



Hot Off The Press:
**KPMG Agribusiness
 Agenda 2017**

**The new Field
 Notes App is
 now available.**

Download now!

Search "KPMG Field
 Notes" on your iOS and
 Android devices.



AGRIBUSINESS

Field Notes

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness network

4 October 2017

Organisations referenced in this week's Field Notes include:

A2 Milk	Monowai Estate
Air New Zealand	Otago Regional Council
Beef + Lamb New Zealand	PETA
Coca-Cola	Plant and Food Research
Communist Party of China Central Committee	Rabobank
Department of Conservation	Ravensdown
Duroc Cambodia	Synlait Milk
Facebook	Tendertips Asparagus New Zealand
Federated Farmers of New Zealand	Tesco
Fonterra	The Guardian
General Office of the State Council	Town & Country TV and Surveillance
Groundtruth	Trilogy International
Hallenstein Glasson Holdings	United Nations
Horticulture New Zealand	Upper Clutha Farm Group
Israel Agriculture Ministry	Van Leeuwen Dairy
ITV	Wanganui Rural Community
Joint Global Change Research Institute	Westland Milk Products
Kiwifruit Claim	Wool Scourers
Lidl	Z Energy
Ministry for Primary Industries	Zespri

This week's headlines

Viticulture	Bay winery nets three golds in New York [29 September/ New Zealand Herald]
Fishing and Aquaculture	Fishing industry urged to hook into genomic tools [29 September/ Stuff]
Dairy	Synlait, A2 Milk shares hit record high [29 September/New Zealand Herald]
Farmers and Producers	Cattle disease strikes another Van Leeuwen farm [2 October/ Stuff]
Environment and Emissions	New Zealand can lead the world in reducing emissions [2 October/ New Zealand Herald]

Horticulture

New Zespri chief picks up reins [29 September/ Farmers Weekly] Zespri's 9-year Chief Executive Lain Jager has been replaced by Dan Mathieson. Mr Mathieson will be based in Tauranga and Singapore to balance the local, supply-focused challenges of growing more fruit in Bay of Plenty and supporting the market growth overseas due to the company's Singapore marketing hub. Mr Mathieson was previously Zespri's Global Sales and Marketing Manager in Singapore. Mr Mathieson will continue to work towards a target of doubling to \$4.25 billion of exports by 2025 and ensuring a year-round supply. The new Chief Executive believes the timing is right due to an exciting global market trend for fresh food products. Mr Mathieson added Zespri's strategy fits perfectly with this trend, providing good taste and convenient eating from a safe food source.

Asparagus grower Geoff Lewis deals with the worst growing year in 36 years [2 October/ Stuff] Horowhenua farmer, Geoff Lewis, said this season had been the hardest year for growing and harvesting asparagus in his 36 years in the industry. Mr Lewis attributes the difficulty to constant rain putting harvesting and packing behind schedule. Mr Lewis added some parts of the asparagus fields are entirely under water; however the largest concern is the amount of phytophthora, a fungal disease caused by soil saturation which causes plants to rot underground. Mr Lewis noted shops his farm, Tendertips asparagus farms and pack house, supplied were on rations due to asparagus stocks being lower than order. Tendertips' fresh export programme to Japan was not affected at this stage as exports normally started in late October. Tendertips has been unable to employ the seasonal workers it normally has in its teams because of the wet. Horticulture New Zealand Chief Executive Mike Chapman said consumers needed to understand that lower than normal supplies impacted on availability and cost.

Kiwifruit industry on tenterhooks [3 October/ NZ Herald] Kiwifruit Claim Chairman, John Cameron said the fungal disease Psa, which damaged the kiwifruit industry in 2010, had not been defeated. Mr Cameron explained that the disease could flare up again as it evolved and became immune to current pest management practices. Te Puke Orchard Owner, Bob Burt said Psa has not and never will be eradicated, and the likelihood of further Psa outbreaks is high as resistance to control chemicals grew. In 2010, many growers lost their businesses and were forced to sell at heavily discounted prices, while others suffered loss of income for many years and took on huge debts to replant.

