



AGRIBUSINESS

# Field Notes

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness network

10 November 2016

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

AgResearch	Massey University
Agria Corporation	MCT Dairies
Aimmune Therapeutics	Nestle
ASB	New Zealand Farm Environment Trust
Beef + Lamb New Zealand	New Zealand Grassland Association
BNZ	Ornua
Cavalier	Perfect Day
CoreFX Ingredients	PGG Wrightson
Dairy Women's Network	Rabobank
De Prael Brewery	Rosen Law Firm
Facebook	Scales Corporation
Farmlands	Spark
Federated Farmers	Sprout Kitchens
Fonterra Co-operative Group	T&G Global
FrieslandCampina	Tassal
Global Dairy Trade	Tertiary Education Commission
Green Party	University of Auckland
Habit	University of Sterling
Hamilton High Court	Vodafone
Huntly District Court	Westpac
Knewe Biosystems	Worksafe
Longview Group Holdings	

**This week's headlines**

Red meat	<b>Sheep, beef farmers face 12 percent decline in income</b> [1 November/ NZ Herald]
Dairy	<b>'Yes but' to strong dairy prices</b> [7 November/ NZ Farmers Weekly]
Economics and trade	<b>Saudi farm deal not corrupt but 'significant shortcomings' - Auditor-General</b> [2 November/ NZ Herald]
Agribusiness Education	<b>More cash required for ag training</b> [7 November/ NZ Farmers Weekly]
Rural infrastructure	<b>RBI 2 gives small firms a go</b> [7 November/ NZ Farmers Weekly]



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Hot Off The Press:  
**KPMG Agribusiness  
Agenda 2016 Vol. 2**

## NEW: KPMG Agribusiness Agenda 2016 Volume 2 - Foresight to the Future launched today



### Press release - NZ agri-sector challenged to find its 'missing' share of 0.25 trillion

The New Zealand agri-sector has a huge opportunity to reap billions in additional earnings each year – by capitalising on emerging trends disrupting global markets.

That's the challenge laid down by Ian Proudfoot, KPMG's Global Head of Agribusiness. He is the author of the latest KPMG Agribusiness Agenda, released today, which highlights the huge gap between our export earnings and the end-value of our products.

"New Zealand exported a total of \$37 billion in agri-food products in 2015," says Proudfoot.

"Yet KPMG estimates those same products ultimately generate more than 0.25 trillion dollars in retail sales when sold to consumers around the world. The fundamental question is, how do we capture our fair share of that quarter of a trillion dollars?"

The answer, says Proudfoot, is for the sector to forge new pathways to market that close the gap between the producer and the end-consumer.

"The value is clearly there. The only constraint is that because of our history, we don't currently occupy or control the parts of the value chain that create the most value."

The Agenda identifies a number of emerging, disruptive trends that are re-shaping the global agri-food sector. For instance, technology is enabling any producer to become a 'local' food supplier to the world, as long as they have an authentic product story and can verify the quality. Another future trend is for consumers to demand highly-personalised diets, to address their health concerns, which can be delivered via 3D food printing. New Zealand should also be exploring emerging opportunities in cultured farming, where animal proteins are grown without the environmental and ethical concerns of growing the whole animal.

"If the New Zealand primary sector can be first to capitalise on these and other emerging trends - and shape our industry in response - we can become the world's leading agri-food sector within the next 20 years," says Proudfoot.

"It is completely achievable; but it will require a concerted, collaborative effort from everybody involved in the industry. Sector leaders need to set bold targets for 2036, and get all New Zealanders on board with their strategy, starting today."

According to Proudfoot, the improvement in dairy prices indicated by last week's auction, while welcome, is no cause for complacency.

"When the world is on the verge on an agrarian revolution, we cannot afford to believe that the markets we have supplied for decades will still be available to us next year," he says.

"In the greater scheme of things, a shift up or down in commodity price is not something we can control. It's critical the New Zealand industry stays focused on the bigger picture...and the much, much bigger prize."

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## Horticulture

**Scales to buy Hawke's Bay apple grower Longview** [3 November/ National Business Review] Scales Corporation has agreed to buy 100 percent of the shares in Longview Group Holdings, a Hawke's Bay apple grower and marketer, for \$20.5 million. The deal would increase Scales Corporation's earnings per share by 4 percent in the 2017 financial year. Scales Managing Director, Andy Borland said the company's strategy was to become the preferred supplier of apples in the Asian region, and the acquisition would lift its apple crop and increase the size of its infrastructure which was nearing capacity. The deal would be funded through cash and debt and was expected to be completed on 7 November.

