



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

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## AGRIBUSINESS

# Field Notes

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness network

28 March 2018

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

Advanced Economic Solutions	Mānuka Honey Appellation Society
AgriHQ	Massey University
Allbirds	Ministry for Primary Industries
BASF	Monsanto Grown Ventures
Bayer AG	National Milk Producers Federation
Beef + Lamb New Zealand	Ngai Tahu
Beingmate	Ngāti Porou Miere Limited Partnership
BNZ	Northland Regional Council
Bostocks	Pairwise Plants
Craigs Investment Partners	Plant Based Foods Association
Dargaville Chicken Farm Community Information Group	Platinum Primary Producers Group
Deerfield Management	Southern Dairy Development Trust
East Coast Regional Council	Spring Sheep Milk Company
Environment Canterbury	Strategic Pay
Environmental Protection Agency	Synlait
Federated Farmers	Tasman District Council
FMG	Tegel
Fonterra Co-operative Group	The a2 Milk Company
Forsyth Barr	The New Zealand Merino Company
GlobalDairyTrade	Theland's
Greenpeace	VetSouth
Hakataramea Sustainability Collective	Waimea Irrigators Limited
Hawke's Bay Fruitpickers Association	Watson & Son
Horizons Regional Council	Whitehead Group Employment Specialists
International Union for Conservation of Nature	Zespri

### This week's headlines

Horticulture	<b>Three hundred apple pickers found but labour shortage extended</b> [26 March/The Country]
Dairy	<b>Beingmate write down behind Fonterra first-half loss</b> [22 March/Otago Daily Times]
Dairy	<b>Synlait posts record first-half net profit</b> [21 March/The Country]
Biosecurity	<b>MPI cattle cull 'the right thing'</b> [27 March/Rural Life]
Sheep Milking	<b>Spring Sheep business manager wins agribusiness award</b> [26 March/NZ Farmer]

**Horticulture**

**Kiwifruit sales to China, Japan set to hit \$1 billion** [25 March/NZ Herald] Zespri said sales to China were tracking at a record \$500 million, while Japan looked set to make it double completing another half a billion dollars in sales. China and Japan are Zespri's two biggest markets and most of the fruit sold there was from New Zealand. Zespri's spokesperson, Rachel Lynch, said 2017-2018 financial results were still being finalised but China and Japan were expected to bring in \$1 billion in revenue between them. Ms Lynch noted the sales comprised 14.6 million trays of gold kiwifruit and 7.9 million trays of green. Zespri's Chief Executive, Dan Mathieson, added that the gold fruit had been popular in Japan, and attributed the sales spike to their efforts to understand what Japanese consumers wanted. He added that tariffs imposed by Japan cost growers \$26 million last season however they were confident the recent CPTPP deal would reduce the tariff to zero.

**Three hundred apple pickers found but labour shortage extended** [26 March/The Country] Half of Hawke's Bay's apples were waiting to be picked, and the government has extended the regional labour shortage to give it more time. Even with three hundred extra apple pickers who have come forward to help out, MSD East Coast Regional Council Commissioner, Annie Aranui, said they still needed more. She added that the industry was important to the region and had a clear and immediate need, so they were actively working alongside the horticulture sector to help out. She noted they had placed a large number of people into work. Hawke's Bay Fruitpickers Association President, Lesley Wilson, said growers were grateful for the extension but the region was still short of backpackers. Bostocks Labour Resources Manager, Vikki Garrett, added that while inquiries had been flowing in, they were not coming into fruition in terms of backpackers. Ms Garrett noted pickers needed to pick three bins a day to break even with minimum wage, but good pickers could pick six to eight.

