



AGRIBUSINESS

Field Notes

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness network



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11 June 2020 – This week's headlines



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New Zealand's Regenerative Ag opportunity

As the world gazes in awe at New Zealand for our success in eradicating Covid19, this moment has been recognised as providing the perfect platform to both demonstrate leadership and share our stories from an elevated global stage. One of those opportunities, is taking a leadership position on regenerative agriculture.

Regenerative agriculture is one of the key topics of the Fenwick Forum, co-ordinated by the Aotearoa Circle. It has also appeared in numerous other recent events and publications. Termed everything from the RA20 virus and complete pseudoscience, through to a savior of our food system and the planet, it's important to first consider why regenerative agriculture has gained such momentum in a relatively short space of time.

We have seen the rise and fall of 'Food Miles', widespread condemnation of palm oil, and hundreds of different labels each with their own set of standards and claims. What all these movements have in common, is that they are

intended to meet the needs of conscious consumers. Shoppers are seeking to make purchasing decisions which align with their values and give them the warm and fuzzy feeling from making a positive environmental difference with their dollars.

To date, the 'organic' certification has been a simple method for consumers to make quick decisions at the supermarket shelves, and the Organic Products Bill is currently with the select committee in New Zealand Government. But there are multiple organic standards in New Zealand, which differ again from the hundreds of standards internationally. In addition to this, shoppers are starting to understand that organic can have worse environmental and animal health outcomes than conventional production. We are trying to play catch-up to an old trend, and instead, it's time to leap forward and lead next one.

Regenerative agriculture addresses the issue of ever-increasing 'shoppers' fatigue', bringing a new opportunity for consumers – a single standard, based on environmentally beneficial production, which encompass land, water and air.

So how do we leverage the momentum that has already gathered under the title 'regenerative agriculture'? How can we use this as an opportunity to pass premiums to producers, provide value to consumers, and simultaneously improve the environment?

A New Zealand Regenerative Agriculture label, aligning with the values of Taiao in the Fit For a Better World vision
The benefits?

- We can clearly define regenerative agriculture as production systems which demonstrate continuous improvement in their environmental impact on soils, water and air. This is achievable, and easily understandable to producers and consumers.
- We don't need to be bound by extreme 'pseudoscience' interpretations of the practice which are not evidence-based. We can utilise the significant research and tools already developed in New Zealand to measure performance.
- New Zealand producers have already made significant progress towards this, and regenerative agriculture provides an opportunity to recognise and reward their efforts.

Above and beyond this. A clear national interpretation on regenerative agriculture in addition to biotechnology, and subsidies and trade would provide business the ability to take action without uncertainty and enable real progress. It's time to build on the Fit For a Better World vision and develop a collaboration between government and the Food and Fibre sector for a complete New Zealand food strategy.

Jack Keays

Agri-Food Research & Insights Analyst
KPMG Auckland



Agribusiness Education

[Damien O'Connor visits Telford](#) [05 June, Richard Davison, The Country] Minister of Agriculture Damien O'Connor has made a visit to South Otago farm institute Telford. It was Mr O'Connor's first extended tour of the facility and he reported that it possesses the potential to be a huge asset for New Zealand farming. Mr O'Connor reports that a key element to realising this is continual modernisation and that there are real opportunities in farming, especially after the pandemic.



Arable

[Future star crops identified](#) [04 June, Annette Scott, Farmers Weekly] A report by the Our Land and Water National Science Challenge research programme Next Generation Systems has identified six crops that could present real future food opportunities for New Zealand. The crops are soy, hemp, chickpeas, buckwheat, oats and quinoa. The crops have potential as both raw ingredients and as products, whilst allowing farmers to create diversity on their land. The researchers gathered information on a wide range of crops and considered consumer and manufacturer demand for foods and ingredients that are sustainably grown in NZ.



