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 Agenda 2017**

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Field Notes

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness network

18 October 2017

Organisations referenced in this week's Field Notes include:

a2 Milk Company	New Zealand Farm Environment Trust
AFFCO New Zealand Ltd	New Zealand First
Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board	New Zealand Labour Party
AgriHQ	New Zealand Meatworkers Union
Alliance Group	New Zealand Merino Company
Alpha Domus	New Zealand National Party
Anchor Food Professionals	NZBIO
Archway Group	Pak 'n Save
Ballance Agri-Nutrients	Plenty
Bayleys Realty Group	Potatoes New Zealand
Beef and Lamb New Zealand	Progressive Meats
Carlisle	Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association
Carrfields Primary Wool	Rod McDonald Wines
Central Taranaki Young Farmers	Rural Women New Zealand
Colorado State University	Scott Technology
Cranford Hospice Foundation Trust	Silver Fern Farms
Dairy New Zealand	SOSV
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Southern District Health Board
Environment Canterbury	Sprout
Field Roast Grain Meat Company	Stanford University
Fish and Game	SWAZI
Foodstuffs	Tannacrieff Wines
Global Justice Now	Taranaki Regional Council
Hammond and Davidson Accountants	Te Hono
Happy Belly Ferments	Te Mata Estate
Hawke's Bay A and P Society	Tesla
Hawke's Bay Wine Auction	Tomatoes New Zealand
Hawke's Bay Winegrowers Association	Tora Coastal Walk
Impossible Foods	Upton Naturals
JBS Australia	US National Dairy Council
Mataura Valley Milk	Van Leeuwen Dairy Group
McDonalds	Vegetable Research & Innovation
Memphis Meats	Vilagrad Winery
MetService	Waimate Shears Spring Society
Ministry for Primary Industries	WorkSafe
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	Zespri

This week's headlines

Horticulture	Foodstuffs confirms problems meeting demand for potato chips [15 October/ Stuff]
Red Meat	Future Farm may be set up in North [12 October/ New Zealand Herald]
AgriTech	Synthetic foods to have 'major impact' within 10 to 15 years - Sir Peter Gluckman [12 October/ Stuff]
Biodiversity	Rimu planting a first for Kapiti district [11 October/ New Zealand Herald]
Farmers and Producers	Farming in the wettest year on record [15 October/ Stuff]

Horticulture

New Zespri CEO Dan Mathieson in for the long haul [12 October/ New Zealand Herald] New Zespri Chief Executive Dan Mathieson will continue to live in Singapore where he has been living for the past two years, and also maintain a presence at the kiwifruit co-operative's base in Tauranga. Zespri, experiencing a growth phase, has reported revenues of \$2.2 billion, and plans to reach \$4.5 billion by 2025. Although most of Zespri's 450 staff are based internationally, Mr Mathieson said New Zealand's heritage is the backbone of Zespri and the kiwifruit industry, with a strong connection to its growers. Mr Mathieson said a large part of Zespri's success is the way it internationalised, and having talented locals in the markets gives Zespri a point of difference over other fruits.

Foodstuffs confirms problems meeting demand for potato chips [15 October/ Stuff] Foodstuffs has confirmed that it is having challenges meeting demand for potato chips. This is due to recent wet weather having dealt a blow to crops. Foodstuffs said the shortage would likely last only a few weeks. Potatoes New Zealand Chief Executive Chris Claridge has also confirmed the lack of crisping potatoes. Mr Claridge estimated an improvement in supply by January or February and said that the wet weather had set them back about 20 percent on planting across the country. Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association President Brent Wilcox said the wet winter had a double-barrelled effect on growers, who he estimates to have lost millions of dollars over the last six months.

'Wettest year in memory' behind poor potato crop in Manawatū, Horowhenua [16 October/ Stuff] A wet year has meant a lower potato crop yield. Some Pak 'n Save supermarkets warned customers potato chips were in short supply due to a nationwide potato shortage. The shortage was expected to last until the new year. Foodstuffs Spokeswoman Antoinette Laird said the shortage at those stores was due to an ordering issue. Ms Laird noted the potato shortage had not affected Foodstuffs, but Foodstuffs is talking with suppliers to minimise any potential impact. Ōpiki potato farmer Mike Moleta said the wet weather had impacted both the potato harvest and planting, and he could not remember a wetter year. Mr Moleta said he would have normally begun planting in early October, but this was likely to be a month behind. Potatoes New Zealand Chief Executive, Chris Claridge, said most of New Zealand had received 25 percent more rain normal, with Horowhenua, Matamata and Pukekohe the worst hit.

Viticulture

Waikato wines up with the best. [12 October /New Zealand Herald] Waikato Winery Vilagrad has won three awards in the New Zealand International Wine Show, the largest wine competition held in New Zealand. This includes a silver award for its 2013 Gewürztraminer, which is sold under the 3 Brothers Winery label, and bronze awards for their 2013 Sparkling Charminer and 2015 Vintage Port. This brings the winery's total awards received to 101. The family-owned winery is located north of Ohaupo at Rukuhia. It was established in 1922 by Ivan Milicich Senior and is now in its fifth generation of winemaking in New Zealand.

Hawke's Bay Wine Auction tasting event success [12 October/ New Zealand Herald] 42 unique wine blends were showcased at a tasting for the 26th annual Hawke's Bay Wine Auction on November 11. Hawke's Bay Wine Auction Chairman Tony Bish said the event was an opportunity to showcase the hard work winegrowers had put into their grapes and were happy with the profile the event gave to the Bay's wine industry. The wines included two specially blended Te Mata Estate auction lots, an Octo Barrique of 2016 Syrah by Rod McDonald Wines, a Quarter Barrique Single Vineyard Syrah from Alpha Domus, Julianne Brogden's six magnums of Ceresia 2013 Merlot/ Cabernet Franc and the Craggy Range special half barrique of wine. The auction will feature Artist Ben Pearce who is showcasing his Aspect 1 Corten Steel. All proceeds will go to the Cranford Hospice Foundation Trust.

