



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

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AGRIBUSINESS

Field Notes

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness network

14 February 2018

Organisations referenced in this week's Field Notes include:

Ahead	Mars
ANZCO Foods	Ministry for Primary Industries
Archer-Daniel Midland	Mooala Brands
ASB Bank	National Party of New Zealand
Beingmate	Nestle
Bunge	PookSpaFoods
Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand	Rabobank
Crown Forestry	Rock Lobster Industry Council
Environmental Defence Society	RuralCo
Fish and Game	Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand
Fisheries Inshore New Zealand	Rural Women New Zealand
Fonterra Co-operative Group	Safe Catch
Foodline	Seafood New Zealand
Happy Valley Milk	Tegel
Imanaka	Terrafertil
International Life Sciences Institute	Tovala
Joint Working Group	Tyson Foods
Kawerau Dairy	Wise Apple
Lewis Road Creamery	

This week's headlines

Fishing	Code of conduct for fishing reinforced by Nelson industry [12 February/Stuff]
Forestry	Crown Forestry offering farmers deal to plant pines [12 February/ Radio NZ Country]
Dairy	Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor calls for review of dairy industry [8 February/NZ Herald]
Dairy	Maori groups work with Japanese firm on \$32m Kawerau milk processing plant [8 February/The Country]
Rural Communities	Action on rural mental health wanted now [8 February/Rural Life]

Horticulture

Cap on seasonal employees lifted [8 February/Radio NZ] Six hundred more immigrant workers will be permitted to enter New Zealand annually under the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme. The RSE scheme gives Pacific Islanders short-term visas to work in New Zealand's horticulture and viticulture sectors. The cap had increased to 10,500 last year, and the government decided it will increase to 11,100 people this year. Workplace Relations and Immigration Minister, Iain Lees-Galloway, said the change allowed the sector to meet the pressures of a predicted early and prosperous harvest. Mr Lees-Galloway introduced the Employment Relations Amendment Bill to Parliament last week to improve employment practices amongst employers and contractors.

Viticulture

US buyers given go-ahead to buy Central Otago vineyard [8 February/NZ Farmer] The Overseas Investment Office has allowed American vineyard owners Marquis and Dianne Sauvage to purchase a 6.4 hectare block in Central Otago. This added to their already existing 24 hectare Burn Cottage vineyard located in the foothills of the Pisa Range. They plan to release a single vineyard wine off this site, which they will develop over time after getting an understanding of the grapes that come from the vineyard. This new vineyard would generate export receipts and employment for New Zealand, and also enhance the Sauvage's other investments, according to the Overseas Investment Office.

Bay of Plenty business fined \$12,000 for employment breaches [8 February/Stuff] A kiwifruit business in the Bay of Plenty has been fined \$12,000 for breaching a number of employment law minimum standards. A Labour Inspectorate investigation found that Ahead, a kiwifruit orchard labour hire business, failed to provide staff with individual employment agreements, pay holiday entitlements and to keep full and accurate time, wage and leave records. Labour Inspectorate regional manager, Kevin Finnegan, said Ahead has left their staff out of pocket by not having the systems in place to provide their employees with their basic employment rights. Mr Finnegan added that this was a case where employers did not take their employees basic entitlements seriously. He noted that Ahead put it down to administrative issues, however poor practices like will impact the business for a long-period after the penalties have been paid.

Changes ahead for wine [6 February/Otago Daily Times] After a disappointing northern hemisphere harvest in 2017, changes were expected in the global wine sector during 2018. Grape scarcity, higher prices, changes in trade agreements and increased mergers and acquisitions were some of the key factors expected to dominate the global wine industry according to Rabobank's quarterly wine report. During the nine months to September 2017, wine imports from New Zealand rose by 12% in value. This was mainly due to the rapid shift away from bottled towards bulk wine imports according to RaboResearch Senior Beverages Analyst, Maria Castroviejo. She added that for certain products, higher prices can be relatively easily transferred to the consumer. In other markets, the higher prices are likely to result in lower volumes. Ms Castroviejo also noted that China has become the fifth largest wine importer in the world, with the knowledge and experience of operators in the country rapidly increasing.