Agribusiness

[Get ready for the 'now' norm](#) [05 June, Mark Daniel, Dairy News] KPMG's Global Head of Agribusiness Ian Proudfoot, recently spoke at an Agritech New Zealand webinar about the likely effects of Covid-19 in the coming months. Mr Proudfoot reported that the pandemic has resulted in serious food insecurity globally, which has changed consumer behaviours and will require the Government to put their focus on how to

feed New Zealander's before they continue to encourage exports. Mr Proudfoot stated that now is a good time for change, and that the period will bring innovation. Discussing likely changes in future consumer spending, he thought people would be looking for lifestyle solutions that helped build immunity and minimise the risk of any future contagions. Mr Proudfoot noted that the effects of the pandemic will last for a long time, as traditional demand has shifted and will require food supplies to be traceable, trusted and safe.

[Fieldays 2020 goes completely online](#) [05 June, The Country] New Zealand National Fielddays Society have decided to not host a physical event in 2020, and have shifted their focus to Fieldays Online to ensure it will be a success. All exhibitors will be able to shift online, receive full account credits or get a refund. Chief Executive Peter Nation reported that they have processed just under half of their existing exhibitors, and 68 percent of these have opted for the site credit or for Fieldays Online. Mr Nation states that Fieldays Online, allows the event to be global and presents extra opportunities not available in a purely physical form. Trade Me had come on board to support the digital marketing and sales for Fieldays Online, and digital production company Satellite would oversee the functionality of the experience, with each exhibitor given their own digital site producer to customise their offerings. Fieldays Online will run for two weeks from 13 to 26 July 2020.



Horticulture

[Lighter Touch for deadly sting](#) [03 June, Richard Rennie, Farmers

Weekly] The Government is pairing with the horticulture, arable and wine sectors to invest \$27 million into research for alternative crop treatments to provide more options for growers when they are dealing with insects, disease and production challenges. The research aims to create deadlier biological controls and innovative biopesticides. Horticulture New Zealand Chief

Executive Mike Chapman reports that scaling up the development of crop treatments to a commercial production level will be a welcome outcome and will benefit a wide range of different crops. The funding window will be open for seven years and is long-term in focus. Foundation for Arable Research chief executive Dr Alison Stewart hopes the innovations developed can be applied to all types of farming in way, whether they be organic, conventional or regenerative. The programme has been coined 'A Lighter Touch'.

[Government backs \\$27m project to boost horticulture](#) [04 June, Katikati Advertiser, The Country] Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor has announced that the Government is backing a \$27 million project which is aimed at boosting sustainable horticulture production and Covid-19 recovery efforts. Mr O'Connor stated that the collaboration between government and industry aimed to create new growing methods and crop protection measures that reduce chemical use, and spur greater production. Zespri's Chief Innovation and Sustainability Officer Carol Ward stated developing more sustainable crop protection practices is a key focus for Zespri, whilst Horticulture New Zealand Chief Executive Mike Chapman mentioned that the project will speed up the development of agro-ecological crop protection techniques.



Wool

[Wool plan delays frustrate sector](#)

[05 June, Annette Scott, Farmers Weekly] Wool industry stakeholders are concerned that the Government has lost momentum on their work towards creating a sustainable and profitable wool industry action plan. The Wool Working Group (WWG) was given the task in July 2018, and wool industry stakeholders are claiming that the work is not happening fast enough after it was due to be completed in September 2019. On top of this, they are concerned that the Government has not listened to all stakeholders in the process.

Godfrey Hirst, Feltex and Canterbury Spinners Group Chief Executive Tania Pauling reports that together they have invested over \$200 million into New Zealand and are keen to promote New Zealand's wool carpets domestically and internationally, however feel that they have been largely ignored in the process despite expressing their willingness to engage. NZ Woolscouring Chief Executive Nigel Hales stated that whilst he had initial input with the stakeholder group he has not been included in conversation with the WWG since October 2019 and they are the biggest handler of wool in New Zealand. WWG Chairman John Rodwell reported that he is keen to get the report out, and cites the delay was due to Covid-19. Damien O'Connor states that he has received the final report from the group and plans to release it in the coming weeks, and that in the process of the report, they have widely consulted the industry.