**Environment and emissions**

**Federated Farmers seek \$100k to fight lake plan** [24 March/The Country] Federated Farmers are seeking \$100,000 to fight a plan intended to improve water quality in Lake Rotorua. The plan would introduce rules for rural properties to limit the amount of nitrogen entering the lake. Nitrogen entering the lake would need to be reduced by 320 tonnes by 2032, of which only around 140 tonnes would come from the proposed rules. The plan had been under mediation after four appeals were lodged. Federated Farmers was behind one of the appeals and said they would need to contract in expertise to develop their alternative plan. Former Regional Federated Farmers President, Neil Heather, said they were waiting for a pre-hearing conference and were impressed with the community support and generosity. Mr Heather said it was frustrating that farmers effectively were asked to pay for this hearing through rates and funding Federated Farmers participation.

**Scientists call on EPA to ban herbicide** [23 March/Radio NZ] A group of mainly Wellington scientists are calling for a partial ban on the herbicide Glyphosate, and for the Environmental Protection Authority to cancel a report clearing it of serious health risks. They said the methodology was not sufficient to overturn previous findings that Glyphosate was carcinogenic. Scientist from the Centre for Public Health Research at Massey University in Wellington, Professor Jeroen Douwes, led the group. He noted that there was sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimented animals. The EPA report defended Glyphosate and noted that they needed to consider everything in order to take a net benefit approach. They agreed that with high exposure cancer could occur, but did not believe we had high exposure in New Zealand. Professor Douwes added that there was a strong reason to do a reassessment and to reject the current report. He did not think an outright ban was justified, but believed signage on the packaging would be useful so people could protect themselves.

**Poultry**

**Only 17 of 5000 submissions support Tegel chicken farm in Northland** [23 March/The Country] Out of the 5000 submissions made regarding a proposed broiler chicken farm just outside Dargaville, only seventeen were in support of it. Tegel wishes to set up a chicken farm at Arapohue with capacity to stock up to 1.3 million chickens and employ 28 people. Hearings will now be held before Council makes a final decision on Tegel's proposal. The Northland Regional Council received over 2000 submissions from an online submission platform that was set up by Greenpeace. Of the submissions received, 344 submitters wanted to appear before the hearing commissioners. A protest march was conducted in Dargaville by the Dargaville Chicken Farm Community Information Group following the meeting that urged locals to lodge their submissions.

**Dairy**

**Fonterra CEO search likely to come down to 3-5 candidates** [22 March/The Country] According to employment experts, Fonterra's search for a replacement for current Chief Executive, Theo Spierings, will likely come down to between three to five candidates. Former Fonterra insiders said there were no obvious internal candidates for the role. Principal of Whitehead Group Employment Specialists, Max Whitehead, said there was a lot of work to be done to ensure potential candidates have the skills to lead a large and complex organisation like Fonterra. Federated Farmers National Vice-President, Andrew Hoggard, said an ability to connect with farmers would be a useful trait, but should not be the sole focus. He added that there was a fine balance that needed to be achieved and that they would need to be able to respond to all of the challenges they would face.

**Beingmate write down behind Fonterra first-half loss** [22 March/Otago Daily Times] Fonterra has posted a \$348 million after tax loss for its first half of trading, largely due to the \$405 million write-down in the value of its stake in Chinese infant formula distributor, Beingmate. Fonterra Chairman, John Wilson, said shareholders would be rightfully disappointed with this outcome and that Beingmate's continued under-performance was unacceptable. The result was also impacted by the costs associated with settling the dispute with Danone over the WPC80 recall issues. It was also announced that Chief Executive Theo Spierings would be leaving Fonterra later in the year. Craigs Investment Partners broker, Peter McIntyre, said key issues included profits being down materially, largely due to Beingmate, and that the board needed to deal with the issue. He added that the next step would be to restore Beingmate's performance which looked difficult. According to Forsyth Barr Broker, Damian Foster, the write-down was larger than he anticipated.

**Synlait posts record first-half net profit** [21 March/The Country] Dairy company Synlait posted a record first-half net profit mainly due to its relationship with The a2 Milk Company and its increased manufacture of high-margin products. Profit increased from \$10.2 million in the previous year to \$40.7 million in the six months ended 31 January. Synlait expected the second half to not be as strong as the first half, however still forecast strong overall earnings growth for the year. Synlait shares have more than doubled in price over the past year. Synlait's Managing Director, John Penno, said their relationship with The a2 Milk Company continued to strengthen. Synlait had invested into its new Auckland blending and canning facility, the new wet mix kitchen at Synlait Dunsandel and it also established a new research and development centre in Palmerston North.