**T&G brings in its first Peruvian table grape harvest** [4 November/ Business Day: NZ Farmer] T&G Global will harvest the first grapes from its vineyard in the Peruvian desert this season, just two years after they were planted. The company planted 100 hectares of seedless grape vines, with a further 100 hectares to be planted by the end of next year. At full production, the vines will produce between 25 tonnes and 30 tonnes of grapes per hectare. The grapes will be marketed in the United Kingdom, United States and Asia, while some would be sold in New Zealand. T&G Chief Executive, Alastair Hulbert said Peru was a relatively easy place to operate in due to the country's good investment environment and its support of businesses that grew their economy.

## Viticulture

**Urban winemaker tries crowdfunding** [2 November/ Otago Daily Times] Winemaker, Brendan Seal has started a crowdfunding project to bring winemaking to central Dunedin. In April, Mr Seal tested his urban winemaking proposal by creating a pop-up urban winery in a former hotel site in Dunedin. Mr Seal said it was a fun initiative and gained the attention of the public and the media. Mr Seal has since raised sufficient money to purchase enough pinot noir grapes and oak barrels to make Central Otago wines in the city again. Mr Seal had already hit the \$20,000 target on PledgeMe, incentivising investors with the opportunity to become a winemaking apprentice next year.

## Red meat

**Sheep, beef farmers face 12 percent decline in income** [1 November/ NZ Herald] According to Beef + Lamb New Zealand, sheep and beef farmers' income would fall by 13 percent to \$67,000 this year if the New Zealand dollar remained as high as it was. The organisation's latest season outlook showed that the decline in profits would be the result of an 11 percent fall in wool revenue, a 2.4 percent decline in lamb and sheep revenue, and an 11 percent decrease in dairy grazing revenue. Beef + Lamb New Zealand Chief Operating Officer, Cros Spooner said any improvement in export prices was likely to come from a weakening New Zealand dollar, as 90 percent of production was exported. New Zealand export lamb production was expected to decrease by 1.6 percent in the 2016/17 season, while New Zealand beef production was expected to be similar to last year.

## Dairy

**Milk Price surges to highest point in 2 years** [2 November/ NZ Herald] The average dairy price increased by 11.4 percent to USD 3,327 per tonne at the recent Global Dairy Trade auction. The price of whole milk powder, which heavily influences payments to New Zealand farmers, rose by 20 percent to USD 3,317 per tonne. Westpac increased its farm gate milk price forecast for this season from \$5.30 per kilogram of milk solids to \$5.80 per kilogram of milk solids. Westpac Senior Economist, Anne Boniface said markets had reacted to Fonterra's revised production estimates for the 2016/17 season being 7 percent lower than the previous season. ASB Rural Economist, Nathan Penny said there was an increasing probability that this season's milk price would increase above the bank's current \$6.00 per kilogram of milk solids forecast.

**Dairy price rise boosts farmer's morale** [2 November/ Radio NZ] Morrinsville Farmer, Lloyd Downing said the 20 percent increase in the price of whole milk solids in the Global Dairy Trade Auction was great for farmers and great for the country. Mr Downing added that he was confident prices would remain at the current level. North Canterbury Sharemilker, Melissa Slattery said the lift in prices would provide comfort to farmers who were in distress, especially after a very wet spring. Federated Farmers Dairy Spokesperson, Andrew Hoggard said any increases in milk prices would take a while to flow through to farmers.

**Fonterra launches global 'trusted goodness' campaign** [4 November/ Business Day: NZ Farmer] Fonterra has launched a new food quality seal for all its branded products. The words "Trusted Goodness" and a special message targeted to different markets would appear on the back of its products. In the United States, the seal would state products were "non-GMO", while products sold in China would claim to be "grass-fed". Fonterra Global Consumer and Foodservice Chief Operating Officer, Jacqueline Chow said global consumers were prepared to pay a premium for high quality, safe and healthy food from a trusted source. University of Auckland Marketing Senior Lecturer, Bodo Lang said the seals were effective marketing and had been shown to have an impact.