Apiculture

[New Zealand's migrant beekeepers wintering down away from home](#) [05

June, Patrick Dawkins, The Country] Covid-19 has had large impacts on the apiculture sector in New Zealand. These include a number of migrant families who are being forced to spend a winter away from their household and families, or risk not being able to return to their jobs. New Zealand's apiculture workforce is largely made up of migrants from the Philippines, and many were unable to return home as travel is difficult at the moment. Apiculture New Zealand Chief Executive Karin Kos has reported that they have been in contact with the Government, trying to offer these workers greater freedom to move between jobs, as current Immigration NZ processing times for visa changes have been slow. Tweeddale's Honey Owner Don Tweeddale reports that they have 18 seasonal Filipino workers remaining on staff, who they are trying to find work for. Mr Tweeddale stated that they have been catching up on a lot of maintenance work. Travel home for many migrants was also risky due to increased

stopovers in potential Covid-19 hotspots, which meant many migrants stayed to help protect them and their families.

[Coronavirus: Honey maker donates 200,000 jars to charity](#) [06 June, Esther Taunton, Stuff NZ]

New Zealand's largest privately-owned honey manufacturer Mānuka Doctor is donating 200,000 pots (50 tonnes) of their honey to community groups and charities through KiwiHarvest. The donation is worth \$800,000. Liz Kiriona, Co-founder of RāWiri Community House in South Auckland, said the charity is grateful for the donation, which will be added to their family-sized food parcels and that it will be a fantastic addition, particularly heading into winter. In April, 171,000 kilograms of food was distributed from the KiwiHarvest warehouse, up from 98,000 kg in February.



Biosecurity

[Strict stink bug measures show results - Biosecurity New Zealand](#) [04

June, The Country] Biosecurity New Zealand reports that strict biosecurity requirements for imported cargo have reduced the threat of the brown marmorated stink bug and states that the requirements will be even tougher for next season. Between September and April, there were 57 interceptions of live brown marmorated stink bugs which is a reduction of 73 percent from the previous season. Biosecurity New Zealand Spokesperson Paul Hallet states that this shows success of introducing offshore treatment requirements for 33 risk countries. 28 of the 57 were intercepted at the border. Biosecurity New Zealand is looking at adding three new countries to the list of those requiring special measures to send vehicles, machinery, and parts to New Zealand, according to Mr Hallet.

[Animal tracing improves after MPI cracks down on Nait compliance](#) [04 June, Esther Taunton, Stuff NZ]

Data from the Ministry for Primary Industries shows use of the National Animal

Identification and Tracing (Nait) system has improved after changes were made to strengthen the scheme and boost compliance. By law, anyone in charge of cattle or deer must be registered with Nait and tag the animals, before recording and confirming animal movements in the system. MPI Director of Compliance, Gary Orr stated that between January and March, 77 percent of animals were correctly registered, which is up by 24 percent on the same period in 2019. In late 2019, the fine for not recording movements correctly rose from \$150 to \$400 per animal, and the maximum non-compliance penalties also significantly rose which appears to have acted as an incentive to follow the rules. Since the beginning of this year, 436 infringements have been issued for Nait offences and more than 800 warnings given for failing to register animals.



Alternative Proteins

[New technology could improve, taste, texture, nutrition of plant-based meat and dairy, claims Motif FoodWorks](#) [02 June, Elaine Watson, Food Navigator] Motif FoodWorks claims that new technology could reduce the saturated fat whilst improving the taste and texture of plant-based foods. The company develops protein ingredients which can be added to plant-based products and is now working on recreating the attributes of animal fat without animals through formulating lipids and fibre-forming ingredients in both plant-based meat and dairy products. They will also be focusing on improving the texture of plant-based cheese, to make it more elastic and melt better. CTO Dr Mike Leonard reports that coconut oil, which is a common fat used in plant-based applications has drawbacks, as it is high in saturated fat and also has technical challenges. The company is looking at novel processing techniques to create structured emulsions and pastes to serve as a saturated fat replacement in plant-based products and also exploring how to replicate animal fat structures such as the

pockets of fat in meat products that create marbling.