Despite late rain the 2017 vintage is stacking up [12 October/ New Zealand Herald] The 2017 vintage was jeopardised due to constant rain in March, and over the weekend of 7 October 21.4mm of rain fell across greater Napier and 13mm around Hastings. This weekend rain disturbed harvesting and created lower than expected varietal volumes for some growers. Hawke's Bay Winegrowers Association Chairman Michael Henley said the 2016 harvest picked 42,000 tonnes of grapes while 2017 declined to 33,000. Chardonnay was mostly unaffected, as that variety that had mainly been picked before the rain. Later cabernet sauvignon has also come through well. Mr Henley has no doubts the region will deliver outstanding wines this vintage to rival the golden vintages of 2013 to 2016, however, the region needed to be selective about what was brought in. Mr Henley further added winemakers and growers are prepared for rain during harvesting, with years of experience.

Enterprising Cromwell winemaker up for Supreme Rural Woman Award [13 October/ Stuff] Debra Cruickshank, of Tannacrieff Wines in Cromwell, is one of four finalists for the Supreme Enterprising Rural Women Award to be announced on November 18. Ms Cruickshank has been recognised for her business success, making a niche market for port and offering solutions for fast-growing boutique vineyards wanting to produce wine from their vineyard. Ms Cruickshank became a finalist after winning the SWAZI New Zealand Entrepreneurial Enterprising Rural Women Award. The three remaining finalists are Kylie Davidson and Emma Hammond, from Hammond and Davidson Accountants; Jo Kempton, from Happy Belly Ferments; and Kiri Elworthy and Jenny Bargh, of Tora Coastal Walk, Martinborough. RWNZ National President Fiona Gower said the awards showcased rural community women's talent and business skills, and how they could run very successful rural enterprises.

Fishing and Aquaculture

3.7kg rainbow trout opening day's biggest catch [12 October/ New Zealand Herald] A 3.7kg rainbow trout caught at Lake Okataina was measured as opening day's biggest fish. Lake Rotoiti offered the best-conditioned fish. The year's fishing season began on October 1 at Rotorua's three lakes. Fish and Game officers, honorary rangers and other volunteers surveyed over 600 fishers and weighed and measured their catches. Fish & Game Officer Matt Osborne said Lake Rotoiti delivered the better catch rate and longer fish however the day's weather made it difficult to fish at the lake. Lake Tarawera also had difficulties as fish were returned to the water for being too skinny. Fish caught at Lake Tarawera averaged a length of 481mm and 1.2kg, lower than last year's average by 10mm and 160g.

Dairy

Fonterra farmers begin voting [11 October/Farmers Weekly] A 21-day voting period has begun for Fonterra's farmer-shareholders to elect three candidates for the board, and for shareholders' councillors to be elected in 10 wards. Director John Monaghan and newcomers Andy Macfarlane and Brent Goldsack each needed 50 percent approval of all voting Fonterra farmers to be elected to the board. Elections for ward councillors were required in Waikato West, Waipa, South Waikato, Central Plateau, Central Taranaki, Central Districts West, Wairarapa, Tasman/Marlborough, Central Canterbury and Eastern Southland. Voting packs and the notice of the annual meeting on November 2 at the Whareroa plant, southern Taranaki, were mailed to shareholders on October 9. Results will be announced October 31. All successful candidates would take office at the end of the annual meeting.

Mataura Milk building on track [12 October/Farmers Weekly] Mataura Valley Milk is building a dedicated nutritional plant north of Gore. The \$250 million milk processing factory is on track to start operating next August. Plant Manager, Bernard May said the formulas it produced would comply with some of the highest quality standards in the world. The company will operate with only 30 to 35 farmer suppliers, who will own about 20 percent of the shares in the business. Mr May believes this model adopts the best elements of a co-operative by providing Farmers with a stake in the processing and marketing of products.

DairyNZ supports decision to cull animals on farms infected with *Mycoplasma bovis* [12 October/ New Zealand Herald] Dairy New Zealand Chief Executive Dr Tim Mackle said Dairy Farmers would be pleased by the Ministry of Primary Industries' (MPI) decision to cull animals on farms infected with the disease *Mycoplasma bovis*. Dr Mackle said farmers have been on high alert since the disease was first identified in July. Dr Mackle said DairyNZ is supportive of the MPI's decision, however, extends sympathies for the affected farmers who the decision will create heartache. Dr Mackle said biosecurity is fundamental to the future success of New Zealand primary sectors. Work is proceeding on a Government-primary sector initiative, the Government Industry Agreement (GIA) for Biosecurity Readiness and Response to improve biosecurity.

Rural property: Dairy unit offers good value [12 October/ New Zealand Herald] A Whanganui dairy unit is considered to provide good value for price. The self-contained farm contains over 183 hectares of high-quality soil, in a number of titles. Bayleys Feilding Agents Dean File and Andrew Bonnor said the farm had been well laid out with good fences and tracks to subdivide the 129ha milking platform into 25 paddocks. Replacement stock is carried on further areas, with all livestock wintered on the farm, with the assistance of an adjoining 18ha of lease land. The Agents commented on the impressive quality of infrastructure, especially the 2015 built, 40 bale rotary cowshed. Further infrastructure includes a variety of machinery sheds, and a calf shed, PKE shed, feed pad with attached loafing pad and four dwellings. Fonterra records show a five-year average production of 170,768kg/MS. Offers close at 4 pm, Wednesday, November 29.

Fonterra confident dairy will always trump synthetic alternatives [13 October/New Zealand Herald] Fonterra Cooperative Group confidently believes that the complexity of cow milk will allow it to outperform plant-based options. Prime Minister's Chief Science Adviser Peter Gluckman sees these alternative as posing a threat to New Zealand's economic future. In a keynote speech to the annual NZBIO conference in Wellington, Mr Gluckman said that around the world consumers' interest in synthetic alternatives to meat and milk was growing, including in the all-important Asian market. Mr Gluckman sees New Zealand as having three options: stick with ruminant-based farming but adopt new practices including the use of GM foragers; switch to GM-free plant-based ingredients; invest in the full supply chain and produce meat and milk alternative foods. Mr Gluckman said the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment was deeply investigating these issues.

Dairy price rises lift overall food costs [13 October/ Otago Daily Times] Dairy product prices such as butter, fresh milk, cheese and yoghurt are increasing food prices, decreasing household's ability to afford food. Food prices increased 3 percent in the year ending September, following a 2.3 percent incline for the year to August. The cheapest available 500g block of butter was \$5.55 in September, compared with \$5.39 in August and \$3.48 in September 2016. Wet weather contributed to the 6.5 percent lift in vegetable prices. However monthly food prices decreased 0.2 percent in September. Grocery food prices increased 3.7 percent on last year. Fruit prices dropped 0.5 percent, induced by lower for orange, grape and banana prices.