**Smit nominated for Fonterra board** [4 November/ Dairy News] Bay of Plenty Farmer and Accountant, Donna Smit has been nominated by the Fonterra board of directors for one of the two director vacancies. Fonterra Director, Michael Spaans was also nominated after the co-operative's rotation policy required him to retire. Both candidates were recommended by the Independent Selection Panel. As a result of the recent changes to Fonterra's governance and representation, the 2016 Directors' Election process included two nomination options, the independent nomination process and the self-nomination process. The self-nomination process allows farmers to stand as a candidate for the board with the support of 35 different shareholders. Self-nominations closed on 10 November. The full list of candidates for the Fonterra board election, including the independent nomination process candidates and any self-nomination candidates, would be announced by 16 November.

**'Yes but' to strong dairy prices** [7 November/ NZ Farmers Weekly] BNZ Senior Economist, Doug Steel said farmers should be cautious over future milk prices as they were quite high relative to other commodities. Mr Steel explained that oil prices remained under USD 50 a barrel despite the historic correlation between global milk prices and oil prices. Mr Steel added that the stockpiles of cheap grain in the northern hemisphere was keeping the cost of milk production lower than usual there, while it had been reported that wheat stocks in the United States were three times what they were in 2006. Mr Steel said these factors were not encouraging for future dairy price increases.

## Environment and emissions

**Farm Environment trust plans ahead** [3 November/ Rural News] New Zealand Farm Environment Trust Chairman, Simon Saunders said the company's Ballance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA) had enjoyed another successful year. Mr Saunders explained that regional and national awards programmes, ceremonies and field days remained popular and well supported, while media coverage of the award winning farmers continued to grow. Mr Saunders said the trust was now planning ahead to ensure the next ten years were as successful as the last. Mr Saunders explained that an independent review commissioned by the trust had highlighted opportunities to strengthen the BFEA programme, get more farmers involved, and ensure that entrants were enriched by the experience.

## Research and development

**Productivity gains and environmental answers relayed** [7 November/ Rural News] The New Zealand Grassland Association's annual conference attracted over 300 delegates from across the country including many leading scientists. AgResearch scientist and Association President, David Stevens said it was a great event with some ground breaking science presented and multiple farm-visit field days. The field days included two robotic dairy farms and a cutting edge dryland sheep and beef property. Mr Stevens said the field days helped scientists see previous research being put into practice and hear what challenges local farmers faced that might require future research.

## International

**Cashew Prices Are About to Go Nuts** [1 November/ Bloomberg] Demand for cashew nuts has increased by 53 percent since 2010 and has grown faster than supply in the majority of the past seven years. However, supply could be about to decrease as Vietnam, the world's largest cashew nut exporter, faced its worst drought in the past century. According to growers' group estimates, this year's cashew harvest in Vietnam fell by 11 percent leading domestic prices to increase by up to 33 percent. The shortage would likely mean large importers, such as the United States, have to pay far higher prices.

**Farming Simulator 17 review: Love riding tractors, ploughing fields and shooting hoops? There's a game for that** [1 November/ The Independent] Farming Simulator 17 has been released, bringing gamers the best wheat growing, sheep dipping, and manure spreading experience available. The aim of the game is to grow your farming empire, make a healthy profit, and pay off any bank loan you acquired. When played on the hardest difficulty level, crops deteriorated over time if you did not harvest them. The game would only appeal to a small market, as it often involved the repetitive action of driving a tractor up and down a field, harvesting crops for 40 minutes.

**Ornua acquires US dairy ingredients business CoreFX** [2 November/ Dairy Reporter] Ireland's largest exporter of Irish dairy products, Ornua, has acquired the CoreFX Ingredients division of MCT Dairies and a powder ingredient production facility in the United States. CoreFX Ingredients Chief Executive Officer, Denis Neville said the investment gave CoreFX Ingredients the opportunity to grow through the introduction of new technologies, infrastructure and people. Mr Neville added that the investment from an international dairy company of Ornua's reputation and track record would help CoreFX Ingredients enormously with its growth plans. An Ornua spokesperson said the deal cost around USD 5 million and the acquisition would not result in any job losses.

**Personalised nutrition is the future, says Habit CEO: 'Generic public health advice is great. The problem is, people don't follow it'** [2 November/ Food Navigator] Habit Founder, Neil Grimmer has created a business model which was based on the assumption that people would pay for meals to be customised to their biology, goals and preferences, and be delivered to their doorstep. Mr Grimmer said he considered his business to be far more than just a meal delivery company. Mr Grimmer explained that Habit offered a personal wellbeing platform and a personalised online nutrition dashboard which engaged customers on an ongoing basis. Habit would launch its first public beta programme in January in California.