Forestry

[Native tree windfall from covid](#) [08 June, Richard Rennie, Farmers Weekly] New Zealand Plant Producers Chief Executive Matthew Dolan reports that he hopes the native tree sector's new action plan will allow it to gather opportunities and capitalise on these. Promised infrastructure projects and large amounts of Covid-19 budget are being placed into the sector. This includes \$200 million of funding for ecology projects and the \$100m announced for waterway fencing and riparian planting, as well as the Auckland Council's million-trees project. Overall, the sector will need to double production of native seedlings over the next 10 years. According to Mr Dolan, one of the greatest constraints is skills and aspects of lost vocational training methods which need to be recovered to move forward. Growing the numbers of trees also means training in new technology, particularly around propagation techniques and the use of robotics.



Agri-Tech

[Robots armed with UV light fight grape mildew](#) [03 June, Krishna Ramanujan, Cornell Chronicle] Cornell AgriTech researchers are using robots to deliver ultraviolet light to grape vines at night in order to effectively treat powdery mildew. The crop disease can be devastating to a range of crops including grapes. The researchers have partnered with SAGA Robotics to develop the first commercial robotic units which will appear on the market this year. It is estimated that a typical grape grower sprays chemical fungicide for the management of powdery mildew between 10 and 15 times a year. The lamps deliver a low dose of UV light which kills the pathogen without damaging the plant.

[Microalgae start-up rolls out industrial-scale production after 'influx of demand'](#) [05 June, Oliver Morrison, Food Navigator] Israel-based Yemoja has begun industrial-scale production of microalgae at its 1,000 square metre facility. Yemoja's cultivated microalgae is customised to fit functional food, nutraceutical or cosmetic applications. The CEO has states that they are planning to double their capacity mid-2021 and will then increase capacity in late 2022. The plant has a small footprint as it uses minimal resources and land and also recycles its own water. Yemoja operates a small batch production line, with each column isolated from other units to ensure no cross contamination which allows for the simultaneous production for a range of customers. The company has also partnered with the Migal Galilee Research Institute to work on aiming to find a molecule sourced from microalgae to support bowel disease.



Trade & Exports

[Coronavirus: Dairy overtakes tourism as NZ's biggest exporter](#)

[due to coronavirus fallout](#) [03 June, Bonnie Flaws, Stuff NZ] Statistics NZ report that dairy exports are up \$396 million in the year to March 2020, overtaking tourism as the country's biggest earner. The total export value across the year was \$16.2 billion, whilst tourism earned \$15.9 billion taking a fall of \$239 million. The tourism sector dropped due to travel restrictions in the first three months of 2020 for both international students and visitors.

[Trade needs help to save us](#) [04 June, Farmers Weekly] Horticulture New Zealand Chief Executive Mike Chapman states that the country will be able to trade its way out of a Covid-19 recession as long as trade, infrastructure and labour issues are addressed. Mr Chapman reports that whilst open market access is important, these other factors are also crucial in getting our premium products overseas. Mr Chapman states that infrastructure investment needs to be rethought, particularly with water

storage for irrigation and urban use. NZ Kiwifruit Growers Chief Executive Nikki Johnson is confident the industry can continue to grow but labour issues need to be overcome and acknowledges that this is not a simple fix, as for the kiwifruit industry, they can typically only offer seasonal work. New Zealand Avocado Chief Executive Jen Scouler reports that whilst global demand for avocados is rising by 10 percent a year, production in New Zealand has only been lifting by 3 percent so there is plenty of potential in the industry.

[Still fighting for free trade](#) [05 June, Farmers Weekly] Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern will not reallocate portfolios to free David Parker to focus solely on trade. The Prime Minister reported that she is confident that Mr Parker can manage his workload and priorities in the wake of Covid-19. Mr Parker expects NZ exports to fare better than WTO forecasts as many of our exports are agriculture and processed foods compared to complex manufactured goods, and also states that the primary sector is playing a key role in New Zealand's response to the pandemic. Mr Parker says NZ has led initiatives to keep supply chains open and remove trade-distorting measures. In the next few weeks the Primary Sector Council is due to launch its Fit for a Better Future document.