Slaughter of 4000 cattle major logistical exercise [13 October/ New Zealand Herald] The Ministry of Primary Industries Director of Response Geoff Gwyn said the slaughter of 4000 cattle on five Van Leeuwen Dairy Group properties in the Waimate district infected with the cattle disease *Mycoplasma bovis* needed to be carefully planned and co-ordinated. The removal of cattle would occur after extensive consultation with affected parties. A small number of animals had been culled on an affected Oamaru area farm, and an affected North Canterbury property and no cattle remained on those properties. Once the cattle are removed from the five properties, there would be at least a 60-day stand down period to allow properties to be cleaned and disinfected. Affected farmers were able to apply for compensation for losses relating to MPI exercising legal powers under the Biosecurity Act.

Fonterra starts c farmer talks about finalising PKE guidelines [13 October/ Stuff] Fonterra has begun talks with its farmers about finalising penalties for excessive use of palm kernel expeller (PKE). Fonterra's Bay of Plenty Farm Source Regional Head Lisa Payne said two penalty options are being presented to Farmers, and Fonterra hopes to finalise an option by the end of 2017, for new guidelines for palm kernel usage to be implemented in September 2018. Ms Payne said feedback had been positive, which showed farmers want to produce milk at the levels Fonterra needs. Fonterra plans to work with DairyNZ to run workshops to educate farmers on PKE alternatives when feeding cows and to help them plan for any changes.

Dairy sector challenge: target the right people for our rural workforce [17 October/ New Zealand Herald] DairyNZ Chief Executive Tim Mackle said young people deserve the opportunity to succeed within the agricultural industry. The dairy sector is calling for a future government to ensure a robust workforce strategy to support skilled workforce growth for the dairy sector. Dr Mackle said a strong long-term plan that aligns training through the school curriculum with practical experience on the farm is necessary. Dr Mackle said the dairy sector provides rewarding careers. The industry has initiatives such as the Primary Industries Capability Alliance and 'GrowingNZ', to promote careers in the primary sector and reach over 60 percent of secondary schools and 38,000 students; however, Dr Mackle noted more of these students needed to choose the primary sector. Dr Mackle said the major political parties had policies to attract youths to work. New Zealand First particularly had a focus on providing jobs for New Zealanders before migrants.

Dairy foods are earning more [17 October/ Farmers Weekly] Fonterra Chief Executive Theo Spierings said Fonterra's growing food service division will drive further into sports, medical and advanced adult nutrition. Mr Spierings spoke at an Anchor Food Professionals event to mark Fonterra's \$2 billion annual revenue achievement and 27 percent sales volume growth in the 2017 financial year. Anchor Food Professionals was the sixth-largest NZ export business. Global foodservice and out-of-home eating growth was 5-6 percent annually, and Anchor Food Professionals was growing at ten times that rate. The chef-led business model was founded on offering solutions from customer insights, helping to please consumers, reduce waste, save time and deal with labour shortages. Global Consumer and Food Service Chief Operating Officer Lukas Paravicini said he was confident of reaching the target set for food service of \$5b revenue by 2023.

Red Meat

No levy rise for red meat sector [12 October/Rural News] Beef + Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ) Chairman James Parsons says the board has reviewed budgets and activities for the financial year. They have decided that the sheep meat levy on all sheep slaughtered and the beef levy on all cattle slaughtered would remain \$0.60 per head and at \$4.40 per head respectively (GST exclusive). Mr Parsons says the newly refreshed Beef + Lamb NZ strategy for the next five years reflects farmer feedback and sets a vision, priorities and goals to achieve by 2022.

Future Farm may be set up in North [12 October/ New Zealand Herald] Beef and Lamb New Zealand (B+LNZ) plan to establish a Future Farm to trial new technologies and farm systems. These trials are part of B+LNZ's strategy to support farming excellence and increase farm productivity and profitability. The farm will be a sheep and beef property with around 6,000 stock units and will function as a commercial livestock farming business and feature advanced monitoring, measuring and communications technologies. This project could be established in Northland if the region's farmers help B+LNZ find a suitable property. B+LNZ General Manager Innovation, Richard Wakelin, said the possible model would be a lease property or a partnership with an existing farmer, as they are not in the market to purchase; however, the company welcomes ideas. The Future Farm aims to exceed existing high-performance standards in areas including economics, people, animal, environmental and forages. Mr Wakelin added that the farm also aims to test new farming technologies and systems that may be unproven or too high-risk for farmers.

Beef and sheep industry remains solid with good prices [12 October/ New Zealand Herald] Livestock markets have reached a traditionally slow period, allowing farmers to reflect on the season and the future. The store cattle market is stable with low numbers helping to keep store values high, while the sheep market goes through seasonal slowdown period. Over this period, farmers are attempting to get new crops or grass around the wet weather. As ground temperatures increase, the grass is growing. Independent Whanganui Livestock Commentator David Cotton said confidence in the sheep and beef industry is returning as beef is stable. Mr Cotton added interest rates remain low and the mutton market is over \$4.30 per kilogramme, compared to \$2.85 in the comparative period last year. Mr Cotton noted there were good lamb contracts on offer with set price or minimum price being offered for spring lambs. Mr Cotton commented on the busy farming real estate market this spring, as some good farms are entering the market.

Talley's-owned Affco general manager Andy Leonard's departs after short tenure [17 October/ Stuff] Affco General Manager Andy Leonard resigned after only two years in the position. Chief Financial Officer Nigel Stevens has stepped into the role on an interim basis. Mr Leonard did not comment on his reasons for resignation. Affco has been involved in numerous court issues with the Meatworkers Union. The level of safety at Affco meatworks has also been questioned after a hook impaled an employee's face. Meatworkers Union National Secretary Graham Cooke said Mr Leonard's resignation from Affco was no shock due to Talley's confrontational approach to industrial relations. Mr Cook did not expect Mr Leonard to discuss his reason for leaving, adding that Affco employees are contracted to secrecy. The Talley family, who purchased Affco in 2010, did not comment.