**Dairy product prices down at GDT** [21 March/The Country] At the Global Dairy Trade Auction, dairy products fell, whereas whole milk powder increased unexpectedly despite unfavourable weather conditions. The overall GDT index fell 1.2 percent. AgriHQ Dairy Analyst, Amy Castleton, said that demand from North Asia was strong and that New Zealand milk production data will have also likely helped the whole milk powder result. Skim milk powder dropped 8.6 percent and cheddar fell 3.9 percent. Rennet casein decreased by 2.9 percent while anhydrous milk remained stable. There were 125 winning bidders out of 170 participating in the auction. The number of registered bidders was down to 513 from 529 at the previous auction.

**Southlander Loshni Manikam named Dairy Woman of the Year** [23 March/NZ Farmer] Human Behaviour and Leadership Expert, Loshni Manikam, was named 2018 Dairy Woman of the Year at the Dairy Women's Network Conference last week. The awards ceremony was held on 23 March in Rotorua. Ms Manikam, originally from South Africa, milks 600 cows with her husband and three children in Southland. She is a trustee of the Southern Dairy Development Trust, a coach and facilitator of the Agri-Womens Development Trust's Escalator Programme, and a Federated Farmers Southland executive member. She said good leadership required high IQ and the ability to listen. She noted the dairy industry needed to keep working on its culture to make it an attractive career. Taupo Dairy Farmer, Kylie Leonard, was also recognised and awarded the Dairy Community Leadership Award. Ms Leonard was pleased with her award and said it confirmed to her that she was doing the right thing. She milks 400 cows with her husband and daughters in Oranui, Taupo.

**Farmers are the brand for New Zealand dairy industry** [26 March/NZ Farmer] According to Dairy Industry Leader and CEO of TheLand, Justine Kidd, the industry needed to shift from its traditional business models to one that worked closely with manufacturers. It would be a shift from the co-operative model where farmers believe they need to own the value chain, to one that collaborates with managers. She said the model is already used in the Chinese market and that the profit-share model differed from the traditional supermarket one as we provide the product, they sell it and we share all of the profit. Ms Kidd noted that her company's main customer was the Chinese market, which saw the world differently. She noted the big four drivers were that they wanted to be able to present happy people, happy cows, clean air and clean water. She said as farmers they needed to understand their value. Ms Kidd noted that our future would be increased customer and milk segmentation such as grass fed only or breed specific.

## Water

**Waimea Irrigators extend water share sale deadline by two more weeks** [25 March/Stuff] Waimea Irrigators Limited originally intended to close its offer on its water shares on 22 March, however they announced that it would stay open for a further two weeks. WIL Board Member, Julian Raine, said the board had received enough feedback that people needed more time to consider the offer and that six weeks wasn't enough for most people. He added there were some common confusions and that they aimed to have 3,000 shares sold at \$5,500. The money will go towards WIL's portion of the Waimea Dam. Applications to date had been significant and Mr Raine said the company plans to go into partnership with the Tasman District Council to build the dam. Mr Raine assured farmers that the extension would not impact the dam timeline and that they were encouraged by the response so far. He noted that all other processes towards a final decision would continue to proceed as they had been.

## Biosecurity

**Officials to set up Cook Strait checkpoint to stop cattle disease** [23 March/NZ Farmer] To help stop the disease Mycoplasma Bovis travelling to the North Island, cattle crossing the Cook Strait will be checked from Friday. Minister of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Damien O'Connor, said farmers were not complying with their legal obligations under NAIT and that only 57 percent of farmers who record their animal movements do so within 48 hours as required. Fines of up to \$10,000 can be issued for non-compliance, however since its introduction only one infringement of \$150 has been issued. Mr O'Connor added the operation was likely to extend to other parts of the country and that he encouraged farmers to improve their compliance. He noted the disease is spread through movement of infected cattle from farm to farm. Federated Farmers Dairy Chairman, Chris Lewis, supported the move and called it a reminder to farmers to get themselves in line.

