

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.

6 April 2024

Daily grass growth rates:	Range 35 to 58 kg DM/ha/day.	
Average pasture cover:	2200 kg DM/ha.	
10 cm soil temperature:	18.0 °C	
Rainfall (Hamilton)– Month to date	5 mm	April 10 yr Av 90 mm.
Stock prices report:	Steers	\$2.870/kg
	Bulls	\$1.840/kg
	Boner Cows	\$1.790/kg
	Store lambs	\$ 77.50
	Feeder calves	\$221.00

It is time to condition score the herd & make sure there is enough time to achieve your target or desired condition score before the end of May as that is only 55 days away!! 1 condition score is +/-30 kg liveweight. Cows typically need +/-7kg DM to put on 1 kg liveweight & a pregnant cow needs +/-6.5 kg DM for maintenance. Assuming quality feeds!!

Week commencing 8 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	\$2.20	\$2.27	\$4.10
P2 Steer (270 to 295 kg)	\$5.50	\$5.00	\$5.25	\$5.45
M Cow (160 to 195 kg)	\$3.75	\$3.55	\$3.65	\$3.50
Bull (270 to 295 kg)	\$5.50	\$5.00	\$5.25	\$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)	\$10,650	\$10,675	\$ 7600	\$10,100
Skim Milk Powder (SMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 4000	\$ 4200	\$ 4300	\$ 6750
Whole Milk Powder (WMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 5050	\$ 5225	\$ 5175	\$ 6475
Cheddar Cheese (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 7025	\$ 7050	\$ 6850	\$ 9250
Casein (lactose casein NZ \$ per tonne)	\$13,400	\$13,430	\$20,350	\$ 16,700
Global Dairy Trade Index	1084	1055	964	1564
US currency	\$0.601	\$0.608	\$0.630	\$0.682
Euro	\$0.555	\$0.554	\$0.578	\$0.626
Australian dollar	\$0.915	\$0.917	\$0.940	\$0.160

Finance: The NZ dollar remained steady over the week finishing marginally below the previous week . Brent crude prices are rising and are currently around \$91/barrel - fuel prices will be on the rise!!

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

Beef, Sheep & Venison schedules: All meat schedules are steady for the coming week with some minor intercompany changes noted. Yard prices for autumn born calves are high as the autumn calving peaks.

Dairy Prices: The g/DT lifted 2.8% at the latest auction. WMP up 3.4% to \$US3246, SMP up 1.4% to \$2550 and cheddar lifted 4.1%. It was a positive result after recent falls & should underpin the improving payout predictions.

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

Quote: “Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.”

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:

With three reported tractor related accidents last weekend it is perhaps time to go back to some comments regarding rural safety and other legislative stuff that frustrates many of us.

In addition to the three tractor related incidents, where there was one death, there have been a number of accidents and deaths on quad-bikes on farm in recent weeks, one involving a child and of course the many accidents that do not get into the public domain. Some of the accidents and incidents that I have noted over recent times that are typical and need reminding about include:

- 1. Riding motorbikes on wet concrete feed-pads – the riders usually fall off with minor but annoying injuries taking them out of work for 5+ days. Don’t let staff ride the motorbikes on the feed-pads!!*
- 2. Failing to ensure the bike/quad has enough fuel for the tasks ahead. Running out of fuel while going up or across a slope can cause several problems and places the rider in danger. Believe me it still happens!!*
- 3. Excess THC’s from smoking dope – a sackable offence as it puts everyone in danger. The highest I have seen was 100-times over the suggested limit, & they just carry on as though nothing is a problem!!*
- 4. Excess alcohol. I am aware of a recent situation where the “boys” went across the farm in a ute afterhours and the ute rolled seriously injuring one of the employees. It was deemed to be recreation & not a workplace accident & the police charged the driver with DIC even though they were on private land. An interesting twist!!*
- 5. Trailers coming uncoupled from quad-bikes where there were passengers on the trailer – the drawbar digs-in and the passengers are catapulted off the trailer with serious injuries being incurred & even death!!*
- 6. Fatigue where staff have not used their days off to rest, but have partied the weekend away – Accidents occur when the fatigued operator is using machinery and they are common especially if you are contracting.*
- 7. And with White Island, we all know how the visitors knew of the danger, but the operators and the landowners failed in the eyes of the prosecutors to mitigate the danger. Most of us believe that telling someone is enough, but the Act requires those with the knowledge to intervene!!*

WorkSafe deals with the accidents and incidents that occur within the workplace and if it is deemed to be outside the workplace but still on private land the police can be involved and charges laid. Another matter that has been reported recently & is of concern is the seizing of property under the Proceeds of Crime Legislation - it involved a conviction under the Health & Safety at Work Act where the police used the criminal conviction of a workplace accident to seize property, but there were apparently other issues surrounding the operator that had never attracted a conviction, but the police wanted the business closed down. All farmers should take note of the White Island case where the Buddle Brothers who leased out the Island were convicted and the conviction exposes the liability of absentee owners including the lessors of farmland. A comprehensive Health & Safety policy will not stop accidents from happening, but it can help identify the areas of risk and help mitigate any future possible actions. Call AgSafe if you need a policy and H&S training.

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: 4/4/2024	Week 13	
	No's Sites Monitored	Average count	Highest count	Risk assessed on highest count
Kaitaia	4	13750	50000	Moderate
Kaikohe / BOI				
Whangarei	3	65000	100000	Extreme
Dargaville / Ruawai				
Mangawhai/Kaipara				
North Kaipara				
Rodney	3	5500	11000	Low
North Shore				
Tauranga				
Te Puke				
Whakatane	13	19615	75000	High
Opotiki				
Rotorua				
Franklin	2	26667	40000	Moderate
Manurewa				
Whitianga	3	20000	40000	Moderate
Waihi				
Hauraki Plains				
Piako				
Waikato				
North Waikato				
Hamilton	1	203000	203000	Extreme
Morrinsville				
Matamata				
Raglan				
Waipa				
Otorohanga				
Waitomo	13	15385	65000	High
Taupo				
South Waikato	2	27150	33300	Moderate
New Plymouth				
Stratford				
South Taranaki/Wanganui				
Ruapheu				
Gisborne				
Hawkes Bay				
Wairoa				
Rangitikei/Ruapehu				
Manawatu	1	133333	133333	Extreme
Horowhenua				
Tararua				
Wairarapa	4	26250	40000	Moderate
Canterbury				
Marlborough				
West Coast	3	35000	70000	High

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