New Zealand frozen beef exports to Japan slump after tariff hike [17 October/ New Zealand Herald] AgriHQ have said New Zealand frozen beef exports to Japan have dropped since the Japan lifted tariff rates. From August 1, Japan increased its frozen beef tariff to 50 percent from 38.5 percent under a World Trade Organisation safeguard after high sales of imported beef. AgriHQ said only 729 tonnes of frozen beef was exported from New Zealand to Japan in August and September, down from 1,709 tonnes in 2016 and the five-year average of 1,840 tonnes. Japan is New Zealand's fifth largest red meat and co-products market, with exports over \$302 million in 2016. New Zealand's sheep and beef sector face its single highest tariff burden in Japan, with \$73 million in tariff payments last year. AgriHQ Analyst Reece Brick said small amounts of frozen products would be traded into Japan from NZ until the temporary tariff is lifted in April next year.

International

If the 'antibiotic apocalypse' happens, it'll be because our politicians let it [9 October/ The Guardian] Global Justice Now Director, Nick Drearden, believes agribusiness and big pharma prioritising profits could cause 10 million deaths annually by 2050 due to antibiotic resistance; however, political intervention could prevent this. Mr Drearden believes this can be avoided through an overhaul of the agribusiness and pharmaceutical industries. 700,000 people already die from antibiotic-resistant infections annually. Mr Drearden believes big pharma companies are profit-seeking, and thus will not waste resources developing last-resort antibiotics. Mr Drearden noted industrial farming is now a major incubator of antibiotic resistance, and globally animals are given twice as many antibiotics as humans' due to overcrowded conditions and to help animals to grow quickly. Both big pharma and agribusiness have lobbied hard against European regulations on the overuse of antibiotics in animals. In the UK, significant funding is given to the body that decides on animal antibiotic use by the pharmaceutical and food industries. Mr Drearden pleaded for burdensome regulation on big pharma and agribusiness.

SOSV: "The future of food will be sustainable, personalized, and cellular" [9 October/ AgFunder News] SOSV, an early-stage agrifood tech investor, was named the most active investor in agrifood tech startups in H1-2017. SOSV Chief Futurist and Director of RebelBio UK, Elsa Sotiriadis, said the future of food would be sustainable, personalised and cellular. Ms Sotiriadis commented on the critical startup trends such as customised food and fermented food and beverages. Ms Sotiriadis said another trend is start-ups tackling issues around sustainability, transparency and growing locally. Ms Sotiriadis is excited about a future of cellular agriculture where food is no longer slaughtered and instead grown or printed or fermented. The futurist said it is unacceptable that healthier food is still expensive, the least accessible and creates a high carbon footprint, and would, therefore, appreciate more start-ups focussing on this problem. Ms Sotiriadis sees scalability and regulatory challenges for the maturing of the start-up space, however, understands the area is interdisciplinary, and therefore every industry faces unique challenges.

Farm profits may halve after Brexit, says report [11 October/ BBC] Research by the Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board said the profitability of UK farms could decrease, at worst, by half after Brexit. The research attempted to model the effects of cheaper imported food, decreased subsidies and more expensive labour. However, a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Spokesman said the report was based on unlikely scenarios that do not reflect the UK government's Brexit negotiating position. Negotiations around a specific trade deal between the UK and EU post-Brexit have not begun. The EU's Common Agricultural Policy provided UK farmers GBP3.1 billion annually in subsidies which are expected to stop after Brexit; however, the UK government assured overall subsidies or payments would be kept until 2022. The research noted Brexit consequences are expected to affect sectors differently, for example, dairy and pig farmers may experience increased prices; however significant exporters may face increase export costs into the EU.

Tax plan a win for workers: Trump [12 October/Otago Daily Times] President Donald Trump has told workers they will win under his nine-page tax cut framework he unveiled two weeks ago, saying it would help the middle class and boost the economy. Financial markets have rallied strongly since Trump's election, driven by expectations that he would cut taxes for businesses. President Trump said his plan could mean a USD4,000 pay raise for the average household. Critics who oppose President Trump's plan dispute such claims and believe it would mainly benefit corporations and the rich. The tax framework calls for cutting the corporate tax rate to 20 percent from 35 percent, reducing the top individual rate to 35 percent, and proposes eliminating the 40 percent tax on inherited estate assets worth more than USD5.5 million, or USD11 million for a married couple.

Specialty product a2 Milk popular with consumers but not dairy industry [12 October/ CBS News] In the United States, a2 milk is rising in popularity as people who have difficulty digesting regular milk, with A1 and A2 proteins are turning to a2 milk as an alternative. An a2 Milk company-funded study claims that when A1 proteins are broken down in the gut, they form the BCM-7 protein fragment that triggers inflammation and symptoms like bloating and abdominal pain. However, the National Dairy Council says, at this point, a2 Milk's claims are theoretical as there is no science that confirms any value in A2 protein relative to conventional milk. Cows that produce a2 milk were identified through expensive calf DNA testing. The Council said the two a2 Milk studies were completed using a small population size and looked at different variables that did not provide the answers needed to verify a2's claim.

UK climate change masterplan - the grownups have finally won; Government's clean growth strategy unequivocally states that tackling climate change and a prosperous economy go hand in hand [12 October/ The Guardian] The UK Government has released a new clean, green, growth strategy, making a statement that undertaking climate change and a successful economy are the same thing. The ambitious proposals lack concrete suggestions; however, there are groups such as the government's official advisers and the Committee on Climate Change to hold ministers accountable. The UK government is treating the need to address energy efficiency seriously, as well as transport emissions. The most significant worry is the limited support for carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology that is only receiving a quarter of the investment of nuclear. The new plan also promises to establish a new network of forests in England, including new woodland on farmland.

How real should 'fake' meat and dairy be? [15 October/ Mother Nature Network] Field Roast Grain Meat Company does not plan to create realistic imitations of meat and dairy products, but instead create similarly satisfying, savoury products while still staying true to real ingredients. Upton Naturals is also pursuing a similar aim, focussing on simplicity and the use of real, recognisable ingredients. Upton Naturals' famous dish is essentially sliced jackfruit, which supposedly mimics pulled pork or chicken. Other plant-based food companies aim to create replicas of popular meat-based foods, such as Impossible Foods Impossible Burger- a vegan replica of a hamburger. In creating almost-identical replicas, Impossible Foods hopes to replace all animal-based foods with realistic replicas in the coming decades. Memphis Meats has been developing lab-grown chicken, duck and beef in labs from cells extracted from live animals. Memphis Meats hopes to decrease the price of its meat to USD3 to USD4 per pound by 2021. The company has received USD17 million in a new round of funding to further this goal.