Fishing

Code of conduct for fishing reinforced by Nelson industry [12 February/Stuff] Commercial fishermen in Nelson have reinforced their support for an industry-wide code of conduct to stop illegal practices. Seafood New Zealand Chief Executive, Tim Pankhurst and Fisheries Inshore New Zealand Chief Executive, Dr Jeremy Helson, visited Nelson and laid out their six point plan, which was partly aimed at minimising illegal practices. Mr Pankhurst said that the industry conceded that it had not always got everything right, but was determined to do better. He added that educating people was a major factor. Local fisherman Sunni Parkin said that the code showed commitment to 'doing the right thing' but it would ultimately fall to the operators to ensure all aspects of the code were being met. More work is needed in order for the code to be fully operational, however it is a step in the right direction.

Crayfish fishing ban wanted in Hauraki, Bay of Plenty [11 February/Radio NZ] An environmental group is arguing for a ban on commercial crayfishing in the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty. A recent proposal to halve the quota in these areas will be considered by the Ministry for Primary Industries in April. Over the past 60 years, stocks have dropped up to 95 percent in some areas, according to the Environmental Defence Society. Its executive, Gary Taylor, added that the government did not have an actual idea of fish stocks which was a major problem. The Head of the Rock Lobster Industry Council, Mark Edwards, said that a total ban is unnecessary and would have severe socio-economic impacts.

Forestry

Crown Forestry offering farmers deal to plant pines [12 February/ Radio NZ Country] With the government having set a goal of planting 1 billion trees in the next 10 years Crown Forestry is now seeking 500,000 hectares of unproductive farmland that is suitable for commercial *pinus radiata* planting. Landowners with parcels of land of more than 200 hectares are being offered a lease or joint venture option with Crown Forestry paying all establishment and management costs and allowing them to retain carbon credits. The 200 hectare land parcel is driven by the need to have sufficient scale to drive better returns but a spokesperson for the service said that they had already had 30 to 40 people come forward with fairly large blocks. They added that there is not a big bank of Crown land to be used for planting thus achieving the government's target will mean that productive farmland will need to be used for tree planting.

Dairy

Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor calls for review of dairy industry [8 February/NZ Herald] Halting changes to Fonterra's enabling legislation would allow for a broader review of New Zealand's dairy sector and whether it is adding enough value to our dairy industry, said Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor. The proposed changes gave the co-operative discretion on accepting milk from new dairy conversions and would remove the need to sell regulated raw milk to large rival processors. Although the bill considered some important issues, it was far too cut-throat when addressing others, according to Mr O'Connor. He had the intention to introduce legislation this year to amend DIRA and prevent 'efficiency and contestability provisions' of the Act expiring in the South Island in May until a comprehensive review is completed. First NZ Capital analyst, Arie Dekker, noted that he was 'somewhat surprised' at Mr O'Connor's decision for a new review of the dairy industry. Mr Dekker added that the review may consider whether the right regulatory, capital and other incentive structures are in place to optimise the returns from dairy for the NZ economy.

Dairy prices buoyed by stockpile bid [8 February/The Country] International dairy buyers concerned about a New Zealand production downturn have buoyed global dairy prices, as they seek to stockpile product. At the fortnightly GlobalDairyTrade auction, prices rose an average of 5.9% across all products, while the crucial whole-milk powder trade was up 7.6%. ASB rural economist, Nathan Penny, said the recent stall in New Zealand dairy production had supported the lift in auction prices. Mr Penny noted that due to the recent rain, the auction price strength would prove temporary. AgriHQ Dairy Analyst, Amy Castleton, also added that buyers seemed to be nervous that they would not be able to fulfil their requirements if New Zealand milk production continued to fall.

Maori groups work with Japanese firm on \$32m Kawerau milk processing plant [8 February/The Country] Japanese food company Imanaka has partnered with a group of Maori organisations to develop a milk processing plant to produce high-value niche products in Kawerau. It is a \$32 million project that is expected to begin early next year. Chief Executive of Kawerau Dairy, Richard Jones, said it is a group of Maori entities and farms coming together, investing and supplying the milk and getting to know how things work in the whole value chain. The first stage included development of an 800 kilogram per hour dryer in order to process conventional and organic cow milk. The initial product is expected to be milk protein concentrate 85, which contains 85 percent protein and low amounts of lactose. The plant is expected to produce over 8,000 tonnes of product each season. The food processing experience the Japanese shareholder has will benefit Kawerau Dairy greatly with this new venture. 25 to 30 jobs are expected to be created from the initial development.