**Could food flavoured e-cigarettes be used to fight the flab** [2 November/ Food Navigator] A review of research published in the Nicotine & Tobacco Research journal found that the combination of e-cigarette liquids and food flavouring could replicate certain sensations of eating and help with weight control. Authors of the report from the University of Sterling and Massey University said the liquids in e-cigarettes could be mixed with food flavourings to suit individual preferences for taste and satisfy any particular food cravings. Food flavours currently available included berry, lime, citrus, vanilla, chocolate, cinnamon, mint, and bourbon.

**Poo power: Dutch dairy industry launches EUR 150m biogas project** [2 November/ The Guardian] FrieslandCampina, the largest dairy collective in the Netherlands, has started a national project to encourage farms to turn their cow manure into bio-gas. The process involved the manure being swept up by a machine and then broken down by bacteria into bio-gas in an anaerobic digester. The project initially aimed to get 1,000 large farms across the country to make power from cow manure within four years. Farmers could lease an anaerobic digester and were given a 12 year fixed price for the biogas they produced. The government had committed EUR 150 million in subsidies to the project.

**Salmon farmer Tassal referred to Senate over alleged attempt to influence witness** [3 November/ The Guardian] Australian Greens Senator, Peter Whish-Wilson has referred Tassal, an Australian salmon farming company, to the Senate for a potential breach of parliamentary privilege after it was alleged that the company attempted to influence a Senate inquiry witness, Warwick Hastwell. Mr Hastwell had previously spoken out against salmon farming practices and made a submission to a Senate inquiry. Mr Hastwell later signed an agreement with Tassal to purchase a mussel lease, but as part of the deal he agreed not to speak publically about the matter and not to speak disparagingly about Tassal. Mr Whish-Wilson said it was critical that witnesses could provide evidence to Senate inquiries without constraint. Mr Whish-Wilson added that he was concerned by the allegation that Tassal may have tried to restrain a witness in what they could or couldn't present to a Senate inquiry.

**Brewery claims to have discovered how to make beer that doesn't give hangovers** [3 November/ NZ Herald] De Prael Brewery has claimed to have created a beer that does not give a hangover the next day, but the bulk of the formula was a closely guarded secret. De Prael Brewer, Thomas Gesink said the beer contained 4.5 percent alcohol but had special ingredients added to ensure a lighter hangover the next day. Mr Gesink added that one of the extra ingredients was vitamin B12, a component of paracetamol. Other ingredients included willow fibres for a cleansing effect, ginger to fight off sickness, and sea salts to prevent the body from dehydrating. Mr Gesink noted that although the beer worked like a charm, it would not work if consumed in vast amounts as it still contained alcohol.

**Sonoma County voters weigh banning GMOs; Measure M would outlaw genetically engineered crops** [4 November/ The San Francisco Chronicle] Farmers in the town of Petaluma in San Francisco have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars promoting a ban of genetically engineered organisms in the county. Sonoma County was made up of hundreds of organic farms and more than USD 756 million worth of crops. The ban would make Sonoma the sixth county in California to enforce such regulations. If the ban was introduced, it would connect counties with existing bans to form a 13,734 square mile landmass free from genetic modification. Supporters of the ban said this was an appealing prospect for farmers who feared contamination of their crops by the pollen of neighbouring genetically modified farms.

**Michigan residents deplore state's plan to let Nestlé double water extraction** [5 November/ The Guardian] The state of Michigan has drafted a permit approval for Nestle to double the amount of groundwater it pumps from a plant from 150 gallons a minute to 400 gallons a minute (210 million gallons a year). The proposal was part of a USD 36 million expansion of Nestle's bottled water operations in Michigan. The pumping increase was only expected to cost Nestle USD 200 per year because it was considered a private well under state law. Nestle said in a statement that the increase in pumping would create 20 new jobs. The statement added that the water would be bottled under the Ice Mountain and Pure Life brands. Michigan residents have complained to regulators, arguing that the state should not give more water to a foreign corporation while the state was lacking money to address its own water issues.