**Rare Ornate skink discovery in southern Hawke's Bay extends creature's unknown range** [26 March/The Country] An Ornate skink, a rare native skink, was found in southern Hawke's Bay which extended the creature's known range. The Horizons Regional Council biodiversity advisor spotted an Ornate skink earlier this year at a farm east of Dannevirke. The skink is widespread throughout the North Island, however previously there was a gap in the Hawke's Bay. HRC Environmental Manager, Ruth Fleeson, said the finding had narrowed the gap and that there may be more. The population size is unknown, but is decreasing due to habitat loss, predators and disturbance according to Ms Fleeson. She added that we needed to reduce predators and restore and create areas of native bush to reduce habitat destruction. Ornate skinks can be identified by the markings around their face with a white or yellow teardrop edged with black below each eye.

**MPI cattle cull 'the right thing'** [27 March/Rural Life] The Ministry for Primary Industries announced it would cull 22,332 cattle at sites infected with Mycoplasma Bovis as a tragic necessity. Federated Farmers North Otago Dairy Chairman, Lyndon Strang, said it was the right thing for agriculture and that he hoped the compensation process happened quickly. The government approved \$85 million in funding. Mr Strang said farmers were in support of the cull and that they would need moral support. VetSouth Director of Mycoplasma Bovis Action and Support Southland, Mark Bryan, added farmers whose cattle were infected knew a cull was necessary. MPI response director, Geoff Gwynn, said the Ministry was working with farmers around the logistics of the cull. Non-infected farms under restricted places were not asked to cull herds at this point. Agriculture and Biosecurity Minister, Damien O'Connor, said the culling would give farmers certainty about their futures.

**Wool**

**Report underlines benefits of natural fibres** [21 March/Otago Daily Times] The New Zealand Merino Company is investing in research to look at the impacts of microplastics on the environment and the benefits of natural fibres as a solution. Its Chief Executive, John Brakenridge, said New Zealand was in a position to provide sustainable fibre alternatives. Synthetic textiles created microplastics through abrasion and shedding of fibres, which were then discharged in wastewater and potentially ended up in the ocean. Particles released during the washing of synthetic clothing accounted for 35% of this pollution, according to a report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Mr Brakenridge added that there is high interest in sustainable wool fibre and referenced the shoe company Allbirds who had a business model based on natural fibres.

**Wool stained yellow by hot summer weather** [26 March/Rural Life] Due to an unusually hot and humid summer, wool in the North Island has been stained yellow which has made it harder to sell, with prices suffering as a consequence. Hawke's Bay Wool Broker, Philippa Wright, said some North Island farmers weren't affected but overall there was a difference. Ms Wright said the hot humid and wet weather was worst for North Island growers, particularly in Hawke's Bay. She added there was a drop in their wool colour range and that there was nothing anyone could do about it. She noted that it limited the ability for dyeing the wool and where it can go. It had a detrimental effect on farmers. The wool selling process was harder and slower than usual. She said one upside to the weather was the favourable grass growth.

**Apiculture**

**Another victory in case for mānuka's NZ origin** [22 March/Radio NZ] The Mānuka Honey Appellation Society has certified the term 'mānuka honey' in New Zealand. The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand accepted the term and said the certification meant it would differentiate New Zealand's honey from other countries such as Australia. The society's spokesperson, John Rawcliffe, emphasised the result was a step forward for New Zealand and followed from a similar UK Trade Registry decision last year. He noted that we were well ahead of where we were three months ago. Ngāti Porou Miere Limited Partnership spokesperson, Victor Goldsmith, was pleased with the decision and said it effectively recognised that it was a Maori word that had important cultural significance and validated the position they held in terms of protecting it for current and future generations.