Lewis Road recalls breakfast drinks over sugar labelling [8 February/Radio NZ] Boutique dairy company Lewis Road Creamery had understated the sugar content in its new breakfast drinks. They were labelled as having 3 grams of sugar, when in reality they had about 9 grams. The drinks' founder, Peter Cullinane, apologised for the genuine mistake and said that Lewis Road had voluntarily removed the products from shelves while further testing took place. The reason for the mistake was that the label only considered added sugar, and not the sugar that naturally occurred in milk, according to Mr Cullinane. A spokesperson for The Dental Association, Rob Beaglehole, said that they were not surprised by the mislabelling and that labelling of sugar in general needed to improve. They wanted drinks to label how many teaspoons of sugar they contain, rather than only how many grams.

Dairy giant Fonterra expanding in Russian with stake in joint venture [12 February/NZ Herald] Fonterra has attempted to expand its Russian business, only months after the new government committed to reopening free trade talks that had not been on the table since the Crimean crisis. The deal will see Fonterra take a 49 percent stake in a St Petersburg based joint venture with Foodline, its primary distributor in the Russian Federation. A Fonterra spokesperson said that 'we have kept the New Zealand government informed of this investment.' The moves by Fonterra signal a course of correction in trade policy with Russia. Fonterra and MFAT denied that the news was kept secret, and explained that the size of the investment was quite small and not considered material. The Herald understands Fonterra have committed around \$30 million to the deal.

Otorohanga formula factory granted land consent [9 February/Radio NZ] A \$230 million dairy factory in King Country has been granted land consent despite local opposition. A report from the Otorohanga District Council last year said the factory should not be allowed to go ahead because it would impact the local ecology, landscape, and rural charter. However, Happy Valley Milk has now been given consent to build its infant formula factory. There is a lot of opposition to the factory, including from Fonterra Shareholder Council Chair, Duncan Coull. He noted that any profits generated will not benefit the Otorohanga community, but the overseas shareholders. Mr Coull said that locals who opposed the factory would be demanding answers. However, Happy Valley Milk were not surprised consent had been granted, and hope to be one of the largest businesses in the Otorohanga region.

Fonterra uncompetitive claims 'false and misleading' [12 February/ Dairy News] Fonterra has responded to claims about its business in China calling them false and misleading. The co-operative noted that the Beingmate relationship has enabled Annum products to now be distributed in 184 cities in China through 10,000 stores and all the major e-commerce platforms. While Beingmate has a footprint across 80,000 retail stores in China, the Annum product, as a premium brand, has been targeted to stores where the right consumers for the product shop. It also challenged claims about its pricing structure, saying the recommended retail prices are set by Beingmate on the basis of competitive market dynamics. The co-operative also noted that under the distribution agreement it is Beingmate that is responsible for brand building activities for Annum in China, meaning that arguments it has not done enough to promote the product in the Chinese market are also incorrect.

International

ADM is said in advanced talks to buy commodity trader Bunge [6 February/ Bloomberg] Archer-Daniel Midland has announced that it is in advanced talks to acquire Bunge Ltd, a deal which would significantly change the commodity trading business around agriculture. Bunge has a market value of around USD11.5 billion and are working quickly towards finalising a deal according to sources. They noted a deal was not certain and other bidders could emerge. Bunge and ADM together with Cargill and Louis Dreyfus have dominated agricultural commodity trade in recent years, but Bunge has seen profits fall after years of bumper crops. ADM and Bunge both oversee large networks of US grain trading infrastructure that would suggest any deal would be closely scrutinised by regulators.