[A very negative signal': Trade Minister David Parker accuses European Union of protectionism](#)

[08 June, Hamish Rutherford, NZ Herald] Trade Minister David Parker is accusing the European Union of agricultural protectionism and questioning whether the trading bloc is committed to completing a free-trade deal. Mr Parker states that this is a negative signal, particularly as the groups are working together in the World Trade Organisation, and elsewhere encouraging countries to not be protectionist. Mr Parker reported that in 2019 the EU exported the equivalent of just under 1kg of cheese to New Zealand for every New Zealander, tariff free, whilst the latest offer from the EU would allow New Zealand to export the equivalent of about three grams of cheese for every European Union

citizen annually and would still be subject to volume restrictions. Mr Parker states that the offer raises the question of whether Europe actually wants a trade agreement with New Zealand.



Viticulture

[Kiwi workers hold the key to vineyards' survival, but could we cut the mustard?](#) [04 June, Maia Hart, Stuff NZ] Marlborough still has opportunities for workers, in particular doing hand pruning across winter. Thornhill Horticulture and Viticulture Supervisor Francis Law reports that whilst workers start at minimum wage, it is possible to earn \$35 an hour once skilled at the job. Mr Law states that because the work is hard, often New Zealanders do not stick at the work, whilst RSE workers fill the labour shortage. The wine industry earns nearly 20 percent of Marlborough's GDP.

however also indicated that there is a high degree of job satisfaction amongst farm workers.



Food Marketing

[Impossible Foods launches direct-to-consumer site and rolls out to hundreds more retail stores this month.](#) [05 June, Mary Ellen Shoup, Food Navigator] Impossible Foods have launched an e-commerce site which makes its plant-based burgers available to all US customers in the lower 48 states. The direct-to-consumer site offers free two-day shipping of family-sized quantities of the Impossible Burger. Over the next month, they are also rolling out the burger to nearly 900 new stores. Impossible Foods President Dennis Woodside reported that they want to make it as easy as possible to access the Impossible Burger, whether that is online or in-store.



Farmers & Producers

[Farm jobs offer competitive pay packages, say industry experts](#) [09 June, Bonnie Flaws, Stuff NZ] Tom Wilson made the switch last year from Sports Trainer to Farm Assistant after he learnt that his long-term earning potential was much higher on farm. A recent report from Federated Farmers and Rabobank has shown that there has been strong growth in farmer salary and benefits over the last two years. Mr Wilson hopes to one day become a Farm Manager or Share Milker. The remuneration report was based on survey responses from employers, related to about 3000 existing farm jobs. The average dairy farming pay package had risen nearly 10 per cent to \$57,000, and across sheep and beef farm jobs it had risen 7.6 per cent to \$55,000. For grain farm jobs pay was up 3 per cent to \$59,000. Federated Farmers president Katie Milne stated a career in farming offers good job security, and competitive pay packages. The report is intended as a guide for farmers of market rates,



Dairy

[Dairy farmers say yes to levy](#) [03 June, Farmers Weekly] Dairy farmers have voted to continue the sector's milksolids levy, with 69 percent of voters voting to keep the levy. Provisional results show that 57 percent of the levy-paying dairy farmers voted. DairyNZ is funded by the levy of 3.6c/kg MS, which has not changed since 2008, and the results show that there is support for the industry-good organisation. Final results will be available once the total milksolids produced for the 2019-20 season is known in late June.

[Virtual dairy awards night on national TV](#) [05 June, Dairy News] The New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards (NZDIA) dinner night will be screened on national television on 04 July, for the first time ever. NZDIA General Manager Robin Congdon reports that they are excited about airing the awards on Country TV, as it will bring additional recognition to the finalists, partners and national sponsors while celebrating

success within the dairy industry. Mr Congdon states that they hope that the 2020 national award finalists and winners can come together in person, when restrictions allow in order to learn and grow off one another.