**Watson & Son plans restructure as sales head exits** [22 March/National Business Review] Honey firm Watson & Son is reported to be consulting on a restructure under the full ownership of Ngai Tahu, meaning staff might need to reapply for the jobs. The Iwi said it would buy out Watson & Son founder Denis Watson, following on from the half share of the company it had bought in October 2017. Watson & Co's Chief Executive, Nadine Tunley, said the consultation had closed however did not make further comment. It is unclear how many jobs will be affected if it goes through, however a document indicated there would be job losses in some areas and job gains in others. The company would also split its HR function to have a health and safety role.

**Farmers and producers**

**Farm sales continue downward trend** [20 March/Radio NZ] Farm sales were on a downward trend with 12 percent fewer properties sold in the three months to February compared to last year. The average price per hectare has risen by half a percent. The Real Estate Institute's spokesperson, Brian Peacocke, said farm sales were easing mainly due to the time of the year with labour related decisions being made. This meant they had to lock the labour in for the upcoming season and would not sell without the labour being catered for. He noted that in Eastern Waikato there was a late surge of farms being put on the market. Overall, dairy farm prices had fallen 9 percent in the past year and he said it was likely due to the cautious tone in the marketplace. The forestry sector was also seeing interesting trends as a result of the government's one billion trees plan, with increased interest in forestry land in Northland and Southland. The horticulture sector saw the median price fall 5.3 percent over the past year.

**Manawatu dairy winners aim to pay off \$100,000 a year to improve herd** [26 March/NZ Farmer] Wendy and Richard Ridd won the Manawatu dairy industry sharemilkers award and planned to pay off their debt at \$100,000 a year whilst simultaneously improving herd performance. Ms Ridd said their core values were respect, teamwork, price and education, and that they had come to understand how important the relationships with the people they deal with were. She said they were passionate about the industry but they saw threats in the way of payout volatilities, interest rates, biosecurity and public perception. Manawatu farm manager of the year, Ange Strawbridge, said having a work life balance was tough. She added that people were the strengths of the farm she worked for, and said heavy soil and pugging was their main issue. Her short term goals involved caring for her three children.

**Details of Young Farmer of the Year Grand Final revealed** [27 March/Scoop] The FMG Young Farmer of The Year will be announced in Invercargill in four months' time. It will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award and the finalists are to be decided at the Otago/Southland Regional Final in Winton on 21 April. Event Convenor, James Goodwin, said they hoped to have 1,200 people in attendance. Finalists will go through a technical day while NZ Young Farmers members will explore Southland on a mystery bus trip. The week full of events and awards will culminate with the 50<sup>th</sup> FMG Young Farmer of the Year being awarded on Saturday night. He noted that the journey to the final is emotional and this year would be no different.

**International**

**Monsanto Growth Ventures backs CRISPR start-up Pairwise in \$25m Series A** [20 March/AgFunder] Pairwise Plants, a gene-editing company, raised \$25 million in a Series A round co-led by Monsanto Growth Ventures and Deerfield Management. They have licenced programmable based editing technology which will leverage CRISPR-based technologies to create new crop varieties with favourable traits. Pairwise work with Monsanto in corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton and canola crops. Monsanto Growth Ventures Spokesperson, Kiersten Stead, said that Pairwise would have the capability to bring gene-editing to crops beyond row crops that most research has focused on to date. She added that gene editing is far less developed in speciality crops, and that this would make Pairwise one of the most transformational companies across agriculture. Pairwise CEO, Dr Tom Adams, said their goal was to solve agriculture problems across a wide range of food systems that were also acknowledged social problems.