Lunchables...the next generation? Wise Apple solves pain point for parents with pre-packed lunches [7 February/ Food Navigator USA] Wise Apple, a Chicago based start-up, has found that parents are prepared to pay for a service that delivers weekly supplies of pre-packed, nutritionally balanced kids' lunches to their homes. Having started out through posting a question to a Facebook group the company quickly had 400 families signed up and the founders were left working out how to deliver the meals. They started out working from a shared kitchen in a bar to a controlled production facility and have been working to develop a scalable business model that remains customisable to demands of specific kids. Wise Apple have developed a modular packing system with four tubs which allow customers to mix and match from meal components while still providing a 14 day shelf life. The service is most popular with dual working families with multiple picky kids. The product is more flexible than meal kits as they are individually sealed, portable and flexible and, importantly, do not require any preparation. The meals cost USD6.50 each for 12 meals a week or USD6.99 for five meals a week. The company has raised USD4.3 million to date with investors liking the simplicity of the business model. The company has recently received approaches from bricks and mortar retailers who are interested in stocking the products.

Tyson Foods invests in steam oven start-up Tovala [7 February/ Food Dive] Tyson Foods continues to make investments in start-up companies through its Tyson Ventures branch. The latest announcement indicating it has joined a funding round in Tovala, a company that makes steam ovens and ready to cook food, although the details of the investment were not disclosed. Tovala ovens bake and broil like conventional ovens but can also steam to make proteins juicer and allows for users to programme multiple cooking phases. This is another step in Tyson's strategy to invest small amounts in a wide range of companies that cater to growing consumer demand for healthy meals, as well as pushing the company further into the convenience space that is so important to time-strapped consumers. The investment may create opportunities for Tyson to introduce some of its chicken products to Tovala's oven.

Breaking away from bad science? Mars to leave ILSI in transparency bid [8 February/ Food Navigator] Mars has announced that it plans to quit the industry funded International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) by the end of 2018 and will now support science regardless of the results expected. Mars has made its science policy public in a bid to increase trust and transparency. They have committed to publish research findings regardless of nature of the outcomes, together with disclosing potential conflicts of interest and not linking funding to specific research outcomes. The company said it was no longer interested in being involved in advocacy led studies that have been widely criticised. ILSI is funded by around 400 corporate entities including Nestle, Unilever and Coca-Cola and published research in 2016 that concluded that evidence in favour of guidelines recommending limits on added dietary sugar was low quality and did not meet criteria for trustworthy recommendations. Mars withdrawing raises questions about whether more companies will leave the organisation with one commentator suggesting that Mars' statement feels like the company is finally telling it like it is, however most companies contacted by Food Navigator did not respond to questions. Mars action follows several large companies leaving the US Grocery Manufacturers Association in recent months, which has been linked to companies looking to acknowledge and meet customer expectations rather than systematically oppose them.

Plant-based dairy alternative Mooala gets USD5 million in new funding [9 February/ Food Dive] Dallas based Mooala Brands has announced that it has raised USD5 million in a funding round to enable it to expand distribution of plant based beverages into new markets. The company's products include organic dairy-free beverages made from almonds and bananas and it hopes to expand distribution by 40% to over 1,500 retailers. The CEO and Founder of Mooala said that the company provides a premium, organic experience at a great price, something he suggests the market has been missing. The banana milk products that the company has launched are the first of their kind to hit the US market and analysts are interested to see how the product performs as it enters more mainstream markets and whether it will be able to compete with the wide range of plant based milk products in the same way that Ripple Food's pea milk products have managed to compete in mainstream markets.

Coconut crisps bag Fruit Logistica prize [9 November/ Euro Fruit] The annual Innovation Award presented at the Fruit Logistica expo has been won by German start-up company, PookSpaFoods for its range of Pook Coconut Chips. The crisps are made from Thai coconuts without using any oil or fat and offered in three flavours. The product can be consumed as a snack or as a topping on salads, cereals and yogurts. The founder of the company, Kanokporn Hoitsch, said the award was a big surprise to the company. Other awards went to a dark brown tomato, Adora, developed by Spanish group, HM Clause, and as grass based paper produced by German mill Scheufelen, which consists of 50 per cent fresh grass fibre and is completely recyclable and biodegradable.

Nestle buys majority stake in organic food company Terrafertil [9 February/ CNBC] Nestle has announced that it has acquired a majority stake in Terrafertil, a company that sells natural and organic plant based foods continuing its strategy to build a portfolio of products in the healthy food space. The size of the investment or its ownership level in the business were not disclosed. Terrafertil was established in Ecuador in 2005 and has expanded throughout South America, the US and Britain since this time. In recent months Nestle has announced the USD2.3 billion acquisition of Atribum Innovations, a Canadian vitamin company, Sweet Earth Vegetarian Foods, Blue Bottle Coffee and Chameleon Coffee.

