobster have been kept in pots and tanks whilst the trade disruptions have occurred. Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash states that there were biosecurity and sustainability concerns that needed to be addressed before a decision was made and mentioned that not all rock lobsters will be able to be returned into the sea. Mr Nash stated that the situation is still evolving and that catch quotas may be carried over into next year's entitlements.

[NZ govt accused of proposing "shameful" new fishing rules](#) [09 February, Andrea Vance, Stuff NZ] The New Zealand government has been accused of proposing international rules that stipulate where bottom trawling can be practiced by fishing vessels, despite overwhelming international criticism against the practice due to the damage it can cause to marine ecosystems. However the Ministry for Primary Industries have argued that they are merely asking for guidance on how the impact of trawling is assessed rather than pushing for a rule change. Bottom trawling uses heavy weighted nets to gather deep seas fish, and conservationists have stated that this can be very damaging to marine life such as coral and may be causing irreversible damage. Both Talley's and Sealord, New Zealand owned fishing companies currently bottom trawl in both local and international waters. Greenpeace have stated that globally, countries are moving away from bottom trawling and that it is disappointing to see New Zealand wanting more freedom when partaking in the practice.



Environment & Emissions

[Don't force farms into forests](#) [11 February, Sudesh Kissun, Rural News] Farmers have voiced their concerns that the proposed changes to the Emissions Trading Scheme by the government will cause the acceleration of productive pasture conversion into forestry. Federated Farmers, Beef + Lamb New Zealand and the Meat Industry Association all lobbied on behalf of the farmers stating that a robust analysis needs to be made of the socio-economic impacts the reforms could have on rural communities. Another concern laid out surrounded the fact that there is currently no restriction on how much carbon dioxide can be offset using forestry carbon credits.



International

[UK opens door to GM food imports as PM Johnson attacks 'hysterical fears' about US food standards](#) [04 February, Oliver Morrison, Food Navigator] British Prime Minister implied in his first speech after the UK left the EU that he will be allowing genetically modified (GM) food imports from the US. However, the UK Food and Drink Federation has reported that current bans on chlorinated chicken and hormone-treated beef will not be ended just yet and that they want to keep current trading ties with the EU. The UK is now in an 11 month transition period and will now start looking at making trade deals globally.

[Can coronavirus be transmitted via imported food?](#) [05 February, Flora Southey, Food Navigator] The 2019 novel coronavirus has claimed over 400 lives in China currently which has prompted concerns that imported food may be able to transmit the virus. The public health emergency has officials scrambling to cover all bases as information about the exact transmission methods of the virus is still limited. There is currently no confirmation that imported

food has transmitted the virus and it is said that the risk is unlikely. Furthermore the virus is sensitive to heat, so if food is heated, the risk of infection can be reduced.

[Nicotine style 'meat patch' developed to help wean consumers off carnivore diet](#) [06 February, Flora Southey, Food Navigator] Strong Roots are currently trialling a scratch and sniff patch that it reports could help both vegetarian and vegan consumers to manage their meat cravings. Research from the company revealed that nearly half of Britons have tried to reduce their meat intake at some point, and they hope their product will make the transition easier as the number one cited problem for respondents weaning off meat was temptation. The patches have been developed for users to wear on their arm, much like nicotine patches and build on research that our sense of smell is strongly connected to our ability to taste to help manage cravings. Strong Roots have requested for anecdotal feedback from consumers, however have not undertaken scientific trials for their product.

[Does social media influence the way we eat? One study says yes](#) [07 February, Mary Ellen Shoup, Food Navigator] A new study has shown that social media users are influenced by the amount of healthy or junk food that they see their peers consuming. The study looked at college students in Britain and found that they would eat more of whatever food they found was "approved" of by their peers. The implications that result from the study surround the idea of using social media as a tool for public health interventions. The research is ongoing.

[Scientists Find Half the World's Fish Stocks Are Recovered—or Increasing—in Oceans That Used to Be Overfished](#) [08 February, Andy Corbley, Good News Network] Researchers have gathered data from 50 percent of the world's fish stocks and have revealed that where commercial fishing is managed, fish stocks are actually growing and are often above target levels. Research included North America, South

Africa, New Zealand, Australia and Europe as well as the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, Northwest Africa, South America, Russia, and Japan.

[African swine fever: Hastily developed vaccines could make outbreaks worse](#) [10 February, The Country] African Swine Fever (ASF) is currently spreading into Europe after a destructive impact on pig farming in Asia, yet researchers are stating that if a vaccine is rushed then it could make the situation worse. ASF is highly contagious viral disease that affects both domestic and wild pigs, and in 2018 ASF caused the deaths of nearly 5 million pigs. Live attenuated vaccines offer the most promising results however if they fail can cause disease like ASF and spread the virus further.

[The Chinese wine industry: Ningxia](#) [10 February, Tessa Nicholson, Rural News Group] Ningxia is China's most internationally acclaimed wine region. The region used to be one of the poorest in terms of GDP, however through the help of local and national governments has now transformed from a barren landscape to one that is full of vineyards. Winter temperatures can drop below minus 25 degrees Celsius, which means vines need to be buried underground in order to protect them from the intense weather resulting in high production costs. On the other hand, summers are dry and hot which is offset by irrigation. The vines gather many sunshine hours which results in flavourful grapes. The region is well known for its Cabernet Sauvignon wines and as a result this makes up 50 percent of all plantings.

[Danone invests in food waste start-up Phenix: 'We can reinvent tomorrow's food system'](#) [11 February, Katy Askew, Food Navigator] Danone Manifesto ventures has invested in Phenix, a French food waste reduction start-up which aims to tackle the economic, environmental and ethical implications of food waste. Phenix uses technological and digital solutions to help connect retailers with various food banks, charitable associations and the animal feed

industry to make food distribution easier and more achievable. Phenix is working towards a world-wide solution and already has a presence in five countries, with 27 branches in total.

['Totally catastrophic': China's coronavirus crisis sees global F&B authorities react with varying degrees of caution](#) [11 February, Pearly Neo, Food Navigator] Food and beverage authorities and industries globally have been taking varying steps to prevent spreading of the coronavirus into their countries which has placed strain on supply chains. For example authorities in Indonesia have banned live animal imports by China and has reported it will soon follow with a list of other banned foods. Many countries have kept shipments on hold while they see how the situation progresses. Jordan has completely banned all animal and vegetable products from China until further notice, whilst Malaysia has stated that import and export activities will remain the same. Most live seafood exporters have taken a heavy hit, as one of their peak periods is during Chinese New Year.

Organisations referenced in this week's Field Notes include:

5+ A Day Charitable Trust
AgriHQ
ANZ Research
Appleby Farms
Arowhenua Rūnanga
ASB
Auckland University of Technology
BayWa
Beef + Lamb New Zealand
Dairy Women's Network
Danone Manifesto Ventures
Education New Zealand
Emergency Management Southland
Environment Canterbury
Federated Farmers
Figured
Foodstuffs NZ
Greenpeace
Harraways
Horticulture NZ
Humble Oat Company
Meat Industry Association
Medigrowth New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries
Ministry of Health
New Zealand Winegrowers
NZ Apples and Pears
NZ Beekeeping
NZ CA
NZ Pork
Oceania Dairy
Pakiri Logging
PGG Wrightson
Phenix
Plant & Food Research
Rabobank
Sealord
Silver Fern Farms
Strong Roots
T & G Global
Talleys
The a2 Milk Company
The Forest Industry Contractors Association
The Hokkaido Board of Education
UK Food and Drink Federation
United Fresh
Xero
Zespri International

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