**Nestle Pays \$145 Million for Stake in Biotech Firm Aimmune** [5 November/ Bloomberg] Nestle's health unit has invested USD 145 million for a 15 percent stake in Aimmune Therapeutics, a Californian company which developed treatments to help desensitise patients to food allergens. Nestle would purchase about 7.55 million newly issued shares for USD 19.20 each, representing a 17 percent premium over Aimmune's closing price. The deal did not give Nestle automatic rights to Aimmune's products, but the company would receive exclusive rights of first negotiation on any licensing opportunities in the next two years. Aimmune Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Dilly said the cash would help fund more research and boost Aimmune's ability to trial other drug candidates.

**Perfect Day talks animal-free milk at rethink Food 2016: 'One of the huge questions is what do we call it?'** [7 November/ Food Navigator] Perfect Day Co-Founder, Ryan Pandya said the start-up had created a real milk product without using cows. Mr Pandya explained that DNA sequences were added to yeast and instructed the yeast to produce the proteins found in milk. Mr Pandya added that the proteins were then put into big fermentation tanks with sugar and other nutrients to feed on. Mr Pandya explained that the proteins were then harvested and added to water, minerals, fats and sugars to create milk. Mr Pandya said the product had the taste, functionality and nutrition of dairy milk, meaning it could be used to make cheese or ice-cream. Mr Pandya added that the company was in talks with three of the largest dairy companies on the planet about potential collaborations.

**Food innovation fit for a king!** [7 November/ Rural News] Dutch King, Willem-Alexander has congratulated the winners of Rabobank's FoodBytes Competition in Sydney last week. The winner of the event was Sprout Kitchens, an Australian company which provided a platform for cafés and restaurants to rent out their unused kitchen space outside of normal trading hours. Amongst the finalists was Knewe Biosystems, a New Zealand company which was developing an animal prebiotic product that met critical mineral nutrition needs and reduced the volume of waste to the environment.

### Economics and trade

**Saudi farm deal not corrupt but 'significant shortcomings' - Auditor-General** [2 November/ NZ Herald] Auditor General, Lyn Provost has found that the controversial deal in which \$11.5 million of taxpayer money was spent on a Saudi Arabian farm was not corrupt, but had significant shortcomings. Ms Provost began looking into the expenditure of money on the Saudi Arabia Food Security Partnership in August last year after members of Parliament presented a petition from over 10,000 New Zealanders requesting the Auditor General to inquire into aspects of the deal. The money was spent on sending New Zealand sheep and equipment to a farm in Saudi Arabia in order to help progress a free trade deal with the Gulf States. Ms Provost said she shared many New Zealander's concerns about the arrangement, including the deal's unclear benefits to New Zealand. Foreign Minister, Murray McCully said he welcomed the finding that there was no evidence of bribery or corruption. Green Party Co-Leader, James Shaw said legal was not the same thing as ethical, and Mr McCully should stand down due to the lack of transparency.

### Farmers and producers

**Change in attitude called for** [2 November/ Otago Daily Times] Worksafe has announced that 19 people died on farms last year, with 16 of the deaths involving a vehicle. Worksafe Agriculture Programme Manager, Al McCone said they were mature and experienced people doing jobs which they would have done many times before. Federated Farmers Otago President, Phill Hunt said even one death was too many, and the organisation was working towards changing people's attitudes. Mr Hunt explained that farmers had to go out to work every day and look at ways of making themselves and their workmayerhtes safer. Mr Hunt added that farm vehicles were inherently dangerous and there was no room for complacency. Worksafe figures showed that 15 people had died in agricultural incidents between 1 January and 20 October this year.

**Changing of the guard** [4 November/ Business Day: NZ Farmer] The Dairy Women's Network has appointed Cathy Brown as its new chairwoman after Justine Kidd stepped down from the position. Ms Brown ran a dairy farm in Galatea, a kiwifruit orchard in Te Puke, and an avocado orchard in Pahioa. Ms Brown had been a member of the Dairy Women's Network since the late 90s. Ms Brown said the Dairy Women's Network was a great place to belong and was extremely valuable to women who were in the dairy industry at any stage of their career. Ms Brown added that the network did a wonderful job at providing relevant training to women, and was able to provide support to its members when things weren't going so well.