Viticulture

Bay winery nets three golds in New York [29 September/ New Zealand Herald] At the New York International Wine Competition, Crownthorpe winery Monowai Estate won three gold medals and been named Hawke's Bay Winery of the Year for the second time. Monowai Estate Owner and Winemaker Emma Lowe said the results highlighted a change in attitudes towards New Zealand wines in America. Monowai Estate was awarded gold medals for their 2015 Sauvignon Blanc, 2015 Pinot Gris and 2013 Pinot Noir at the awards. The competition showcased 1300 wine submissions from over 23 countries this year.

Fishing and Aquaculture

MPI vows zero-tolerance approach after \$500 fines for taking rare toheroa from 90 Mile Beach [29 September/ New Zealand Herald] Two men were fined \$500 each after being caught with 43 toheroa, a rare shellfish, from 90 Mile Beach. The toheroa fishery was closed across New Zealand 35 years ago after toheroa numbers began to plummet. Ministry for Primary Industries Spokesman Steve Rudsdale said the event was disappointing as toheroa on 90 Mile Beach were starting to re-establish themselves. Mr Rudsdale said the MPI would take a zero-tolerance approach to any taking of toheroa in the area, and fishing officers would, as usual, be patrolling regularly.

Fishing industry urged to hook into genomic tools [29 September/ Stuff] Plant and Food Senior Scientist Dr Maren Wellenreuther said genomic tools could be a game changer for the fishing industry. Genomics is the study of the genes that control characteristics in organisms. Ms Wellenreuther said its ability to help breeders select desirable traits in parents and offspring was currently and successfully used in plant and animal breeding programmes. However, Ms Wellenreuther said the potential for improving the health and viability of fish stocks remained largely untapped. The Scientist said the use of genomic tools could reverse what is currently an inferior outlook-decreasing stocks, increasing demands, and fish under pressure from environmental change. Ms Wellenreuther added genomics could also help domestic fish populations grow faster, track the impact of hatchery releases, develop disease resistance and identify more wild populations suitable for aquaculture. The costs of genomic tools have decreased over recent times, making their use more feasible for the industry.

Dairy

Westland Milk Products on road to recovery but not yet 'industry competitive' [28 September/ New Zealand Herald] Westland Milk Products reported a \$29,000 profit before tax for the last financial year, following a \$14.5 million after-tax loss the previous year. Westland Milk said it is still not industry competitive, and also announced a forecast payout for the current season of \$6.40 to \$6.80 per kilo of milk solids. The latest result represents a total payout of \$338.7m to its 342 shareholders, a net average cash payout of \$5.18 a kilogramme. Chairman Pete Morrison said new ways of working and accountability from board, management and staff would make a huge difference this year. Mr Morrison said the new Chief Executive, Toni Brendish, created an effective change in management style and a new finance team to reduce costs and improve efficiencies.

Spierings pay lower than peers' earnings [29 September/ Farmers Weekly] During the 2017 financial year, Fonterra Chief Executive Theo Spierings received \$8.3 million in salary, superannuation benefits and performance pay during the 2017 financial year. His total remuneration was equivalent to \$800 for each of the 10,267 supply farms. Chairman John Wilson said it was the right number to reward the achievements of the past two years for the world's biggest dairy exporter and was not a significant number by international standards. Mr Wilson said dairy farm owners and sharemilkers understood incentive-based performance. Fonterra benefitted from \$2 billion of working capital improvement over two years, flowing into earnings and milk price. The executive remuneration structure will return to a more traditional incentive programme from this year.

Synlait, A2 Milk shares hit record high [29 September/New Zealand Herald] The S&P/NZX 50 Index dipped 0.16 points, or 0.002 percent, to 7913.62. Within the index, 26 stocks fell, 19 increased, and five were unchanged. Turnover was \$204 million. Synlait Milk and A2 Milk broke records on regulatory approval to retain Chinese market access for infant formula next year. Synlait Milk rose 6.7 percent to \$6.25, and A2 Milk increased by 0.2 percent to \$6.54. Z Energy was down 3 percent to \$7.39. Air New Zealand rose 3.4 percent to \$3.34. Restaurant Brands increased 0.8 percent to \$6.65. Trilogy International decreased 10 percent to \$2.15, Moa Group increased 9.8 percent to 45c, and Hallenstein Glasson Holdings jumped 4.7 percent to \$3.33.