McDonald's released a millennial burger with sriracha and kale and its divided opinion [16 October/ The Independent UK] The new McDonalds 'millennial burger' includes a Sriracha Big Mac sauce and kale. This burger has caused controversy online due to its millennial title, with one internet user commenting that instead, the burger should include emotional exhaustion, avocado toast, and a front-facing camera to justify its name. The new McDonalds burger is available exclusively in the US and costs USD5. The millennial burger also includes spinach, onion, white cheddar, and tomato.

An ex-Tesla executive is teaming up with a little-known vertical farming startup [17 October/ Business Insider] Tesla's former Director of Battery Technology Kurt Kelty has begun working in the indoor agriculture sector through joining vertical farming start-up Plenty as the Senior Vice President of Operations and Market Development. Mr Kelty was one of the earliest executives at Tesla and previously spent over 14 years with the Energy Lab at Panasonic. Mr Kelty will launch a mass production facility for growing produce in the US in his new Plenty position. Plenty grows greenery through indoor vertical farming, on glowing LED- lit 20-foot-tall towers in South San Francisco. Vertical indoor farming involves food growing on trays or hanging modules in a climate-controlled, indoor facility. This process allows certain produce to be grown year-round, in small spaces. Plenty aims to revolutionise the way food is grown globally, and to be able to sell that food for lower prices than traditionally-grown produce.

Wool

Wool, a work of art [10 October/Farmers Weekly] A design competition in the California Bay Area, has turned NZ wool rugs into works of art. The competition was set up by Carlisle, which distributes Carrfields Primary Wool's range of New Zealand wool carpets and rugs in North America under the Just Shorn brand. The designs were 6' x 9' in size and were created using a combination of textures and colours. The rugs were displayed in Carlisle's San Francisco showroom. The winner was James Hunter of the Wiseman Group, whose winning design Michelangelo will feature in the upcoming issue of California Home + Design magazine, and will be added to Carlisle's retail collection. The Just Shorn range launched in May and is available for purchase in six showrooms across the US.

50th Waimate Shears hailed a success [15 October/ Stuff] The 50th Waimate Shears were a success and the first at the Waimate's new \$800,000 pavilion. The event included a celebratory anniversary dinner and wool handling and shearing competitions on Friday and Saturday. Some top industry names competed, including 16-time Golden Shears Champion Sir David Fagan and two-time World Champion Wool Handler Joel Henare. Henare won the open wool handling final in Waimate. Waimate Shears Spring Society Executive Officer Eileen Smith said the entire event had gone very well, with a couple of hundred observers at each event.

Mixed results for fine and strong wool at Christchurch sale [16 October/ Stuff] Fine wool sales increased at last week's Christchurch wool sale; however, crossbred wools struggled. There were mixed results for a top offering from all wool breeds. Core Asian markets were quiet, including for crossbred hogget fleece. 31 to 34 microns crossbred fleece was 3-7 percent less expensive, 35 microns and stronger was down 1-3 percent and the second shear remained unchanged. 21 to 25-micron fleece increased 2-3 percent, and 14 to 20-micron fleece was 7-11 percent more expensive. Halfbred breeds were slightly cheaper for some micron categories, and merino wool experienced high demand across all types.

Farmers and producers

Farm 'looks like a duck pond' [10 October/Radio New Zealand] Kevin Clark is a dairy farmer near Whakatane who lost large chunks of land, fences, and farm races when the river burst its banks earlier this year during Cyclones Debbie and Cook. Mr Clark said his farm looked like a duck pond, and that this had been his toughest year of farming in 35 years. Mr Clark's production was down 12 percent from last season, which was his lowest season in eight or nine years. Fortunately, the price of milk has been tracking up, allowing Mr Clark to stay afloat. Mr Clark had been hoping to pay off debts from a couple of tough years but believes he will no longer be able to do so.

Mental health support needed for farmers [11 October/Radio New Zealand] Dairy farmer Richard Cookson is advocating for improved mental health support for the rural sector. Research shows that New Zealand's rural sector suicide rate is up to 50 percent higher than in urban areas. Mr Cookson struggled with mental health in the past and believed there isn't enough support for illnesses like depression. Mr Cookson believed the first step might be free counselling services for farmers, but that the sector has specific mental health needs which will require a more robust long-term solution.

Taste of farm skill for non-farmers [11 October/ New Zealand Herald] Stratford accountant Tracy Kivell was one of twelve women who took part in a recent special Skills Day at Toko. The special skills taught included how to fence, manoeuvre a quad bike and trailer through a narrow opening, assemble and operate a chainsaw, measure and allocate grass to cows and conduct pre-start checks on a tractor. The Skills Day was organised by Central Taranaki Young Farmers, in an attempt to increase the number of women competing at the FMG Young Farmer of the Year. District contests will be held in Urenui and Hawera on November 4 and 18 respectively. The top two contestants at each event will be provided with a place in the FMG Young Farmer of the Year regional final.

Former city girl Annabelle Smart loving DairyNZ work on the Hauraki Plains [11 October/ Stuff] DairyNZ Consulting Officer for the Hauraki Plains Coromandel, Annabelle Smart was raised in Remuera, Auckland before attending boarding school in Palmerston North. Ms Smart said during her time at Palmerston North she would spend significant time with her friends, most of whom lived on farm properties. Ms Smart studied Agriculture Science at Lincoln University before working for Livestock Improvement. Ms Smart was then contacted by DairyNZ with a position offer and began as a Dairy Consultant in September 2016. DairyNZ represents New Zealand's dairy farmers and works to secure and enhance the profitability, sustainability and competitiveness of New Zealand dairy farming. Ms Smart said her job was varied and loved providing farmers with the support they need.

Farming in the wettest year on record [15 October/ Stuff] New Zealand farming has been exposed to the wettest year on record. MetService said Hamilton, Taupo, Te Puke and Rotorua experienced more rain this year to date than is typically received in an entire year. Farmers have said it has been a struggle to protect paddocks from stock trampling and ensuring the herd has enough feed to stay healthy and productive. Gordonton Dairy Farmer Wayne Reynolds said the main challenge had been the few dry days, as the ground would be dry underfoot quickly after a 50mm downpour. This winter, 50mm leaves the ground wet for a week. Mr Reynolds said the mud wears down equipment. The rain also causes pugging, especially around high-traffic zones such as gateways. The farmer added that most people in the industry have good support networks. Mr Reynolds operation's running four weeks behind because of the rain. Milk production has increased 2 percent on last season.