Slow internet holding back agricultural productivity, warns Ruralco [12 February/ The Australian] Travis Dillon, the Managing Director of Ruralco, has said that substandard internet connectivity is slowing down the pace of productivity improvements across agricultural. Slow internet was affecting the uptake of new-generation technologies that could improve the competitiveness of Australian farmers according to Mr Dillon, who suggested a better cheaper service will help the uptake of new agri-tech solutions. The company said at its annual conference it was working with the government and other private enterprises to ensure modern telecommunications were delivered to the regions. Recent satellite launches by the NBN Company as part of the Sky Muster programme had improved connectivity in the bush but there is still a big gap compared to cities Mr Dillon noted, adding that communication heavyweights including Telstra and Cisco together with numerous start-ups were working on a range of solutions for Australian farmers.

Safe Catch snaps USD5 million to extend line of mercury tested fish [12 February/ Food Dive] California based Safe Catch has announced that it has raised USD5 million from a group of investors to expand and promote its range of tuna products which are 100% tested for mercury contamination. Safe Catch claims it is the fastest growing shelf stable seafood firm in the US and its products are now sold through 10,000 outlets in six countries. The company tests every fish to a higher standard than the US Food and Drug Administration's action level in order to accommodate higher risk consumers and anybody wanting to monitor their mercury levels. Given the real time testing the company does not buy about a third of the tuna as it fails to meet the necessary standard. The company originally tried to market the testing technology but claims that large seafood companies were not interested and it has now created a range of processed fish products. The company will use some of the funds to launch a new line of canned and pouched salmon products. The company is selling its product at more than twice the price of competing tuna brands but it appears that customers are willing to pay the premium for tested and ethically acquired products.

Biosecurity

Mycoplasma bovis: Number of infected properties rises to 23 [9 February/The Country] Twenty-three farms have now been found to be infected with the cattle disease Mycoplasma Bovis. The latest two were in Southland and South Canterbury. The Ministry for Primary Industries said all infected properties were under quarantine controls. The Ministry reiterated that all detections to date were linked to the original infected properties via animal movement. Their health laboratory was carrying a significant testing workload, particularly following the recent detections. This has caused delays in receiving test results, however the MPI apologised for these delays and explained the stressful situation they were facing.

Farmer compensation for cattle disease to cost over \$100m: Nathan Guy [9 February/NZ Farmer] According to the National Primary Industries' spokesman, Nathan Guy, compensation for farmers who were affected by the *Mycoplasma bovis* cattle disease could exceed \$100 million. However, Mr Guy added that farmers would likely be told to learn to live with the disease once the Cabinet had decided their spending priorities. He noted that compensation for farmers had effectively stopped, however retrospective payments might be made. Agriculture Minister, Damien O'Connor, said all compensation claims are being processed by MPI as they were received and have never been put on hold. An MPI spokesperson confirmed that Aad and Wilma van Leeuwen, who owned the farm where the disease was first discovered, had received compensation. Mr O'Connor explained that eradication is still the government's goal, however tough decisions needed to be made in the short term.

Farmers and producers

Pay equity an issue for all rural women [8 February/The Country] Women who were working in the rural sector needed to be included in the discussions of the reconvened Joint Working Group on Pay Equity Principles, said Rural Women New Zealand (RWNZ). The government has kept its promise to work on reducing the gender pay gap, and RWNZ Board Chair, Penny Mudford, hoped that this included women in the rural sector. The male-dominated rural sector has meant that rural women have been working alongside and among men as partners for little or no financial reward. RWNZ urged the Joint Working Group to consider factors that would reduce the gender pay gap in our farming sector, added Ms Mudford.

Labour's 100 days fails farmers – Guy [12 February/Rural News] According to the National Primary Industries spokesperson, Nathan Guy, Labour's first 100 days in government has failed farmers. He said that the government had lacked any real action around the big issues facing the farming sector. He noted that the Minister Damien O'Connor is spending \$17 million out of the Primary Growth Partnership fund to rebrand the Ministry for Primary Industries, which came at a cost to vitally important research and development funding. There is no good news for those farmers faced with the problem of *Mycoplasma bovis* cattle disease as Mr O'Connor has remained silent on the matter, Mr Guy added.