Fonterra Clondeboyne cheese plant fills half available jobs [29 September/ New Zealand Herald] Fonterra Clondeboyne welcomed 50 new staff members last week, filling half of the vacancies in its new mozzarella cheese plant. A further 50 jobs are yet to be filled. The new staff members joined as operators and would work in existing facilities before moving to the new plant in 2018. Fonterra Clondeboyne Operations Manager Steve McKnight said the company is proud of the part they play in employing the region. The \$240million expansion will increase the plant's production of mozzarella cheese for 70 different markets globally. The new development will make the factory 30 percent larger. The company received over 400 applications from people who wanted to work at the new plant.

Westland Milk vows to up game [2 October/ New Zealand Herald] Westland Milk Products achieved a profit turnaround and promised its shareholders it would perform better this dairy season. The Co-operative also confirmed its target forecast payout range of \$6.40-\$6.80. Westland Milk Products payout of \$3.88 per kilogram of milk solids to farmers was the lowest in New Zealand in the 2015-16 season, as the company reported a \$10.3 million loss. For the 2016-17 season, the farmer payout to its 342 shareholders increased to an average cash payout of \$5.18, totalling \$338.7million. Westland's profit was \$1.5 million. Fonterra's forecast payout for this season is \$6.75 and Synlait's \$6.50. Westland Chairman Pete Morrison said Westland is committed to returning to a competitive industry position for 2017-18. Mr Morrison said new CEO Toni Brendish created a campaign to reduce costs and improve efficiencies.

A2, Synlait boosted by China export registration [2 October/New Zealand Herald] A2 Milk's shares reached a new high, increasing 6.5 percent to \$6.95. Synlait rose 7.3 percent to \$6.29, gaining 88 percent this year. This is due to A2 Milk gaining export registration from the China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA) to allow increased exports of its China label infant formula. A2 Milk's entry into China caused a trebling of profit to over \$90million, which resulted in the dairy company's shares reaching a record high in August. For its year to June, A2 Milk's total revenue rose 48 percent to \$439.3 million. A2 Milk has been the NZX50's top performer this year, and its share price has increased to over 140 percent in the past year. Forsyth Barr broker Damian Foster said it is expected that A2 Milk will focus on increasing its proportion of sales through this Chinese channel to protect against any future risk with e-commerce regulatory changes.

Red meat

Beef exports hitting headwinds [2 October/ New Zealand Herald] The beef sector is concerned that the strength of the New Zealand dollar and falling United States prices weigh more heavily on exporters. Rabobank Animal Proteins Analyst Blake Holgate said beef prices had dropped over the past quarter, and further downward pressure was expected from increased Japanese tariffs on frozen beef imports, creating additional challenges for New Zealand exporters. Japan's tariff rates for beef imports were recently lifted to 50 percent for all countries excluding Australia, Mexico and Chile. A farmers' confidence survey by Rabobank last week identified beef and sheep farmers were most concerned about global commodity price volatility. Mr Holgate said the US had dominated 2017 trade with US beef export volumes up 11 percent and 15 percent in value on the previous year. For the quarter to August, New Zealand beef prices fell by 2 percent, impacted by the decline in demand for ground beef from US importers. Rabobank was expecting New Zealand's cattle supply to remain limited until at least November.

Deer price increase to lift profits for sheep and beef farmers [4 October/ Stuff] Beef + Lamb New Zealand's New Season Outlook 2017-18 forecasted farm profits before tax to increase by 6.6 percent to an average of \$90,200 per farmer as red meat prices rose. Beef + Lamb New Zealand Chief Economist, Andrew Burt said strong improvements were expected in revenue from deer and velvet as production increased. Mr Burt explained that much of the outlook depended on the value of the dollar, as 70 percent of meat exports were sold in USD transactions. Mr Burt added that the dollar was expected to ease as major trading economies strengthened in 2017-18.