Alliance poised with strong balance sheet [16 October/ New Zealand Herald] Alliance Group Chief Executive David Surveyor said operating profit would be substantially higher than last year. In 2016 Alliance posted a \$10.1million pre-tax profit for the year ended September 30, based on a \$1.36billion turnover. Mr Surveyor said 2016's \$41 million debt figure would be halved to an estimated \$20 million. Chairman Murray Taggart noted Alliance still needed to get more cost out of the business, increase revenue and gain deeper market penetration. There had been a significant increase in internal capability, some market share recovery, and a healthy year of shareholder growth. Of the company's shareholders, 10 percent were now in the North Island. The company's most substantial frustration was its needing to achieve a better profit. Mr Taggart said Alliance was convinced that being a 100 percent farmer-owned company was the best model. An Enterprise Resource Planning project was being run company-wide, with complex computer system replacements costing over \$20 million.

Farmer fined \$35k after dairy effluent ends up in north Taranaki stream [16 October/ Stuff] Taranaki Farmer Warren Frederick Gill was fined \$35,000 by an Environment Court judge after 150,000 litres of partly treated dairy effluent was illegally discharged into a highly prized stream. Mr Gill lives on and manages a 200-hectare Upper Lepper Rd farm in Inglewood, and has previously pleaded guilty to one charge of discharging contaminants into water. The offending, which carries a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment or a \$300,000 fine, was discovered when a Taranaki Regional Council inspector was visiting a property next to Gill on March 7. TRC Representative Karenza de Silva said the discharge was foreseeable and could have been avoided; however, Mr Gill's Lawyer, Eleanor Connole, said Mr Gill took immediate action to correct the problem when it was brought to his attention.

Cambridge farmers incorporate maize [17 October/ New Zealand Herald] Ten years ago, Jenny Buckley and Dave van den Beuken were standard system-one all-grass farmers, sharemilking on Trish and Paul Jones' farm near Cambridge. However, the devastation of the 2008 drought was the catalyst for their purchasing of 100t of maize silage. The farmers were concerned about losing 10-20 percent of maize by feeding the paddock, and so created a robust effluent system in 2013, followed by a feed pad in April 2014. Archway Group constructed feed bunkers in 2016. The farmers said in the 2014/15 season, with the help of PKE, milk production was lifted to 240,000kg/MS, and saving \$1/kgMS on farmers work expenses. Mr van de Beuken said they are consistently achieving 320 days in milk and excellent condition cows throughout the year. Maize will continue to be an integral part of the farming system, particularly to maintain body condition and maximise feed intake.

Sharemilkers affected by cattle disease eligible for compensation [13 October/ Stuff] The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) said sharemilkers and contract milkers who work on Van Leeuwen farms affected *Mycoplasma bovis* would be compensated for a loss of earnings. The MPI said the Van Leeuwens would be covered for loss of milk collection and replacement of herds if their livestock have to be killed. MPI recently announced the slaughter of 4000 cattle from five disease-infected farms. To receive compensation, farmers had to have property damaged or destroyed, restrictions placed on the movement or disposal of goods which has caused a loss, and the losses had to be verifiable. Farms were not covered if the loss was caused by an unwanted pest or disease and not from MPI powers, if it occurred before the exercise of MPI powers began, or if a claimant failed to follow biosecurity law.

Water

Study finds small stream challenges [12 October/ Farmers Weekly] Underwater quality standards streams not wider than a stride are not required to be fenced. Over three-quarters of the nutrient load in waterways comes from those exempted from fencing requirements. However, the wider than a stride, deeper than a Redband standard may be insufficient if the rural sector was to continue to achieve water quality gains. A study by Professor Richard McDowell and his colleagues determined how great waterway contamination was by assessing models of streams and the contribution watercourses made to phosphorous, nitrogen, E coli and sediment level. The scientists applied the Land and Water Forum standard to their testing. The study found a large proportion of contaminants came from natural sources, and nutrient loads from smaller watercourses accounted for significant portions of pollutants in the Canterbury, Southland, Nelson and Hawke's Bay catchments, and they were also waterways that had tourism and recreational use.

Kaikoura farmers face radical changes [12 October/ Farmers Weekly] Project Manager and Environment Canterbury Land Adviser Jodie Hoggard said areas of the Kaikoura Plains were so wet that the council and industry groups such as DairyNZ and Fonterra were looking to Southland and Waikato for advice. Farmers reported some bores have dried while other areas were now suitable for wetlands. The Kaikoura Plains Recovery Project was allocated \$600,000 over three years from the Ministry of Primary Industries' Earthquake Recovery Fund. One Kaikoura farm owner reported 60 percent of his property was too wet to farm. Kaikoura District Councillor and Farmer Tony Blunt said receiving Lidar data from ECan to show changing paddock levels would help farmers know of new flood hazards and where new drains or drain extensions were needed, and which parts of their farms were undrainable.

Health and Safety

Farm deaths so far this year lower than in last three years [11 October/ Stuff] Fewer farmers have been killed on the job in the first nine months of 2017 than for the same period in each of the last three years. Currently, 11 farmers have died in 2017 compared to an average of 15 for 2014, 2015 and 2016. There have been five quad bike deaths this year, the same figure as 2016. Farming is New Zealand's most dangerous occupation. New Zealand ranked seventh out of nine for the most deaths per 100,000 in the agriculture, hunting and forestry sectors. Over the last seven years, 126 farmers have died while working. WorkSafe Agriculture Sector Leader Al McCone said although figures are beginning to show a positive trend, these numbers are easily changed from year to year. There has been a significant drop in tractor deaths, with one death this year so far, compared to previous years where the average was five. Mr McCone said tractor drivers should wear seatbelts to ensure lower tractor-related deaths.

Time for health shakeup [13 October/Otago Daily Times] Southern District Health Board (SDHB) proposed a new healthcare model that will significantly boost funding provided to primary healthcare services. SDHB's Southern primary and community care strategy and action plan aims to redirect funding away from acute care and into primary and community care and prevention. This will increase funding for primary health care from 40 percent to 50 percent. The 2018-19 year would be the first year of the action plan.