Fisheries

[Flight schedules and freight costs put pressure on salmon, lobster exporters](#) [03 June, Bonnie Flaws, Stuff NZ] Managing Director of Akaroa Salmon, Duncan Bates reports that the cost of air freight has doubled, after commercial air travel has collapsed. Mr Bates reports that this is making it harder to get his product to overseas markets. His usual markets include the United States, Australia, Japan and South East Asia, however noted that he has been focusing on China as a new market instead as it has cheaper air freight. Mr Bates stated that before Covid-19 restrictions, Air New Zealand charged \$2.75 a kg to ship from Christchurch to Los Angeles but now it would cost a minimum of \$5.35 a kg. The cost of air freight is an ongoing concern for Mr Bates, as it prevents him from fulfilling overseas demand and he cannot see prices easing in the near future. Lobster Exporters of New Zealand Chairman Andrew Harvey mentioned that regular, reliable domestic flights are just as important to exporters in moving their goods.

[Top chefs join youth activist in call for a 'big blue future' this World Oceans Day](#) [08 June, Voxy.co.nz] The Marine Stewardship Council has made a global call to switch to sustainable seafood for a big blue future this World Oceans Day. MasterChef Winner Larissa Takchi and Ocean Youth Activist Nicola Tsiolis have joined up as a result. A third of fisheries around the world have been fished beyond sustainable limits, and a further 60% are fished to their maximum capacity. The latest report on the state of the world's fisheries is due to be released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which will show the increasing pressures placed on the world's

oceans. The new campaign aim is to encourage more citizens to make the switch to certified sustainable seafood with the blue fish tick in a bid to end overfishing.



Environment & Emissions

[Some cows genetically better for the environment than others, new study finds](#) [05 June, Thomas Mead, 1 News] A Lincoln University research project has found that dairy cows with a certain phenotype, excreted 28 percent less nitrogen in their urine than cows without it, diverting much of it into milk protein instead. Doctoral Student and Project Lead Cameron Marshall reports that many farmers will already have cows in their herd that have the gene. The trait can be identified through the testing of milk, and this gives farmers the option to breed from their pre-existing stock and change the make-up of their farm over time. Lincoln University Livestock Production Professor Pablo Gregorini stated that the results mean a significant step forward for the industry and confirms the idea that breeding can help to improve the environment.

[N limit surprises](#) [05 June, Richard Rennie, Farmers Weekly] Next year, nitrogen fertiliser will be capped at a maximum of 190 kilograms a hectare as part of the Action for Healthy Waterways policy. It has been estimated that up to a third of dairy farmers as a result will have to cut down on their nitrogen use. AgFirst Economist Phil Journeaux is not sure how the Government came to the conclusion of 190 kilograms a hectare and challenges the claim that the impact will be limited to 2000 farms. Mr Journeaux's analysis done for the Fertiliser Association calculates that 35 percent of dairy farms will need to lower their typical nitrogen applications. Arable farmers and horticultural growers are exempt from the cap. Massey University Freshwater Ecologist Professor Russell Death, reports that the cap is a band aid solution and is unsure where the 190 kilogram

limit has appeared from. Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor acknowledged the limit is a departure from the Government commitment to a more outcome-focused approach to limiting nitrogen.



Red Meat

[Red meat exports hold steady despite Covid-19 pandemic](#) [02

June, Esther Taunton, Stuff NZ] The Meat Industry Association (MIA) reports that demand from Japan helped to hold New Zealand's red meat exports steady in April, despite disruption caused by Covid-19. Over the month, the country exported \$859 million of lamb, mutton, beef and other co-products such as offal and tripe. This figure is relatively the same as April 2019, despite some major markets facing downfall. This includes the United Kingdom, who were down 27 percent to \$39.6 million, with shipments to Germany also falling 30 percent to \$22 million. Exports to Japan were up 66 percent to \$46.8 million, and exports were up 36 percent to Taiwan, sitting at \$36.4 million and this helped to offset the downfalls elsewhere. Exports to China also continued to recover, up 16 per cent to \$353.6m. MIA Chief Executive Sirma Karapeeva reports that the industry is benefiting from strong relationships across the globe.