International

Coca-Cola Adopting Mass Market Strategy for Rural Majority [12 September/ Asia Pacific Food and Drink Insights] Coca-Cola, who are focusing their attention on India, hopes the region will become its third largest market in the world regarding revenue generation. Coca-Cola plans to invest USD5 billion in 2020. Coca-Cola will focus on mass-market affordability and smaller product sizes to push their product into India. India is currently the company's sixth largest market, behind the US, Mexico, China, Brazil and Japan. Coca-Cola's India expansion shift away from traditional carbonated drinks and towards healthier alternatives such as fruit juices, dairy products and hot drinks. The company also hopes to have an even divide between sparkling and non-sparkling drinks by 2025 or 2030.

Agriculture Ministry to recognize medicinal cannabis as official farming sector. The move comes as marijuana decriminalisation legislation awaits A-G's approval [28 September/ The Jerusalem Post] The Agriculture Ministry recently announced it is classifying medical-grade-cannabis growing as an official farming sector. The move entitles between 15 and 20 marijuana farmers to government aid, grants, water quotas and training in crop growing. According to projections by the Ministry's experts, the medical cannabis market for Israeli exports will sum to roughly NIS1 billion to NIS 4 billion annually. Recognising potential growth opportunities in the marijuana farming sector, the ministry allocated NIS8 million for 13 biochemical studies for improving medical-cannabis growing. Recently Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan initiated legislation to decriminalise, but not legalise, recreational cannabis use. The use would still include fines but not a criminal record for possession of fewer than 15 grams. Mr Erdan said adult offenders would be allowed four strikes before criminal proceedings are initiated.

Tesco admits error over repackaging of returned Lidl chicken; Retailer removes claim that Willow Farm chicken is 'reared exclusively for Tesco' after Guardian investigation finds otherwise (29 September/ The Guardian (London)) Tesco admitted it was mistaken when it described chicken sold under its Willow Farm brand as "reared exclusively" for Tesco. This statement came after footage, as part of a Guardian and ITV News investigation, of a processing plant, showed packs of drumsticks returned by Lidl being repackaged as Willow Farm products. Tesco has since removed the claim that Willow Farm chicken is reared exclusively for Tesco from its website. A Tesco spokesperson apologised for the incident and said the Willow Farm brand is exclusive to Tesco and this is marked on Tesco packaging. The spokesperson added that the wording on the Tesco website was incorrect and has been removed. Willow Farm is one of seven Tesco brands created to stop customers defecting to cheaper rivals Aldi and Lidl.

China sets goals for green agriculture [1 October/ China Daily] China released guidelines on green development in the agricultural sector, setting goals for resource conservation and environmental protection. The guidelines were published by the General Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council. The guidelines state by 2020, farmland quality should be improved by 0.5 grade on average, and the total arable land area should be at least 124 million hectares. The Chinese government also aims to prevent extreme exploitation of groundwater and improve irrigation efficiency. A zero-growth target has been set for the amount of chemical fertilisers and pesticides used in the main crops by 2020. Forest coverage is to surpass 23 percent. The production capacity of grains should be stabilised at or above 550 million tons by 2020, with the quality of farm produce significantly improved. The guidelines also state straw, animal waste and agricultural plastic film should be fully utilised.

New breed 'Smart' farmers have changed their operations [2 October/ The Irish Times] A new generation of smart farmers have adjusted how they work in response to climate change. Smart farming involves more efficient use of machinery and energy consumption, which makes the operation more profitable. With the use of genetic technologies, Irish Dairy Farmer Harold Kingston's operations are more efficient in generating milk with the right profile- a better "solids" content- which is used for cheese making. This efficiency means Mr Kingston can use smaller animals, less feed and reduce carbon emissions. Mr Kingston said Ireland could assume a global leadership position as sustainable producers of food. Mr Kingston added that Ireland's dairy sector emissions have declined since 1990; however, exports from the industry have grown significantly.

