

# FIELD NOTES

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness network

9 March 2016



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**HOT OFF THE PRESS:  
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AGENDA 2015 VOLUME 2**

### Organisations referenced in this week's Field Notes include:

A2 Milk	Horticulture New Zealand
Agria	Kampot Pepper Promotion Association
Alliance Group	Landcorp
ANZ	Meat Industry Association
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	Meat Industry Excellence
Ballance Agri-Nutrients	Mercadonna
Beef + Lamb New Zealand	Ministry for Primary Industries
Bobby Calf Action Group	New Hope
Canada Pension Plan Investment Board	New Zealand Citrus Growers
Capilano Honey	New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers
Comvita	New Zealand Merino Company
Dairy NZ	Ngai Tahu Seafood
Elders	Organisation for Economic Cooperation
European Union	PGG Wrightson
Federated Farmers	Saudi Agricultural and Livestock Investment
Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand	Silver Fern Farms
Fonterra Co-operative Group	SwarmFarm Robotics
Fonterra Shareholders Council	T&G Global
Food and Drug Administration	Waikato University
Forest Owners Association	Westland Milk Products
Glencore	Westpac
Gulf of Maine Research Institute	

### This week's headlines

Apiculture	<b>Comvita joins forces with Capilano in Aussie</b> [3 March/ NZ Herald]
Dairy	<b>Fonterra payout cut bitter pill for farmers</b> [8 March/ NZ Herald]
Red meat	<b>Deal sends lamb direct to Spanish supermarket</b> [7 March/ Radio NZ Rural]
Biosecurity	<b>Fruit fly threat from Adelaide</b> [8 March/ NZ Herald]
Farmers and producers	<b>Landcorp scales back Wairakei dairy conversion plan</b> [7 March/ NZ Herald]

## Horticulture

**From citrus to kiwifruit** [4 March/ Rural News] Former New Zealand Citrus Growers Manager, Nikki Johnson has been appointed as New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Chief Executive, as she moves from the citrus industry to the kiwifruit industry. Ms Johnson will succeed Mike Chapman who stepped down to take on the role of Horticulture New Zealand Chief Executive. Ms Johnson has managed New Zealand Citrus Growers for more than 10 years and transitioned the industry from a voluntary grower organisation to a professional organisation.

**T&G benefits from global supply lines** [7 March/ Farmers Weekly] T&G Global Chief Executive, Alastair Hulbert said the company had benefited from having its premier apple varieties available in world supermarkets year round. Mr Hulbert explained that the company's apples were grown in New Zealand, France, Britain and Washington State in the USA, allowing them to supply their big retailer clients in Europe and Asia for 12 months of the year. Mr Hulbert added that T&G's after tax profit increased from \$10.3 million in 2014 to \$19.5 million in 2015, mainly due to the success of Pipfruit.

## Apiculture

**Comvita joins forces with Capilano in Aussie** [3 March/ NZ Herald] New Zealand honey company Comvita has signed a memorandum of understanding with Australian counterpart Capilano Honey to form a jointly owned manuka honey business in Australia. The venture allows Comvita to secure larger volumes of manuka honey, enabling the company to increase production to meet global demand. Representatives from both companies said they would achieve significant long term benefits from working together. Comvita's share price increased by 8 cents following the news.

## Forestry

**Kinky GE laws need ironing out** [3 March/ Rural News] Forest owners have said kinks in the laws covering the release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) needed to be ironed out, as it was no longer clear what was genetically modified and what was not. Forest Owners Association Technical Manager, Glen Mackie said the Forest Owners and Farm Forestry Associations have decided to support Federated Farmers in their appeal against a rule in the draft Northland Regional Plan that would allow the council to regulate GMOs in their region. The rule meant any GMO would require the approval of the Environmental Protection Agency as well as local councils before it could be planted. Mr Mackie said forest owners accepted that GMOs had to be regulated, but it needed to be the responsibility of one authority with the right skills, using a risk based definition of a GMO.

## Fishing and aquaculture

**Former fishing boat skipper Joseph Thomas to head Ngai Tahu Seafood** [2 March/ Business Day] Ngai Tahu Seafood has announced that Joseph Thomas will be taking over as the company's chief executive in April. Mr Thomas started his working life on a lobster boat, before spending time as the chief executive of Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust and Development West Coast. Ngai Tahu Seafood Chair, Craig Ellison said Mr Thomas' experience in the industry, leadership ability, and whanau connections to fishing made him a perfect fit for the business.