**Trade war rips through farm world; soybean, hog prices fall** [24 March/Bloomberg] Following President Trump's announcement of tariffs on Chinese imports to the US, China has been quick to implement reciprocal tariffs on U.S. imports which put commodities in the middle of a trade war. Soybean and hog futures fell as a result. Other commodities such as steel, ethanol, almonds, fresh and dried fruits were also affected. China is the world's biggest pork producer, consumer and importer and were planning to put a 25 percent tax on U.S. imports of the meat. Beijing had not yet targeted U.S. soybeans, however speculation mounted that it could be next which would be a huge blow for U.S. farmers with exports to China worth \$14 billion annually. Advanced Economic Solutions President, Bill Lapp, said the market feared bigger and broader tariffs being imposed and that Brazil was harvesting a record crop. Soybean futures fell up to 2 percent on the Chicago Board of Trade and hog futures fell 1.8 percent on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

**Bayer clears EU hurdle for Monsanto deal with sale to BASF** [21 March/Bloomberg] Bayer AG won European Union approval for its deal to takeover Monsanto Co. As part of the arrangement Bayer will sell BASF various vegetable seeds, pesticides and digital agriculture technology businesses. EU Competition Commissioner, Margrethe Vestager, said they needed competition to ensure farmers had a choice of different seed varieties and pesticides at affordable prices. Bayer and Monsanto still need to convince U.S. regulators who were pushing for the companies to divest more assets to resolve antitrust concerns. According to Bayer, it was still aiming to complete the Monsanto acquisition by the end of the second quarter. Chief Executive Officer, Werner Baumann, added that the receipt of the European Commission's approval was a major success. The merger decision was arguably Vestager's most controversial and environmentalists have been trying to stop the merger that threatened to harm human health, farming and the environment. BASF will also take over Monsanto's NemaStrike unit to protect seeds from worms.

**NMPF hails victory over plant-based 'milks' in spending bill, PBFA says claims have 'zero legal significance'** [23 March/Food Navigator] The omnibus spending bill that was passed by the US Congress directs the FDA to enforce dairy standards of identity to crack down on plant-based imitators, according to the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF). The Plant Based Foods Association (PBFA) said the paragraph in question had no legal significance. NMPF President and CEO, Jim Mulhern, said although standards already exist, they are not enforced. The real emphasis was to enforce the definition of what was and wasn't milk. PBFA Executive Director, Michele Simon, claimed National Milk was engaging in deceptive tactics and that the bill had zero legal significance. A petition by the Good Food Institute in 2017 called for the FDA to formally recognise terms like almond milk. The NMPF argued this was an issue of nutritional equivalency, not whether consumers thought it came from cows. Courts handling cases around plant milks pointed out that the standard of identity for milk does not prevent food products having names that include the word.

#### Animal health

**Rabbits, rabbits everywhere- could we have found a solution?** [26 March/NZ Farmer] The rabbit haemorrhagic disease (RHD) was re-released to curb the growing wild rabbit population. It was previously released in 1997, however after 20 years its effect was decreasing. Farmers are generally relieved by the news, and some were desperate according to Mackenzie Country Runholder, Andrew Simpson. He said the timing was critical for some areas to prevent property damage. The previous introduction was a covert undertaking by farmers, and it wasn't until several weeks later that dead rabbits were found to have died of RHD. Rabbits were introduced in the 1800's for food and sport. Biosecurity Team Leader at Environment Canterbury, Brent Glentworth, said since its release, RHD had become less effective and rabbits now had antibodies to RHD. RHD was still seen as an effective control. Federated Farmers President, Mark Adams, said that it was necessary to prevent the catastrophic damage rabbits can do.

#### Agribusiness strategy

**Farmers given food for thought** [26 March/Rural Life] Professor Keith Woodford raised an idea that Hakataramea Valley farmers could market their products directly to consumers. The Hakataramea Sustainability Collective comprises farmers whose aim is to assist and encourage the protection and enhancement of the valley's environment and promote sustainability. Mr Woodford was optimistic about the sheep industry and wasn't concerned about alternative proteins. He added that the U.S. and Europe were capable of producing enough of their own products, but there were exceptions such as sheep. He noted that in China, food safety was of the foremost concern, followed by general health and wellbeing status so marketing to that economy required a different strategy to the U.S. He believed the Hakataramea had a wonderful story and presented a chance to create a brand centred on the region.

