

WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT:

Farm Advisors NZ Ltd & AgSafe NZ Ltd

Property & Farm Management Consultants & Safety Consultants

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Website: www.farmconsulting.co.nz <http://agsafe.nz> Follow AgSafe on Facebook.

20 April 2024

Daily grass growth rates:	Range 35 to 52 kg DM/ha/day.	
Average pasture cover:	2200 kg DM/ha.	
10 cm soil temperature:	16.4 °C	
Rainfall (Hamilton)– Month to date	42 mm	April 10 yr Av 90 mm.
Stock prices report:	Steers	\$3.160/kg
	Bulls	\$2.900/kg
	Boner Cows	\$1.930/kg
	Store lambs	\$ 82.15
	Feeder calves	\$234.39

The death this week of an elderly couple north of Auckland should serve as a reminder to us all that all animals are dangerous in certain circumstances. Males at mating times are particularly dangerous. If you have ever been hit with the full force of a sheep or a cattle beast head-on you will appreciate the damage they do. Stay safe!!

Week commencing 22 April 2024

	This Week Nth Is	This Week Sth	Last Week Av	1 Year ago
18 kg YX Lamb (cents/kg)	\$5.75	\$5.50	\$5.62	\$6.92
21 kg Mutton (cents/kg)	\$2.35	\$2.30	\$2.32	\$4.10
P2 Steer (270 to 295 kg)	\$5.50	\$5.10	\$5.30	\$5.45
M Cow (160 to 195 kg)	\$3.65	\$3.40	\$3.52	\$3.45
Bull (270 to 295 kg)	\$5.50	\$5.10	\$5.30	\$5.30
Venison (60 kg AP Stag)	\$8.65	\$8.75	\$8.70	\$8.82
		Previous Week	1 year ago	2 yrs ago
Fine Crossbred Indicator price	\$3.44	\$3.44	\$ 3.42	\$ 3.24
Mid Micron Indicator price	\$5.13	\$5.13	\$ 7.32	\$ 6.31
Butter (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$11,075	\$11,075	\$ 7600	\$10,100
Skim Milk Powder (SMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 4250	\$ 4250	\$ 4300	\$ 6750
Whole Milk Powder (WMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 5425	\$ 5425	\$ 5175	\$ 6475
Cheddar Cheese (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 7325	\$ 7325	\$ 6850	\$ 9250
Casein (lactose casein NZ \$ per tonne)	\$13,600	\$13,600	\$20,350	\$ 16,700
Global Dairy Trade Index	1086	1084	996	1507
US currency	\$0.588	\$0.600	\$0.615	\$0.651
Euro	\$0.553	\$0.556	\$0.560	\$0.619
Australian dollar	\$0.919	\$0.917	\$0.917	\$0.911

Finance: The NZ dollar eased through the week against the strengthening economies of our trading partners while NZ continues in recession. Brent crude prices fell again in spite of the tension in the Middle East. Now trading at \$US87/barrel!!

Wool: Wool prices remain in the doldrums. There must be something that large volumes can be used for!! Ideas are needed!!

Beef, Sheep & Venison schedules: All meat schedules are steady for the coming week with some minor intercompany changes noted. Lamb prices are disappointing and some are predicting further falls. You can't beat a good lamb roast!!

Dairy Prices: The g/DT lifted 0.1% and most farmers were satisfied as it didn't go down!! WMP lifted 0.4% to \$US3269/tn while SMP stayed steady with no movement. Cheddar and butter both eased with cheddar down 8.5%.

The five South Island First Aid courses are now open for registration. Practical Training Solutions in conjunction with the Dairy Women's Network. 6 May 2024 Gore, 7 May 2024 Balclutha, 8 May 2024 Weston, 9 May 2024 Rakaia, 10 May 2024 Rotherham. Courses are from 9:45am – 2:30pm.

Get your First Aid certificates up to date and help make your rural communities safer!!!

Quote: “It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them, because in spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart.”

Need Help. If at any time you just want to talk about being isolated on your farm and to have a chat, just call me – no charges!! 027-2872886. Rural Support Trust 0800-787-245. Lifeline 0800-543354. Crisis TXT – HELP (4357)

You can hear us live on the radio on Monday morning at 7.35 am with Brian Kelly on Country Sport Breakfast – Radio NZ Gold AM. 792 AM in the Waikato & 1332 AM in Auckland.