## Dairy

**Dairy lift offers spark of hope** [3 March/ NZ Herald] The Global Dairy Trade price index increased by 1.4 percent in the latest auction, after falling in each of the previous four auctions. Wholemilk powder prices, which were a significant factor in determining Fonterra's farmgate milk price, rose by 5.5 percent to USD 1,974 per tonne. ANZ Rural Economist, Con Williams said that with only four auctions to go before Fonterra's opening milk price forecast for the 2016/17 season, it seemed the opening price would likely have a four in front of it rather than a five. Westpac Senior Economist, Anne Boniface said their farmgate milk price forecasts of \$4 per kilogram of milk solids this season and \$4.60 per kilogram of milk solids next season would remain unchanged despite the auction results.

**West Coast butter earns champion award** [3 March/ Dairy News] Westgold Unsalted Butter has won the Food for Chefs Champion Butter Award at the prestigious New Zealand Champions of Cheese Awards. Westland Milk Products Chief Executive, Rod Quinn said the company had sold Westgold internationally for years, but recently decided it was time to share the West Coast's best kept secret with New Zealanders. Mr Quinn explained that the best butter started with the best cream, and West Coast farmers have a high percentage of Jersey cows in their herds which were known for producing high quality cream.

**New HQ too flash for Fonterra?** [4 March/ NZ Herald] Fonterra plan to have completed their move into one of the smartest buildings in Auckland by 31 March. Waikato University Agribusiness Professor, Jacqueline Rowarth said Fonterra's relocation just continued the disconnection between the head office and shareholders. Ms Rowarth added that at a time when all shareholders were being urged to cut costs, there was no justification for renting prime real estate. Fonterra People, Culture and Safety Managing Director, Maury Leyland said the new building brought together staff from offices and manufacturing sites around Auckland. Ms Leyland added that the new activity based working approach was more cost effective than leasing at multiple locations on a traditional fixed desk occupancy basis.

**The rise and rise of A2 milk** [4 March/ NZ Herald] The share price of A2 has increased by 214 percent over the past 12 months. While the dairy industry has been struggling, A2's profit for the six months to 31 December 2015 increased eighty-fold to \$10.1 million, particularly due to a 340 percent rise in infant formula sales across Australia, New Zealand and China to \$73.9 million. Sales in Australia have risen due to the grey channel, a process involving traders buying infant formula from Australian supermarkets and selling it in China through a range of online platforms. CLSA Analyst, Naveen Patney said formula could be bought for AUD 25 per tin in Australia and sold for AUD 45 in China, far less than the taxed, imported tins which cost AUD 80 each. Mr Patney added that A2's reliance on the grey market meant there was a risk the A2 brand would not continue its recent growth unless complemented by effective marketing. Patney explained that the grey channel could become less attractive due to Australia's free trade agreement with China, which came into force in December 2015.



**Fonterra payout cut bitter pill for farmers** [8 March/ NZ Herald] Fonterra Shareholders Council Chairman, Duncan Coull said the announcement of a further 25 cent drop in this season's farmgate milk price to \$3.90 per kilogram of milk solids was a bitter pill for farmers to swallow. Mr Coull said the drop reflected current market conditions, and that farmers understood what the market realities were and continued to make adjustments where they could. Dairy NZ estimated that the price level required by an average farmer to breakeven was \$5.25 per kilogram of milk solids, well above the current farmgate milk price of \$3.90. Fonterra Chairman, John Wilson said the co-operative expected its milk production to be at least 4 percent lower than the previous season as local farmers were culling herds and reducing supplementary feed. The expectations around the dividend payout remained unchanged.

#### Red meat

**Bill Falconer to retire from MIA** [3 March/ Radio NZ Rural] The Meat Industry Association has announced that chairman Bill Falconer will retire next month after spending 15 years with the association. Former Zespri Chair, John Loughlin will replace Mr Falconer on 6 April.

