

WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT: Farm Advisors NZ Ltd & AgSafe NZ Ltd

Property & Farm Management Consultants & Safety Consultants

Phone: 027-2872886; e-mail: findlay@farmconsulting.co.nz **We are located at Innovation Park in Hamilton.**

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

27 April 2024

Daily grass growth rates:	Range 38 to 56 kg DM/ha/day.	
Average pasture cover:	2225 kg DM/ha.	
10 cm soil temperature:	15.2 °C	
Rainfall (Hamilton)– Month to date	68 mm	April 10 yr Av 90 mm.
Stock prices report:	Steers	\$2.890/kg
	Bulls	\$2.800/kg
	Boner Cows	\$1.780/kg
	Store lambs	\$ 87.65
	Feeder calves	\$237.15

It's been a week around Health & Safety with discussions around the Acts requirements and cross liabilities early in the week and then dealing with a tractor accident on Friday where an out of control tractor required the driver to have a helicopter ride to hospital. The accident highlights the need for first aid training – see the South Island courses below.

Week commencing 29 April 2024

	This Week Nth Is	This Week Sth	Last Week Av	1 Year ago
18 kg YX Lamb (cents/kg)	\$5.75	\$5.45 -	\$5.62	\$6.92
21 kg Mutton (cents/kg)	\$2.50 +	\$2.30	\$2.32	\$4.10
P2 Steer (270 to 295 kg)	\$5.50	\$4.95 -	\$5.30	\$5.45
M Cow (160 to 195 kg)	\$3.50 -	\$3.15 -	\$3.52	\$3.45
Bull (270 to 295 kg)	\$5.50	\$5.00 -	\$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	\$3.30	\$3.44	\$ 3.41	\$ 3.24
Mid Micron Indicator price	\$5.13	\$5.13	\$ 7.32	\$ 6.31
Butter (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$11,075	\$11,075	\$ 7775	\$10,100
Skim Milk Powder (SMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 4250	\$ 4250	\$ 4625	\$ 6750
Whole Milk Powder (WMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 5425	\$ 5425	\$ 5000	\$ 6475
Cheddar Cheese (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 7325	\$ 7325	\$ 7275	\$ 9250
Casein (lactose casein NZ \$ per tonne)	\$13,600	\$13,600	\$19,750	\$ 16,700
Global Dairy Trade Index	1086	1084	996	1507
US currency	\$0.597	\$0.588	\$0.614	\$0.642
Euro	\$0.555	\$0.536	\$0.558	\$0.610
Australian dollar	\$0.913	\$0.919	\$0.929	\$0.903

Finance: The NZ dollar was steady over the week finishing marginally ahead of last week. Brent Crude is trading at \$US89/barrel!!

Wool: Wool prices remain in the doldrums. There is some optimism as the Napier wool processors reopens!!

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 pundits are predicting further falls.

Dairy Prices: The season is nearing an end and suppliers are still hopeful of an \$8.00 payout. Fonterra profits have been good adding to the hope!!!

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: “Look for three things in a person – intelligence, energy and integrity. If they don’t have the last one, don’t even bother with the first two!!.”

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:

*I am back ranting about employment again as the main dairy season comes to an end and a new one is about to start. But it is the changes to the immigration system that is now placing pressure on the rural sector with the ridiculous changes to the process for employing immigrants. There is a massive shortage of good staff in the rural sector across all levels, that’s from the very basic entry level employee through to farm managers. The entry-level staff are essential as they are the ones who learn the many necessary skills and progress through the system by being nurtured by the industry. The new system allows immigrant labour to enter the workforce at a Herd Managers level with 3-years of industry experience or a Bachelors Degree or equivalent. To start an immigrant at this level on a minimum of \$31.61 per hour compared with the minimum hourly rate for a New Zealand resident of \$23.15 per hour is a nonsense. Many immigrants have had the necessary three years of experience, but it has often been in specialist areas on factory type farms overseas or on small holdings where they farm less than 20 cows. And we have to offer them management- type positions to help top-up the employment pool. To employ an immigrant the employer must be an **Accredited Employer** and that process takes time and costs the employer money. There are 2 levels of Accredited Employers, with the most common being those with less than 5 employees and “tokens” are made available for each position on offer. The employees are screened and categorized via the ANZSCO system. The ANZSCO categorization identifies various skill levels being 1 to 6. Levels 1 to 3 are for management positions and above while level 4 to 6 are the labouring or entry level positions. The level 4 to 6 skill levels make it nearly impossible to employ and bring staff into the country to fill that very necessary farm assistant position. It is hard enough for the level 1 to 3. The skill levels 4 to 6 are where our entry level employees begin their careers and they are essential for the industry. I think we all understand the reasons to better control immigration, but the current changes are detrimental to agriculture and while the government has said they want to get NZ moving again and fast track some developments, they have stuffed the existing system up even further. Before the Accredited Employers accreditation was introduced the system worked OK, it is now a bureaucratic nightmare and the agricultural industry is being disadvantaged as a result of the changes. Federated Farmers has spoken out against the changes and I have voiced my frustrations to Immigration NZ, but we all need to do more because it is very difficult to find young New Zealand people who are wanting to go farming, and part of that is because previous regimes have promoted farmers in a negative light!!*

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 on YouTube - “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: 25/4/2024	Week 16	
	No's Sites Monitored	Average count	Highest count	Risk assessed on highest count
<i>Kaitaia</i>				
<i>Kaikohe / BOI</i>				
<i>Whangarei</i>				
<i>Dargaville / Ruawai</i>				
<i>Mangawhai/Kaipara</i>				
<i>North Kaipara</i>				
<i>Rodney</i>				
<i>North Shore</i>				
<i>Tauranga</i>				
<i>Te Puke</i>				
<i>Whakatane</i>	14	36786	105000	Extreme
<i>Opotiki</i>				
<i>Rotorua</i>				
<i>Franklin</i>	1	16000	16000	Low
<i>Manurewa</i>				
<i>Whitianga</i>				
<i>Waihi</i>				
<i>Hauraki Plains</i>				
<i>Piako</i>				
<i>Waikato</i>				
<i>North Waikato</i>				
<i>Hamilton</i>				
<i>Morrinsville</i>				
<i>Matamata</i>				
<i>Raglan</i>				
<i>Waipa</i>				
<i>Otorohanga</i>				
<i>Waitomo</i>	3	16667	30000	Low
<i>Taupo</i>				
<i>South Waikato</i>				
<i>New Plymouth</i>				
<i>Stratford</i>				
<i>South Taranaki/Wanganui</i>				
<i>Ruapheu</i>				
<i>Gisborne</i>				
<i>Hawkes Bay</i>				
<i>Wairoa</i>				
<i>Rangitikei/Ruapehu</i>				
<i>Manawatu</i>	4	8250	11000	Low
<i>Horowhenua</i>				
<i>Tararua</i>				
<i>Wairarapa</i>				
<i>Canterbury</i>				
<i>Marlborough</i>	12	21267	24200	Low
<i>West Coast</i>	6	8333	15000	Low

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