Red meat

ANZCO chairman named to replace Sir Graeme Harrison [8 February/NZ Farmer] Founder of ANZCO Foods, Sir Graeme Harrison, will be replaced as Chairman by Kazuhiko (Sam) Misonou at the end of March. Mr Misonou joined the company board in 2013 and brought international business experience with him. In 2016, he became president of Yonekyu Inc., a Japanese meat production, marketing and sales company that was established in 1965. Mr Misonou's experience is expected to strengthen ANZCO's position in the New Zealand food sector. Mr Harrison noted age as the main factor for his retirement. He had purchased a property that he plans to develop further through a fencing programme and blocking off conservation land. Mr Harrison said that the combination of Misonou San as Chairman and Peter Conley as Chief Executive would bring a wealth of experience to the company.

Poultry

Public meeting to protest 'huge and smelly' Tegel chicken farm proposed near Dargaville [13 February/ Northern Advocate] Residents around the site proposed by Tegel for a new 1.3 million bird broiler farm have organised a public meeting to discuss concerns about the farm that they describe as huge and smelly. Tegel has lodged resource constraints for the farm which will be located south east of Dargaville but local farmers are concerned that the farm could devalue surrounding properties, noting that Tegel attempts to minimise issues does not eliminate them. One farmer said that if they can't stop Tegel building the farm they will request compensation of some sort. Tegel have not been invited to join the meeting. The chicken farm will have 32 free range sheds that will each contain 41,400 birds and the resource consent applications have been publicly notified giving the local community the opportunity to raise concerns. The farm will utilise droppings and other biological matter it produces as fuel for an energy centre that will generate heat for the sheds.

Rural communities

Action on rural mental health wanted now [8 February/Rural Life] Rural mental health is an issue that needs to be addressed immediately. Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand (RHAANZ) Chief Executive, Michelle Thompson, said that although there have been positive announcements since the election, rural communities cannot wait for another government inquiry into mental health. They have plans in place, however the services were 'completely over-subscribed and underfunded.' The government is urged to help communities to progress with the plans they had. The five key themes they focussed on were rural wellbeing, rural connectivity, rural research and policy, rural health services and rural health workforce. An issue identified by Ms Thompson was the difficulty around not only recruiting rural doctors, but also retaining them. She also noted that there were a large number of people classified as urban who need to be rural, and vice versa.

Chartered accountants training up to help tackle rural stress [13 February/ Hawkes Bay Today] Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ) has run a series of workshops for rural chartered accountants to train them to recognise and support the mental health issues faced by their client. CAANZ Central North Island regional manager, Neal McDiarmid, said that rural accountants have close relationships with their clients that often span generations, they understand farming and are trusted which places them in a unique position to spot changes in behaviour and take actions. He added that the CAANZ workshops were designed to give Chartered Accountants the confidence and knowledge to handle these situations appropriately.

Environment and emissions

Shaw hopes for National's support on climate change legislation [9 February/National Business Review] Climate Change Minister James Shaw hoped the National Party would support the government's climate change legislation, but said it will have to meet National's worries about its impact on the economy. Mr Shaw added that it will be a complicated decision for National to vote for the Zero Carbon bill. National leader Bill English noted they supported the Green Party's climate change initiatives, and saw it as a good way to build closer relations with the Green Party. Sectors such as transport would be affected the most by changes to reduce carbon emissions. However, their increased costs might be offset by savings through the use of greener vehicles.

Field Notes

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness Network – 14 February 2018

Action urged on illegal farm dumping [13 February/ Otago Daily Times] Fish and Game have called for an urgent audit to be performed of illegal dumps on farms following media reports suggesting Regional Councils suspect that thousands of tonnes of contaminated waste is being buried on farms every year. The councils believe that there is little they can do about the issue but Fish and Game CEO, Martin Taylor, said that the scale of the threat is significant as buried waste could contaminate the environment for decades to come, putting aquifers at risk and threatening communities. He said it was important the scale of the problem is understood so that a plan can be developed to address it, including making the use of reputable companies that safely handle the disposal of waste mandatory. A spokesperson for Environment Canterbury said that there was a lack of options for farmers to dispose of waste and the council was looking at options to make disposal easier for farmers.

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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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