#### Sheep milk

**Sheep milking serious business** [23 March/Rural News] According to Massey University Associate Professor, Craig Prichard, the sheep milk industry has made huge strides over the last four years. The annual Sheep Milking Conference last week attracted 150 people, up from only 16 four years ago according to Mr Prichard. He said the industry has moved from an interesting idea to a serious business with a future. He added that industry confidence had increased and that new genetics to increase milk production were important. He noted people were making careful decisions to engage with the new sector and that even though cow milk prices were high there was still interest. This was an opportunity for diversification. He said there is a lot of ongoing research and that there were good stories coming from the environmental side. Mr Prichard hoped some established cheese makers would also get involved.

**Spring Sheep business manager wins agribusiness award** [26 March/NZ Farmer] Spring Sheep Milk Company Business Manager, Thomas Macdonald, won the 2018 Zanda McDonald award which recognised agriculture's most innovative young professionals in Australasia. The award is run by the Platinum Primary Producers Group. Mr Macdonald was pleased with the award and was excited about the direct access he would get to the knowledge that exists within the PPP Group's membership. He said that he was looking forward to spending time with top agriculture professionals. He was initially shortlisted with six others. PPP Group Chairman, Shane McManaway, described Mr Macdonald as a remarkable young man and gave him credit for achieving so much at a young age. He added that he was confident Mr Macdonald would embrace the mentoring opportunities that came with winning the award.

# Field Notes

Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness Network – 28 March 2018

## Red meat

**Beef + Lamb New Zealand elects new chairman** [26 March/Rural News] Southland sheep and beef farmer, Andrew Morrison, was appointed as the chairman of Beef + Lamb New Zealand. He was previously on the board representing the Southern South Island region and was elected at the annual meeting. He farms a total of 1,030 hectares of breeding and finishing units spread between Southland and Otago along with his wife. He said that he loved the sector and that although it was not always easy, it was a great values-based sector to be a part of. He added that he was a believer in the contribution healthy rural communities made to the wider economy. He will be leading Beef + Lamb NZ as they implement a new strategy to put more emphasis on enhancing farmers' environmental positions.

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## Contact Us

<b>Auckland/ Audit</b> <b>Ian Proudfoot</b> 09 367 5882 021 656 815 iproudfoot@kpmg.co.nz	<b>Taxation</b> <b>Greg Knowles</b> 09 367 5989 021 307 332 gknowles@kpmg.co.nz	<b>Tauranga</b> <b>Robert Lee</b> 07 571 1773 027 451 1035 relee@kpmg.co.nz	<b>Wellington</b> <b>Graeme Edwards</b> 04 816 4522 027 296 5050 gdedwards@kpmg.co.nz
<b>Christchurch</b> <b>Andrew Hawkes</b> 03 353 0093 027 508 0135 ahawkes@kpmg.co.nz	<b>Financial Advisory Services</b> <b>Gary Ivory</b> 09 367 5943 021 932 890 givory@kpmg.co.nz	<b>Management Consulting</b> <b>Simon Hunter</b> 09 367 5881 027489 9737 simonhunter@kpmg.co.nz	<b>Hamilton/ Private Enterprise</b> <b>Hamish McDonald</b> 07 858 6519 021 586 519 hamishmcdonald@kpmg.co.nz
<b>Ashburton/ Private Enterprise</b> <b>Maurice Myers</b> 03 307 0768 027 208 3405 mauricemyers@kpmg.co.nz	<b>Farm Enterprise</b> <b>North Island</b> <b>Roger Wilson</b> 07 858 6520 027 281 9575 rogerwilson@kpmg.co.nz	<b>Julia Jones</b> 07 858 6553 027 524 8901 juliajones1@kpmg.co.nz	<b>South Island</b> <b>Brent Love</b> 03 683 1871 027 528 1537 blove@kpmg.co.nz

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

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