**Guy won't step in to help MIE** [7 March/ Farmers Weekly] Meat Industry Excellence Chairman, Dave McGaveston said the organisation has asked the Ministry for Primary Industries to mediate its dispute with Beef + Lamb New Zealand. Mr McGaveston said Beef + Lamb New Zealand was in breach of its responsibilities under the Commodities Levies Act and did not have the support of levy payers. Primary Industries Minister, Nathan Guy said he would not step in as Beef + Lamb New Zealand's 2015 referendum met all the legal requirements and there was no legislation under which he could seek a mediated resolution over the organisation's levy funds. Beef + Lamb New Zealand Chairman, James Parsons said the board had met its responsibilities under the Commodities Levies Act, with every levy paying farmer having had the chance to participate in the referendum. Mr Parsons added that the overwhelming majority of farmers who participated supported the referendum.

**Beef and lamb farm forecast cut** [7 March/ NZ Herald] Six months ago, the average New Zealand farm profit before tax was predicted to be approximately \$109,900, but this has since been lowered by 25 percent to \$82,400. Beef + Lamb New Zealand Economic Service Chief Economist, Andrew Burt said the decrease reflected a drop in revenue from sheep due to lower lamb prices. Mr Burt added that an early lamb season meant a large percentage of lamb sales were into a weakening frozen exports market. Silver Fern Farms Chief Executive, Dean Hamilton said prices for chilled lamb were at similar levels to last year, but prices for frozen commodity items were down more than 30 percent on last year.

**Deal sends lamb direct to Spanish supermarket** [7 March/ Radio NZ Rural] New Zealand's largest sheep meat processor and exporter, Alliance Group, has secured a deal to supply Spanish supermarket chain, Mercadonna, with lamb. Alliance Marketing Manager, Murray Brown said frozen lamb was being packaged and exported under its new Pure South brand. Mr Brown added that over time, Alliance wanted more secure pricing for farmers, and the next development would be the introduction of chilled lamb. Mr Brown noted that there was no one else along the supply chain so the product was going direct into retail. Mercadonna has 1,400 stores across Spain and holds a 26.5 percent share of the food retail market share.

#### Rural infrastructure

**Takeover panel weighing PGW bid** [5 March/ NZ Herald] The future of rural services company PGG Wrightson could be decided by an interpretation of New Zealand's takeovers code. PGG Wrightson Chief Executive, Mark Dewdney said it was business as usual while the company's biggest shareholder, Agria, considered a takeover from one of its major owners, Alan Lai. Takeovers Panel Chief Executive, Margaret Bearsley said they were liaising with Mr Lai's New Zealand lawyers about his intentions to comply with the New Zealand takeovers code. Ms Bearsley explained that unless Mr Lai was granted an exemption, the code meant Agria could be forced to take over the rest of PGG Wrightson that it did not already own. PGG Wrightson's independent directors have formed a committee to assess the implications that any proposal may have for the company.

**Ballance opens Timaru plant** [7 March/ Farmers Weekly] Ballance Agri-Nutrients has opened a new plant in Timaru where it would make its new PhaSedN fertiliser. Ballance Chief Executive, Mark Wynne said the product was useful on both dairy and hill farms where phosphate levels were high but sulphur levels were low. Mr Wynne said the product had originally been shipped to the South Island from the Bay of Plenty, but transport was expensive. Mr Wynne added that South Island shareholders had told the co-operative they wanted local supply. The Timaru plant would initially produce approximately 10,000 tonnes a year, with capacity to expand as demand grew.

#### Biosecurity

**Yachtie's fine not enough - Hort NZ** [2 March/ Radio NZ Rural] Horticulture New Zealand Chief Executive, Mike Chapman said the \$3,000 fine imposed on an Australian yacht skipper who tried to bring fruit, vegetables and meat into the country would not act as a deterrent. Mr Chapman added that the fine was weak when the potential impact of a Queensland fruit fly was considered. Mr Chapman explained that without strong law enforcement to back up a secure border, industries worth billions of dollars were being put at risk.

**Fruit fly threat from Adelaide** [8 March/ NZ Herald] Ministry for Primary Industries Spokesman, Craig Hughes, said immediate steps were being taken to ward off a recent outbreak of Mediterranean fruit fly in Adelaide. Mr Hughes said sniffer dogs would be at the international arrivals gates of all flights from Australia to scrutinise hand luggage that could contain items potentially harbouring fruit fly. Mr Hughes added that the fruit fly outbreak posed a threat to New Zealand's biosecurity and warranted a decisive response. The South Australian Government had imposed a quarantine zone in Adelaide after the fly was discovered in home grown peaches.