Study finds methane emissions worse than thought [2 October/ The Irish Times] A US study on carbon emissions generated by livestock, by researchers at the Joint Global Change Research Institute in Maryland, has shown global methane emissions from agriculture are 11 percent larger than previous estimates provided by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2006. This includes an 8.4 percent increase in CH₄ from digestion in cows and cattle and a 37 percent increase from manure management compared to panel estimates. The recent estimates may likely have grave consequences for Ireland given 33 percent of the country's carbon emissions come from farming. Methane (CH₄) is particularly harmful as a greenhouse gas because it contributes to global warming to a much greater extent than carbon dioxide.

Scottish farmers fear 'checkpoint' migration policy [3 October/ The Daily Telegraph] First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon said Scotland needed to have a more liberal immigration system after Brexit, and warned it risked creating border controls with England. Scotland National Farmers Union Director of Policy, Johnnie Hall said he could not see how Ms Sturgeon's proposal would work and did not want some sort of checkpoint at the border. Mr Hall added that there was no need for a separate system as the industry's need for immigrant labour was similar north and south of the border.

Wool

Wool sacks full of surprises [18 May/ Farmers Weekly] Wool sacks sent to New Zealand scouring plants recently included cell phones, clothing, pizza, \$5 notes, spray cans, steel bars and many other objects. Wool Scourers Production Co-ordinator Struan Hulme said steel bars have the potential to cause up to \$20,000 of damage to scouring equipment. Mr Hulme also noted the potential damage to wool colouration spray cans could inflict. The scourers use metal detectors to keep most foreign metal objects out, but NZ still had an issue with costly non-wool contamination. Over the last year, an average eight to nine contaminations have been found per week in wool sent to the scouring plants. Hulme said staff are trained to find objects when sorting wool, and significant investment has been made on the in-line detection units to find smaller objects. Hulme said the main problem came from the shearing shed, and Shed Workers should be careful where they tossed clothing and towels after using them.

Merino wool sells well [29 September/ Farmers Weekly] In the latest Christchurch sale, mid-micron wool prices decreased due to Asian buyers leaving the market. Returns were 6 percent to 9 percent lower for the 24 to 30 microns fleeces compared to the sale two weeks earlier. The price decreases included mainstream crossbred wools, primarily pre-lambing shorn wools. This reversed slight gains at earlier sales.

Wool prices go backwards after coming off bottom at Christchurch sale [2 October/ Stuff] The Christchurch Wool sale produced mixed results last week. The offering included good quality merino and halfbred types as well as crossbred hogget wool. Some reoffered wool also appeared after weeks of improved prices. Pre-lamb crossbred fleece remained firm and poorer styled crossbred fleece struggled. Crossbred wool from 31 to 34 microns was 5 to 8 percent cheaper from the last September 14 sale. 35 microns and stronger wool decreased 6 to 9 percent. An excellent offering of merino wool sold successfully with an almost full clearance. 23 percent of the offering was passed in after failing to meet reserve prices.

Irrigation

Lake's level at Hawea Flat 'one factor' for aquifers [3 October/ NZ Herald] Upper Clutha Farm Group issued a press release raising concerns about the level of Lake Hawea and its impact on the groundwater level in Hawea Flat. The press release said that some residential water bores in the area were historically low and were close to drying out. The press release added that farmers were worried the situation would only get worse once irrigation started. Otago Regional Council Director of Engineering, Hazards and Science, Gavin Palmer said that while the groundwater level in Hawea Flat was low for this time of year, it was not historically low. Mr Palmer added that the level of the lake was only one factor which influenced the level of Hawea aquifers. Mr Palmer explained that other factors included more efficient irrigation practices and the impact of new housing development.