### Agribusiness education

**More cash required for ag training** [7 November/ NZ Farmers Weekly] Tertiary Education Commission Chief Executive, Tim Fowler said the commission wanted to spend more money on agricultural training but it needed to see greater interest from perspective students. Mr Fowler explained that agricultural training easily met the criteria of having plenty of jobs for graduates and the majority of educational providers were doing as they were required, but some had under-performed on their contracts due to a lack of demand. Mr Fowler added that agricultural education providers needed to target school students and highlight the fact that virtually everyone could get a job after completing their training. Mr Fowler noted that the Tertiary Education Commission provided \$110 million to fund agricultural training each year.

### Rural infrastructure

**RBI 2 gives small firms a go** [7 November/ NZ Farmers Weekly] The Government has released the tender documents for the second round of funding in the Rural Broadband Initiative. Around \$100 million has been made available to both improve connectivity in rural areas and deal with mobile blackspots along main highways. Communications Minister, Amy Adams said about 290,000 rural New Zealanders were connected under the first round, with the second round being aimed at providing broadband to communities which were unable to access speeds of at least 20 megabytes per second. Under the second round, smaller internet companies who were seeking less than \$2 million in funding would be viewed favourably, with fast-tracking approval processes available for them to expand into areas where larger operators, such as Spark and Vodafone, might not want to establish coverage.

**Farmlands change** [7 November/ Otago Daily Times] North Otago Farmer, Chris Dennison has been elected to the Farmlands board of directors after the result of the South Island director election was announced at the company's annual meeting. Last month, Mr Dennison was critical of the co-operative's performance after it reported a \$9 million loss. Mr Dennison runs a 400 hectare arable farm with an adjacent dairy milking farm of 800 cows. Farmlands Chairman, Lachie Johnstone said Mr Dennison had great experience in both farming and governance and the co-operative would benefit from this. Mr Dennison said he was excited to help Farmlands move onwards and upwards.

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**Wrightson chairman faces class action in US** [8 November/ National Business Review] Agria Corporation, the controlling shareholder of PGG Wrightson, has announced that the New York Stock Exchange had suspending trading of its shares and intended to delist its shares after an investigation uncovered evidence showing that the company and its management had engaged in market manipulation. The evidence suggested that a top executive and intermediaries traded shares in the company to artificially inflate Agria Corporation's share price. A representative from Rosen Law Firm said it was investigating claims on behalf of Agria shareholders and invited other investors to join the class action. PGG Wrightson's said in a release that the board had formed a committee to consider the implications of the release.

### Wool

**Cavalier issues shock profit warning** [2 November/ National Business Review] Cavalier has announced that its 2017 financial year earnings may fall by as much as 52 percent due to its one-off costs related to the consolidation of its manufacturing operations. According to a statement issued by the company, profit was expected to decrease to between \$3 million and \$5 million in the year ended 31 June 2017 from \$6.3 million in the year ended 31 June 2016. The consolidation involved combining its woollen yarn spinning operations in Whanganui and Napier to a single site in Napier, while relocating its felted yarn operation from Christchurch to Whanganui and closing the Christchurch plant. The consolidation was aimed to decrease costs and improve profitability. Cavalier Chief Executive, Paul Alston said the consolidation would improve performance in future years. Cavalier's share price decreased by 23 percent to 60 cents after the announcement.

### Animal welfare

**Call for animal welfare watchdog after 'sickening' comments on dairy farming Facebook page** [7 November/ Business Day: NZ Farmer] Animal rights supporters have called for an independent watchdog to take over animal welfare responsibilities from the Ministry for Primary Industries after more allegations of farm animal abuse. Supporters said comments made by members of a dairy farming Facebook group about how to stop a cow from kicking were sickening. The comments followed the recent release of a Farmwatch video showing more mistreatment of bobby calves. According to emails received by one of the complainants, the Ministry for Primary Industries only sent warning emails to those who made the sickening comments on Facebook.

**Man jailed for bobby calf abuse after sentence appealed** [7 November/ Radio NZ] Waikato Farmer, Noel Erickson has had his sentence of home detention dropped and replaced with jail time after the Ministry for Primary Industries appealed the original sentencing decision. Mr Erickson was originally sentenced to 10 months home detention and 200 hours of community work by the Huntly District Court. The charges were laid after secret video footage was taken of Mr Erickson throwing and dropping calves onto the ground, kicking and hitting them, and dragging one under a gate. The Ministry for Primary Industries appealed the sentence on the grounds that it was inadequate. The Hamilton High Court upheld the appeal and sentenced Mr Erickson to two years in prison.

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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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