[NZ venison back on the menu in China after Covid-19 disrupts exports](#) [04 June, Jamie Gray,

NZ Herald] The Peoples Republic of China have issued a catalogue of approved animal species for human consumption which includes venison from farmed red deer, along with more traditional farm animals and poultry, following the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions on sales of wild animal meat. This is good news for New Zealand's venison export trade to China with Deer Industry NZ (DINZ) Chief Executive Innes Moffat reporting that the inclusion of deer would make it clear to officials across China that the sale and consumption of New Zealand venison was legal and safe for Chinese consumers. Mr

Moffat thanked China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs for being responsive to the industry's requests for the status of NZ farmed venison to be clarified.

[Turmoil will continue](#) [05 June, Annette Scott, Farmer Weekly] Rabobank Animal Proteins Analyst Blake Holgate reports that Covid-19 will continue to disrupt the red meat sector and that the future for the beef industry will depend on effective containment strategies, consumer reactions and the severity of the economic fallout. Lower processing capacity in New Zealand has resulted in the recent easing of cattle prices, with cattle prices in May being down by between 6 and 15 percent, depending on the class of cattle and region.

[Meat processors buy tannery](#) [09 June, Gerald Piddock, Farmers Weekly] Greenlea Premier Meats, Wilson Hellaby and Glendenburg Holdings have jointly purchased the Wallace Group, including the firm's rendering, composting and tannery operations in Waitoa, Northland and Fielding. Greenlea Managing Director Tony Egan has reported that the deal is worth more than \$10 million. Wilson Hellaby Managing Director Fred Hellaby stated that it is a great opportunity for two meat companies to work together for the future of the industry, which will lead to further investment and improvements for the industry.



Research & Development

[AgResearch a winner as Government commits further \\$154m to research and development](#) [03 June, Tom Pullar-Strecker, Stuff NZ] The Government has announced a further \$154 million of funding for research and development. The funding includes an additional \$117 million for Crown Research Institutes. Research, Science and Innovation Spokesperson Megan Woods reported that AgResearch will be receiving some of this funding to develop a

scientific research facility and corporate headquarters at Lincoln University. Mrs Woods also announced on Wednesday that funding for a Budget initiative to promote Māori research and development opportunities had been increased from \$6.5m to \$33m. Callaghan Innovation will receive an extra \$10 million, some of which will be used to provide help to early-stage research-intensive companies that have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19. The extra Government funding is aimed at providing well-paid and secure jobs and also improve productivity for the sector.



International

[Microsoft launches new programme to empower agritech startups in](#)

[India](#) [03 June, Business Standard] Microsoft have launched a new programme to help agritech start-ups in India in order to build industry-specific solutions, scale and grow with access to deep technology, business and marketing resources. The programme offers both technology and business enablement resources to Series C start-ups which will enable them to scale quickly.

[Coronavirus May Cost Africa \\$4.8 Billion in Agriculture Exports](#) [09 June, Antony Squazzin, Bloomberg] McKinsey & Co report that the Covid-19 pandemic has the potential to cost Africa as much as US\$4.8 billion (approx. NZ\$7.3 billion) in lost agricultural exports, and also affect the livelihoods of 10 million farmers. The consultancy firm report that disruptions to the sector include cancelled flights, closure of chocolate factories and lower demand for certain products. The outbreak may also disrupt preparations for the next planting season and hamper efforts to stop the invasion of crop-eating locusts in East Africa.

Organisations referenced in this week's Field Notes include

AgFirst
AgResearch
AgriTech New Zealand
Air New Zealand
Akaroa Salmon
Apiculture New Zealand
Biosecurity New Zealand
Callaghan Innovation
Canterbury Spinners Group
Cornell AgriTech
Country TV
DairyNZ
Deer Industry NZ
Federated Farmers
Feltex
Fertiliser Association
Foundation for Arable Research
Glendenburg Holdings
Godfrey Hirst
Greenlea Premier Meats
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New Zealand National Fieldays Society
New Zealand Plant Producers
Next Generation Systems
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Rabobank
RāWiri Community House
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