#### International

**New Delhi plans to double farmers' incomes** [29 February/ China Daily] Indian Finance Minister, Arun Jaitely said the Government would invest nearly USD 13 billion on rural development to double farmers' incomes in the next five years. Mr Jaitely explained that the investment would improve the lives of farmers and boost the rural economy, drive consumer demand, and stimulate growth. Mr Jaitely added that the Indian economy was doing well despite slowing growth in other emerging and leading economies. Mr Jaitely said he forecasted that India would grow by 7.6 percent in the year to March 2016.

**Explore indoor farming, solar power, says NCMP Perera** [1 March/ The Straights Times] Singapore Workers Party Non-Constituency Member of Parliament, Leon Perera said the country needed to explore large scale indoor farming and the generation of solar energy. Mr Perera explained that this would make the country less reliant on imported food and fuel, and would also help local companies develop expertise that could be exported. Parliamentary Secretary for Trade and Industry, Low Yen said developing underground space for farming was expensive and more studies needed to be done to determine the best use for this space. Ms Yen added that government led demand was helping to grow the solar power industry.

**Nutrition Committee calls for tax on sugary drinks, says Canada 'must act' on obesity crisis** [1 March/ The Globe and Mail] A Canadian Senate committee has called for a national campaign to combat obesity, including a possible new tax on sugar or artificially sweetened beverages and a ban on food advertising that targeted children. Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology Chair, Kelvin Ogilvie said there was an obesity crisis in Canada and sugar was a big part of that problem. Canadian Beverage Association President, Jim Goetz said the tax unfairly targeted the industry which only contributed 5 percent of Canadians' calories to their diet. According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Canada ranked fifth among countries where obesity was prevalent in adults, behind the United States, Mexico, New Zealand and Australia.

**Italy Moving to Strengthen Olive Oil Laws** [1 March/ The New York Times] Italian lawmakers have voted to stiffen legislation which would regulate penalties for producing counterfeit olive oil and being dishonest about its origin. The recommendations would now return to the government to be approved before a final version was drafted. Olive growers said the proposed fines of up to \$9,500 would not discourage fraud, and that criminal procedures would be more effective. Italian Lawmaker, Colomba Mongiello said promoting authentic Italian made products was a priority of Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi.

**US Senate agri committee votes in favour of pro-GMO law** [1 March/ Agri Investor] The Senate Agriculture Committee approved a bill that would stop state and local governments from establishing labelling requirements for genetically engineered food products. A group of 650 agribusiness companies signed a letter in support of the measure, arguing that compulsory labelling would drive up costs and hurt United States agriculture production. The amendment would instead establish a national voluntary labelling programme for genetically engineered food products. The amendment would also ban producers of food who did not use genetically modified organisms (GMOs) from claiming that their products were safer or of higher quality than GMO foods.

**Bill to block state labelling of genetically modified foods** [2 March/ NZ Herald] The Senate Agriculture Committee approved a bill to prevent the labelling on packages of food that included genetically modified organisms (GMOs). A representative from the Food and Drug Administration said there was little scientific concern about the safety of the GMOs that were on the market. Advocates for labelling said not enough was known about the risks of GMOs. The United States Food Industry said about 75-80 percent of foods contained genetically modified ingredients.

**Cambodia's Kampot pepper wins coveted EU protection** [2 March/ NZ Herald] Cambodia's Kampot pepper has joined an elite group of gourmet food items whose names are protected by the European Union. The designation meant that any product called Kampot pepper which is sold in the European Union must have come from a particular region in Cambodia. The pepper was the first product from Cambodia to receive the label. Kampot Pepper Promotion Association President, Nguon Lay said the designation was a seal of quality that would boost sales of the spice. Mr Lay added that the status would help improve the living standard of families in the Kampot region as more and more customers became impressed with the pepper.

**More than half a million could die as climate change impacts diet – report** [2 March/ The Guardian] According to new research published in the Lancet, climate change could kill more than 500,000 people a year by 2050 due to unhealthy diets. The research found that there would be a 4 percent decrease in the availability of fruit and vegetables and a 3 percent decrease in the number of calories available by 2050. Nearly all nations were projected to suffer an increase in deaths due to the diet changes caused by climate change, but a few in central America and southern Africa could see a decrease in deaths as the reductions in obesity outweighed other factors. University of Oxford Lecturer, Peter Scarborough said the number of deaths could be reduced by cutting carbon emissions and improving education and the availability of fruit and vegetables.