Farmers and producers

Cattle disease strikes another Van Leeuwen farm [2 October/ Stuff] Another Van Leeuwen farm has been infected with cattle disease *Mycoplasma bovis*. The farm may need to destroy a large number of their cattle. There are 780 cattle on the property, and the ten cattle found infected were bought by MPI and slaughtered. The disease has now spread to seven properties, six in the South Canterbury/Otago region and one in Rangiora, North Canterbury. Five of the infected farms belong to the Van Leeuwens. Ministry for Primary Industries officials said the newly identified farm was one of 16 in the Van Leeuwen Dairy Group which was already under a Restricted Place notice under the Biosecurity Act. MPI plans to have full clarity on the situation by mid-October.

New person in Federated Farmers Bay of Plenty dairy chair [2 October/ Stuff] Bay of Plenty Federated Farmer's appointed a new Dairy Chairman, Peter Overdevest. Mr Overdevest has farmed his entire life and currently farms a total of 300ha and milks 800 cows over two properties. Mr Overdevest said farmers are now getting back to business but can use what has happened in the past two years going forward to be sharper and more focused on how they do things. The Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers has over 500 members and five branches. Mr Overdevest looks forward to lending his voice and supporting the region's farmers, as well as gaining insights into dairy sector issues. The new Chair added the struggle farmers face with unfavourable farmer public perception, and understands the importance of communicating farmer efforts to the public and noted that he believes 99 percent of farmers are doing the right thing. Mr Overdevest took over from Stephen Bailey in June.

Rural cameras help snap poachers in rural Whanganui [3 October/ NZ Herald] Wanganui Rural Community Board Chairman, David Matthews said rural road CCTV cameras being installed around the region were helping deter theft of livestock. Senior Sergeant, Shane Wainhouse said the cameras gave the ability to monitor whose coming and going from rural areas and identify vehicles and occupants. Mr Matthews explained that once the cameras were installed, 50 – 60 percent of night time traffic disappeared and the crime factor dropped. Town & Country TV and Surveillance Owner, Graham Palamountain said cameras usually cost between \$3,000 and \$10,000.

Biosecurity

Anti-1080 vandalism [2 October/ New Zealand Herald] A Department of Conservation Contractor's car wheel flew off while he was driving due to the wheel nuts being loosened. The department believed this was part of anti-1080 protests and has reported three cases to the police where the wheel nuts were tampered. The department believes the vandalism was intended to disrupt aerial 1080 pest control operations and intimidate staff. Director-General Lou Sanson said although people have the right to lawful protest, the Department of Conservation will not tolerate anyone who puts their employees at risk. State Services Commissioner Peter Hughes said the behaviour came from a small group of people and is under police investigation.

Animal Welfare

Shocking footage of mutant pigs being genetically bred by Cambodian farmers [30 September/ New Zealand Herald] Video footage has been released showing Cambodian company, Duroc Cambodia, producing genetically modified hulk-like pigs kept in cages. By genetically altering the pigs to be larger, the farmers sell more meat and thus reap more money from sale. Videos of the pigs show that they are unable to walk properly because of their freakishly large muscles. The farmers' Facebook page promotes services including buying pigs for pork to kits to start your farm. This has caused an uprising of animal welfare critics, particularly on the Facebook page, who are accusing the farmers of animal maltreatment. PETA condemned the practice, stating hulk-like pigs are the stuff of nightmares, not meals, and those pigs that are genetically engineered are also likely to be born with painful health issues.

Environment and Emissions

New Zealand can lead the world in reducing emissions [2 October/ New Zealand Herald] International Soil Scientist and Cross Slot No-Tillage Systems CEO, Dr John Baker, said sunshine, crops and pasture hold the key to reversing a significant portion of greenhouse gas emissions in New Zealand. At the Paris Climate Change conference, the New Zealand government agreed to reduce the discharge of greenhouse gases. Dr Baker said New Zealand had more potential to decrease millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than many other countries due to a high land-to-emissions ratio. Dr Baker said it could be achieved by New Zealand farmers learning how to manipulate the soil to their advantage. Dr Baker added a different method of seeding based on low disturbance, no-tillage has shown great results in New Zealand and globally. The Scientist added this method would reduce 11 percent of New Zealand- emitted greenhouse gases and at least a quarter of agriculture's emissions alone.