Agri-tech

Farm moving into new technology [12 October/ New Zealand Herald] Waikato Dairy Farmer Grant Coombes said it's time for farmers to embrace new technology to achieve sustainability. Mr Coombes runs a large-scale operation with 2000 milking cows, plus dairy support and dry stock cattle, over 750 hectares. Mr Coombes, a Dairy New Zealand Board of Directors Candidate, is phasing out his quadbikes for electric Ubco motorbikes to reduce emissions and ensuring sustainable farming. Mr Coombes said farmers have invested a lot of time, effort and money to improve sustainability and ensure environmental protection, and should be congratulated for doing so. Mr Coombes said there are still new things to be done, and agricultural leaders need to engage in conversations in science and technology.

Synthetic foods to have 'major impact' within 10 to 15 years - Sir Peter Gluckman [12 October/ Stuff] The Prime Minister's Chief Science Adviser, Sir Peter Gluckman, said genetically modified crops presented by synthetic milk and meat is a big threat to New Zealand because of due to the country's reliance on exports of the real thing. Sir Gluckman said most milk sold globally in 20 to 25 years might be synthetic, though it could be a while before scientists could create a T-bone steak. Sir Glickman suggested synthetic foods would significantly impact the country in five years, or in 10 to 15 years if the world becomes more conscious of the need to confront climate change. Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Science and Innovation Manager Peter Crabtree said MBIE had not begun work specifically on synthetic foods but was exploring the possibility for New Zealand to become an international leader in plant-based protein and the next generation of food innovation and commercialisation.

Time for farm talk over as agricultural leaders ratchet up market connections [13 October/ Stuff] New Zealand Primary Industry Executives plan to maximise story-telling opportunities, and heavily endorse New Zealand's natural assets and charm during the Te Hono Summit at Stanford University in July. Primary Industry Chief Executives have represented the New Zealand companies behind 80 percent of the country's exports at six summits. New Zealand Merino Company Chief Executive John Brakenridge said New Zealand's stories were not reaching consumers. The executives wanted to be further connected to markets and provide stories linking to health, wellness and the environment. Summit executives have invested \$1 million in consumer empathy research in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York to assess what motivates buying behaviour, and established a Shanghai office to connect to the Chinese market. The Te Hono USA project plans to connect closer to niche markets using new digital channels and technology. Another project was looking at opportunities for plant-based foods.

Sprout innovations company searches for best agricultural startups [16 October/ Stuff] Agricultural innovations company Sprout is looking New Zealand-wide for up to eight Kiwi agritech start-ups to be accepted into a five-month Sprout Agritech Accelerator programme, giving them access to an over \$500,000 pool in grants and investments, as well as mentoring from a team of experts said Sprout Business Strategy Advisor Stu Bradbury. The agribusiness start-ups will also have the opportunity to pitch to a hand-picked group of investors, corporate partners and potential customers. Mr Bradbury said those who had previously participated in the Sprout programme had tripled their sales, raise more than \$2 million in funding, link with world-class advisors and set themselves on a global growth trajectory. Sprout is looking for businesses creating products and services in areas including robotics and automation, animal and crop health, biotechnology and innovative food and e-commerce.

Genetics programme new tool to improve breed [17 October/New Zealand Herald] Holstein Friesian New Zealand and CRV Ambreed announced their new tool, Holstein Friesian Genetic Leaders Superior Female Programme, to increase the standard of black and white genetics in New Zealand. The programme, launched this October, will find superior registered Holstein Friesian females can produce superior male progeny to be offered to the Holstein Friesian Genetic Leaders Male Programme. HFNZ General Manager Cherilyn Watson said the programme is to feed the Holstein Friesian Genetic Leaders Male Programme, to ensure the best genetics within New Zealand's pedigree Holstein Friesian population. HFNZ members will be able to nominate animals for the programme; however, they must pass two rounds before being selected. Successful preliminary selection stage will receive complimentary genomic testing, parent verification and defect testing. Breeders selected for the full programme will receive complimentary semen for two mating years, discounted TVR/MOET programme, and discounted classification for all two-year-olds.

Biodegradable miniature sensors a precision solution to agriculture's variability problem [17 October/ Stuff] Colorado State University Professor of Precision Agriculture, Raj Khosla says agriculture is embracing precision technology possibilities. Future sensor technology will be small, disposable and will allow farmers collect data to make their businesses more efficient and sustainable. The sensors emitted a small pulse that measured the parameter it was designed for and uploaded the information to the cloud. Their biodegradable nature meant there was no need for farmer collection. Mr Khosla said the wider use of precision agriculture allowed farmers to better understand soil, water, nutrient, topography and weather variability that made farming challenging in the past. M Kholsa said the challenge is now harnessing that data to make the most of this technology.

Biosecurity

Release of pest-eating wasp a relief to Canterbury and Hawke's Bay potato and tomato growers [11 October/ Stuff] Tomato potato psyllid (TPP), a plant-eating insect has cost the New Zealand potato industry over \$120 million since its discovery in 2006 and may be eradicated due to the tamarixia trioaze wasp. The wasp, originating from the United States and Mexico, destroys the tomato-potato psyllid pest by laying an egg on the psyllid. The wasp eggs hatch and the larvae feed on the TPP until they eat through the TPP's shell to arise as an adult. Vegetable Research and Innovation Board Coordinator Sally Anderson said the arrival of the wasp was a relief for greenhouse growers. Ms Anderson said the pest would be priced similarly to the USA, which is sold at the equivalent of NZ\$25 for 250 adults. Tomatoes New Zealand Business Manager Helen Barnes said export market control measures were established to confirm growers were not exporting the pest. The wasp was required to pass rigorous testing standards to assess whether it posed a risk to native New Zealand flora.

'Just a matter of time' before foot and mouth disease reaches New Zealand [16 October/ Stuff] DairyNZ Biosecurity Readiness and Response Manager Chris Morley said Foot and Mouth disease's arrival in New Zealand is guaranteed and just a matter of time. Mr Morley said an MPI study conducted two years ago showed Food and Mouth disease, at a small to medium-sized outbreak, would cost New Zealand \$16 billion. Mr Morley stressed the importance of on-farm biosecurity. Selwyn-Rakaia Vet Services Representative Chris Norton spoke of his time containing the disease in the UK, said an outbreak in New Zealand is the worst-case scenario due to the detrimental impacts it would have. Mr Morley said foot and mouth was the most critical threat to New Zealand biosecurity.