**Warm ocean could mean early boom in 2016 lobster catch** [4 March/ NZ Herald] Gulf of Maine Research Institute Chief Scientific Officer, Andrew Pershing said Lobster catches in Maine were likely to peak early this year, resulting in cheaper lobsters for United States consumers. Mr Pershing explained that the lobster season could begin two or three weeks early due to warmer ocean temperatures. Mr Pershing added that the lobster season usually coincided with the tourism industry picking up, and if the timing was off by a few weeks it could have a major impact throughout the supply chain. Gulf of Maine Research Institute Research Scientist, Katherine Mills said early lobster catches did not necessarily guarantee a drop in price. Ms Mills explained that the volume of catch was also a major factor that influenced the price, and there was no way of predicting that.

**Two lead bidders for agricultural unit** [6 March/ Cape Times] According to sources who did not wish to be identified, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Saudi Agricultural and Livestock Investment were among lead bidders for a minority stake in Glencore's agriculture unit. The two companies would present final bids for the unit this month. According to the sources, Glencore was open to selling stakes to more than one party. Citigroup has valued the entire unit at USD 10.5 billion. Glencore Chief Executive, Ivan Glasenberg said the sale was part of a debt cutting programme. The Swiss firm's shares have increased by more than 60 percent this year, having recovered from investor concerns about commodity prices and the company's ability to pay down a USD 30 billion debt.

**Chinese agribusiness launches fund for acquisitions abroad** [6 March/ Agri Investor] Chinese Agribusiness, New Hope has launched a USD 460 million fund to make strategic investments abroad. The company has been one of China's top egg, poultry and agribusiness suppliers, but plans to expand into meat and dairy supply chains. New Hope Founder, Liu Yonghao said the company was also spending USD 1.3 billion in large scale pig farms in China.

**Elders behind push for robot sprayers on farms** [6 March/ The Age] Elders has been providing funds to help SwarmFarm Robotics bring its prototype robotic sprayer to the commercial market. The machine used infra-red beam and mechanotronic technology to spray herbicides and pesticides in fields 24 hours a day, without needing a human. SwarmFarm Chief Executive, Andrew Bate said agriculture was one of the last big industries to be affected by the digital age. Mr Bate added that the business was being constructed so that it could become an international firm.

**New ACCC agriculture unit will address farmer concerns about expertise and resources: Simms** [7 March/ ABC Rural] Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Chairman, Rod Simms said the new Agriculture Engagement and Enforcement Unit dedicated to uncovering anticompetitive behaviour in the agriculture section would be proactive about talking to farmers. Mr Simms added that the unit had also been joined by Agriculture Commissioner and Australian Farm Institute Executive Director, Mick Keogh, to take a closer look at claims that major market players were abusing their power. Mr Simms said the new unit and commissioner would help address concerns that there was not enough expertise and resources within the commission.

#### Agribusiness strategy

**Embrace change, Ballance CEO says** [7 March/ Otago Daily Times] Ballance Agri-Nutrients Chief Executive, Mark Wynne said change could be viewed as either a danger or an opportunity, and he preferred to look at it as an opportunity. Mr Wynne added that farmers should view various changes to regulations as the voice of the community, and embrace them, rather than look at them as a threat to their business. Mr Wynne explained that changes were everywhere and it was not just the agriculture sector that was being picked on. Mr Wynne added that as the world for farmers changed, so would Ballance and what it offered to its shareholders. Mr Wynne said it was a matter of staying very close to customers, anticipating trends, and helping them capitalise on their opportunities.

#### Economics and trade

**Commodities index shows stable signs** [4 March/ Otago Daily Times] The ANZ commodity price index stabilised in February, as gains in beef and aluminium prices helped offset decreases in dairy prices. ANZ Agri Economist, Con Williams said some caution was still warranted as the majority of the price improvements were made up of a 10.4 percent increase in beef prices and a 2.6 percent rise in aluminium prices. Mr Williams said the improvement in the price of beef was due to tighter supply from Australia and New Zealand, seasonality in the United States market, and a reduction in inventory levels that had built up at the end of last year.

**Free trade agreement with India still some distance away** [4 March/ Business Day: NZ Farmer] New Zealand Agricultural Trade Representative, Mike Petersen said a free trade agreement with India was hard going, and doubted whether an agreement would be reached this year. Mr Petersen added that trying to do a deal with a country that had one of the highest populations in the world was a no brainer, even if 65 percent of the population were vegetarian. Mr Petersen explained that India was still in the mindset of self-sufficiency and had many trade barriers in place, making it extremely difficult for New Zealand to export. Mr Petersen noted that consumers wanted to know more about where their produce came from, and New Zealand had a good story to tell.

**Five other countries interested in joining TPP** [7 March/ NZ Herald] New Zealand Trans Pacific Partnership Chief Negotiator, David Walker said five other countries have informally expressed interest in joining the partnership once it had been ratified by the original 12 countries. Mr Walker said Korea, Indonesia, China, the Philippines and Thailand were studying the details of the deal to determine whether they wanted to take their informal interest further. United States President, Barack Obama said more Southeast Asian nations should join the deal, as those who were highly dependent on trade may stand to lose if they are not part of the agreement.

#### Farmers and producers

**Landcorp posts first-half loss** [2 March/ NZ Herald] Landcorp Farming posted a net operating loss of \$8.9 million for the six months to 31 December, and expected it to increase over the second half of the financial year. A Landcorp representative said the loss was due to lower forecast milk payments for the rest of the season that were partially offset by a strong performance in the company's red meat business. The state owned company did not pay a first half dividend and said it did not plan on paying a full year dividend due to its operating losses.

**Mount Cook Station sold to New Zealand farming couple** [6 March/ Business Day/ NZ Farmer] Clint and Alana Miles have been confirmed as the new owners of the 2,600 hectare Mount Cook Station. The couple said they would farm the property themselves, but had not decided on how they would use the land or any details of the property's management. The couple did not disclose how much they paid for the station. Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Executive Member, Jan Finlayson said the organisation had urged the Government to step in and buy the station as a way of securing public access to large areas of Mount Cook National Park. Ms Finlayson said she hoped the new owners would work with recreation groups and the Department of Conservation to improve access to the park and to hunting areas. Ms Finlayson said the Government needed to build its own fund so they could buy strategic land to ensure public access and promote regional development.

**Landcorp scales back Wairakei dairy conversion plan** [7 March/ NZ Herald] Landcorp Chief Executive, Steve Carden said the company would save over \$25 million by scaling back its plans to turn former forestry land into 39 dairy farms in Wairakei Estate in the central North Island. Mr Carden said the state owned company would use the 14,500 hectares of forestry land for other purposes, with a focus on developing new products such as sheep milk. Mr Carden added that the company would like Wairakei Estate to become the centre of such innovation as Landcorp expanded into these new areas. Mr Carden noted that consumer expectations about how their food was produced were changing quickly, so Landcorp needed to continually rethink their farming practices.

#### Wool

**Using genetic traits for profitability in sheep** [4 March/ Business Day: NZ Farmer] New Zealand Merino Company Production Science Manager, Mark Ferguson said there were hundreds of traits that could be inherited in sheep. Mr Ferguson explained that some of them were big earners while others had little or no value. Mr Ferguson said farmers needed to work out the relative impact of different traits on overall profit, and only focus on those that were having a major impact. Mr Ferguson added that the suite of genes that were needed to maximise profit would differ between farms. Mr Ferguson noted that while farmers focused on the traits that would increase the amount of product they could sell, there was also a range of genetic traits that could be used to make sheep more efficient and less expensive to run.

## Animal welfare

**Bobby calf welfare in spotlight with new regulations proposed** [5 March/ Business Day: NZ Farmer] The Ministry for Primary Industries have proposed new regulations around bobby calf care and handling. The new regulations came after footage showing bobby calf abuse within the dairy industry last year. The regulations were part of a range of initiatives undertaken by the Bobby Calf Action Group at the end of 2015 to ensure the best bobby calf handling and management practices were being followed. The Ministry for Primary Industries have planned to visit 1,200 farms as part of an on farm verification programme to familiarise farmers with their legal responsibilities around calf welfare.

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Field Notes presents a summary of some of the media comment on the Agribusiness sector in the last week. The views expressed do not necessarily represent the views of KPMG but are summaries of the articles published.

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