Jim's Weekly Rant:

There has been a lot of criticism around the management of the Reserve Bank and the Governor over recent weeks. Adrian Orr was part of the money printing brigade through Covid which supposedly kept the economy running at the expense of our future. We are now living with the great money printing program and the new government is trying to curb the higher inflation rate which exceeds the stated inflation targets. To lower the inflation rate the managers of the economy requires the economy to have less money sloshing around. The high OCR interest rates are a direct result of the previous government's money printing program and the need to lower the inflation rate while in recession. I sit with the few who would like the Reserve Bank and the Government to reassess the target inflation rate and lift the targets to say 2.5% to 4% which is up from the 1% to 3% which is the current target. Lifting the inflation target would allow the Reserve Bank to lower the OCR earlier and then the interest rates would fall. A 2.5% to 4% inflation target is not out of step with the rest of the world but would benefit all businesses and allow us to accept an inflation rate that is less than what we are all experiencing now, but higher than the target rate that may not be achieved for another 18-months under the current Reserve Bank management strategies. The dogged or stubborn requirement for a lower inflation rate will leave us in recession for longer and continue to slow industry and economic growth, and it is the economic growth that will lift us out of recession. There are some simple old-fashioned economic paradigms that seem to be ignored as business and industry fail. I mentioned a couple of weeks ago a simple measure of economic performance where a friend has a cobblers shop in Meadowbank in Auckland, a middle to upper-class suburb. When the economy is struggling he does well as people get their shoes repaired instead of buying new ones. He has not been as busy as he is now for years!!! I was asked at a social event this week, how are the farmers going? The answer was short and simple. The dairy farmers are expecting to break even, the goat farmers are down and might be out, the sheep farmers are struggling and wondering why no one likes their lamb meat and the beef farmers are hoping the schedules don't go any lower!!! In simple terms life is tough down on the farm and lower interest rates would be a great start to restoring some confidence in the rural sector!! When the rural sector in NZ is going well, the whole economy goes well. Let's get the country going again and I believe it is simple, alter the inflation targets and allow the OCR to come down so interest rates can fall, and businesses can start to make a profit!!

Get yourself a copy of a great book - “Green Murder – a life sentence of net zero with no parole”. Author - Dr Ian Plimer and perhaps the best known Australian geologist.

Dr Ian Plimer has recently published a series of Three easy to read books for ankle-biters, teenagers and adults.

Also: Global Warming, a counter-blast to the man-made global warming hypothesis - Dr Kelvin Duncan (Tross press)

Take 1.25hrs to watch the Video “Climate the Movie” produced by Nigel Durkin!!

Contact AgSafe NZ Ltd - Phone 027-2872886. We can prepare your Work Safe manual and hazard management plan at a very competitive price. We can arrange drug tests and farm maps for your property.

Calf rearing is important for your future production – Check out the Bell-Booth “*Queen of Calves*” rearing plan. There is research data from Massey University measuring the benefits. They are clearly documented and the long-term benefits are more production per cow and longevity of the animals!! Research has shown calves can be weaned approximately 22 days earlier when Queen of Calves is used.

Q-Labs for your comprehensive farm soil & nutrient test. Qlabs are based in Waipawa.

Soils: Full Soil Analysis, Soil Respiration Test, Home Garden Soil Testing

Feeds: Full Feed Analysis, Ruminant Nitrogen Utilization Efficiency (RNUE), ME (Metabolizable Energy), Feed Single Element, DM (Dry Matter), Nitrate (Feeds)

Waters & Effluents: In Depth Water Test, Water - Bacterial, Water - Extras, Dairy Effluent (TKN), Dairy Effluent (Totals). Check out their services at [www.qlabs.co.nz](http://www qlabs.co.nz) Phone 0800-857733

Drone Spraying a cost-effective way to spray weeds, sow grass seed etc. www.dronespraying.co.nz Check it out and contact Jordan Salmon email jordan@dronezap.co.nz

For first aid training contact Practical Training Solutions - <https://www.practicaltrainingsolutions.co.nz/>

If have problems & a Mediator is required, reach out to Rachel on 021 919 463 or rachel@mendingfences.co.nz, or visit the website <https://mendingfences.co.nz/>

Spore Counts		Date: 18/4/2024	Week 15	
	No's Sites Monitored	Average count	Highest count	Risk assessed on highest count
Kaitaia				
Kaikohe / BOI				
Whangarei				
Dargaville / Ruawai	6	17500	70000	High
Mangawhai/Kaipara				
North Kaipara				
Rodney				
North Shore				
Tauranga				
Te Puke				
Whakatane	13	23846	55000	Moderate
Opotiki				
Rotorua				
Franklin	1	0	0	Low
Manurewa				
Whitianga	3	23333	30000	Moderate
Waihi				
Hauraki Plains				
Piako				
Waikato	7	27429	80000	High
North Waikato				
Hamilton				
Morrinsville				
Matamata				
Raglan				
Waipa				
Otorohanga				
Waitomo	13	8462	25000	Low
Taupo				
South Waikato				
New Plymouth				
Stratford				
South Taranaki/Wanganui				
Ruapheu				
Gisborne	2	107250	181500	Extreme
Hawkes Bay				
Wairoa				
Rangitikei/Ruapehu				
Manawatu	6	10542	60500	High
Horowhenua				
Tararua				
Wairarapa				
Canterbury				
Marlborough				
West Coast	6	23333	55000	Moderate

The action threshold is 20. <30,000 = Low, 30k to 60,000 = Moderate, 60k to 100,000 = High Plus 100,000 = Extreme