Sustainability

Entries open for farm environment awards [16 October/ Stuff] Entries for the 2018 Ballance Farm Environment Awards are open and all farmers and horticulturists, including orchardists, vegetable growers and viticulturists, are eligible to enter. The awards, organised by the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust, are to encourage land stewardship by showcasing sustainable farming and also to prove sound farming practices and business management go hand in hand. NZFE Trust National Judging Co-ordinator Andrea Hanna encouraged all farmers to enter, even if impacted by the recent weather, as judging teams had a wide range of skills and experience and climatic factors were considered. The awards are run in 11 regions, following regional council boundaries, each with its own judging timetable. Winners will be announced at awards dinners in early 2018.

Forestry

Forestry first test in protectionist agenda [11 October/ New Zealand Herald] Leader of the New Zealand First party Winston Peters' protectionist agenda has caused some New Zealand forest owners to suspend replanting trees and re-thinking investments. Mr Peters said he would prioritise a restructure of the forest industry in coalition talks with the National and Labour parties after last month's inconclusive election outcome. The plan includes a proposed quota system which would force growers to prefer local mills over a higher-paying export market. This quota system would force more logs to be sold and processed locally, adding value to the \$270 billion economy. This has caused the lucrative forestry sector to become concerned that New Zealand First in power will mean more significant government intervention. Forestry owners said the proposals would have a disproportionate effect on small forest growers. Mr Peters has also said foreign ownership restrictions would be a large part of upcoming negotiation talks, making overseas investors nervous.

Farm foresters get together during a field day on chemical-free durable timbers [16 October/ Stuff] Farm foresters be able to closely look at naturally durable timbers that provide a chemical-free alternative to treated wood during a field day near Bulls on October 28. Bulls Farm Forester Denis Hocking said disposing chromated copper arsenate treated wood or tandalised treated timbers was an issue as burning left toxic ash, and the volumes were excessive for landfills. Organic farming rules forbid treated timber usage. Mr Hocking said the advantages of naturally durable timbers include their ability to be burnt in any fireplace, and that they rot from the outside in so users know when the wood is unstable. Mr Hocking said a wide range of naturally durable timbers could grow in New Zealand.

Biodiversity

Rimu planting a first for Kapiti district [11 October/ New Zealand Herald] Kapiti native bush restoration projects have received a lift from the planting of 150 rimu trees that were grown from local seed. Council Biodiversity Programme Manager Rob Cross said the ability to plant this native rimu was a first for the region. The plants came from seed collected in the Maungakotukutuku Valley, and it took four years for the rimu to grow large enough to plant. Mr Cross said the region has never been able to plant rimu as the seed is hard to collect and slow to propagate and grow. The rimu were planted by council staff and community volunteers in areas the rimu would have normally grown naturally. The successful propagation of rimu is a result of a council biodiversity project started eight years ago, with the objective of increasing the range and supply of ecologically sourced native plants.

Animal Welfare

\$6000 fine for transporting 55 sick, severely lame goats [12 October/ Stuff] David Renouf Hutchings, 55, a stock trader who transported chronically ill goats was sentenced in the Rotorua District Court on Tuesday after earlier pleading guilty to three charges. The charges related to the transporting of 55 severely lame goats to a processing plant over three separate occasions. Mr Hutchings transported goats with injuries and a level of illness that was severe. Some of the goats underwent emergency and priority slaughter as a result. The Animal Welfare Act states that animals must not be transported unless they are fit enough to withstand the entire journey without suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress. Mr Hutchings was fined \$6000 under the Animal Welfare Act and ordered to pay court costs of \$390.

Farmer fined for failing to treat sheep [12 October/ New Zealand Herald] A Waihi farmer who was unable to treat 30 ill sheep on her farm has been banned from owning, exercising control over, or being in charge more than 100 sheep. Ms Coxhead was convicted of an animal welfare offence after Ministry for Primary Industries found dead sheep on her property heavily worm-infested sheep. Ms Coxhead was fined \$2500 for the deaths, and an additional \$500 for failing to comply with an animal welfare inspector order. This inspector order came after it was discovered that living sheep on the farm had daggy rear-ends and faecal samples showed they were heavily worm-infested. Ms Coxhead was told to have the sheep assessed by a vet within seven days. Faecal samples of the dead sheep found a worm egg count of 25,500, whereas a count 500 is considered significant. Ministry for Primary Industries Manager of Compliance for the Northern region, Brendon Mikkelsen hoped this conviction and sentencing reminded farmers of their responsibility to properly care for all animals in their ownership or control.

Cows slaughtered after Mycoplasma bovis outbreak will be processed for food [13 October/ New Zealand Herald] A Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) spokeswoman has confirmed that the 4000 cows affected by the bacterial disease Mycoplasma bovis will go to the works for food processing as the sickness is not a food safety risk. A Spokeswomen said that no animals which are sick, severely injured or who have medicine in their system would be allowed to die for human consumption. Farmers whose cows are facing the cull can apply for compensation.

A&P Show

All go at the Royal A&P Show [17 October/ New Zealand Herald] The Royal A&P Show of New Zealand begun this Monday (16 October) with the Export Lamb Hoof Competition. Ten entered in the new season class and 10 in the old season class. The final results will be announced on Thursday 19 October. The most of the show's hospitality marquees were already set up ahead of public showings on Thursday and Friday. Hawke's Bay A and P Society General Manager Brent Linn said they wanted to attract people from all walks of life by offering an experience that wasn't just about the animal competitions, buying a tractor or watching a horse jump. For the first time, two over-18 stations with local craft beers, wines, and entertainment, Brewery Lane and Vintage Valley, will be set up. The show will provide an opportunity for relationship building using a more social experience for the rural sector.

Sustainability

Scott expanding to meet demand [17 October/ Farmers Weekly] Meat processing automated equipment was the most substantial revenue earner for Scott Technology, as the automation was increasing the value of sheep and beef processors' meat yields including \$4 to \$5 for every lamb carcass. Scott Technology experienced a 256 percent increase in meat processing sales in the 2016 year, revenues in the latest year to August 31 increased two percent to \$39.58m. Directors said the division consolidated while the company planned to expand for the next growth phase. Scott Technology recently significantly expanded the Dunedin manufacturing plant due to the meat technology. Scott Technology was operating in lamb processing automation through the Robotic Technologies joint-venture with Silver Fern Farms and in beef automation in Australia, with its majority shareholder, the JBS group. Scott Technology was also developing pork and poultry automation for customers in the United States and Europe. Scott Tech is considering placing their processing units into lighter customer operations such as butcher shops.

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Field Notes

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness Network – 18 October 2017

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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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