Awards open for innovative environment ideas [2 October/ New Zealand Herald] Sustainable land management group Groundtruth has developed a Stop Kauri Dieback app that supports community engagement and management of the kauri dieback disease which is having a devastating effect on Northland's iconic tree species. The disease has no known cure and creates the threat of kauri becoming extinct in some locations without immediate action. Groundtruth and Stop Kauri Dieback app Co-Founder Peter Handford said the app would support all forest visitors, trampers, walkers and conservation volunteers to identify and record possible sightings - and take simple steps to avoid spreading it, like washing their boots or staying away from the area. The Conservation Innovation Awards celebrate New Zealand innovators who want to make a difference to protect local ecosystems and native species. Entries are open until October 15, and a prize of \$25,000 will be awarded separately to three winners.

Agri-tech

Ravensdown maps out its future direction at Timaru AGM [3 October/ Stuff] Ravensdown Chairman, John Henderson said it was both satisfying and a boost to the organisation's confidence to record a third successive good result. Mr Henderson added that the cooperative had recorded a \$53 million profit and was able to pay its shareholders a rebate of \$49.3 million. Ravensdown Chief Executive, Greg Campbell said the organisation was looking to harness technology to ensure farmers used the correct amount of fertiliser at the right time in the right place. Mr Campbell explained that this greater use of technology was mapped out against a backdrop of continuing good returns.

Apiculture

Field Notes

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness Network – 4 October 2017

Apiculture career programme has excited cadets buzzing [2 October/ New Zealand Herald] Avril Pehi, 16, and Robert O'Brien, 21, began cadetships at Comvita's Kiwi Bee Whanganui apiary in 2016 and have achieved national certificates in apiculture level 3 through Comvita's Building Better Beekeeping cadet programme. The two aspiring beekeepers are halfway through the programme. Mr Pehi and Mr O'Brien are two of ten people in the cadet programme. It provides participants with full-time paid employment, a study programme for achieving a national certificate in apiculture level 3, personal protective equipment and other beekeeping tools. Comvita Chief Executive Scott Coulter said the demand for experienced beekeepers has grown due to the increasing global demand for New Zealand bee products.

Subscribe

To subscribe to future editions of Field Notes please [click here](#).

Contact Us

Auckland/ Audit

Ian Proudfoot

09 367 5882

021 656 815

iproudfoot@kpmg.co.nz

Christchurch

Andrew Hawkes

03 353 0093

027 508 0135

ahawkes@kpmg.co.nz

Ashburton/ Private Enterprise

Maurice Myers

03 307 0768

027 208 3405

mauricemyers@kpmg.co.nz

Taxation

Greg Knowles

09 367 5989

021 307 332

gknowles@kpmg.co.nz

Financial Advisory Services

Gary Ivory

09 367 5943

021 932 890

givory@kpmg.co.nz

Farm Enterprise

North Island

Roger Wilson

07 858 6520

027 281 9575

rogerwilson@kpmg.co.nz

Tauranga

Robert Lee

07 571 1773

027 451 1035

relee@kpmg.co.nz

Management Consulting

Simon Hunter

09 367 5881

027489 9737

simonhunter@kpmg.co.nz

Julia Jones

07 858 6553

027 524 8901

juliajones1@kpmg.co.nz

Wellington

Graeme Edwards

04 816 4522

027 296 5050

gdedwards@kpmg.co.nz

Hamilton/ Private Enterprise

Hamish McDonald

07 858 6519

021 586 519

hamishmcdonald@kpmg.co.nz

South Island

Brent Love

03 683 1871

027 528 1537

blove@kpmg.co.nz

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.

The information provided herein is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any individual or entity. Although we endeavour to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received nor that will it continue to be accurate in the future. No one should act on such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation.

© 2016 KPMG, a New Zealand partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative (KPMG International), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved. The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International").

KPMG and the KPMG logo are registered trademarks of KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity.