

WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT:

Farm Advisors NZ Ltd & AgSafeNZ Ltd

Property & Farm Management Consultants & Safety Consultants

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

13 February 2021

Daily grass growth rates:	Range 15 to 35 kg DM/ha/day.
Average pasture cover:	1800 kg DM/ha.
10 cm soil temperature:	24.8°C
Rainfall (Hamilton)– Month to date:	15 mm. February 10 year Av 70 mm.
Stock prices report:	Prime steers \$2.447/kg
	Prime bulls \$2.404/kg
	Boner Cows \$1.492/kg
	Store lambs \$76.18
	Feeder Calves Nil sold
	Weaner bulls to 100 to 120 kg \$4.078/kg av \$443.58/head

During my travels around the greater Waikato over the week I have seen a lot of cows that are losing condition. The rain showers have probably given many farmers a little confidence that the grass will grow, but the water tables are still below ideal. It is important to reassess the management through to the end of the season now. Spore counts are rising!!!

Week commencing 15 February 2021

	This Week Nth Is	This Week Sth Is	Last Week Av	1 Year ago
18 kg YX Lamb (cents/kg)	\$6.40	\$6.05	\$6.32	\$6.88
21 kg Mutton (cents/kg)	\$4.95	\$4.90	\$4.99	\$4.57
P2 Steer (270 to 295 kg)	\$4.80	\$4.40	\$4.60	\$4.81
M Cow (160 to 195 kg)	\$3.45	\$3.45	\$3.45	\$3.60
Bull (270 to 295 kg)	\$4.80	\$4.45	\$4.62	\$4.85
Venison (60 kg AP Stag)	\$5.30	\$5.45	\$5.37	\$8.09
		Previous Week	1 year ago	2 yrs ago
Fine Crossbred Indicator price	\$2.45	\$2.45	\$ 3.42	\$ 3.27
Mid Micron Indicator price	\$8.63	\$8.63	\$9.98	\$8.66
Butter (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 6900	\$ 6900	\$ 6375	\$6525
Skim Milk Powder (SMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 4450	\$ 4450	\$ 4650	\$3775
Whole Milk Powder (WMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 4750	\$ 4750	\$ 4750	\$4450
Cheddar Cheese (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 5850	\$5850	\$ 6675	\$5175
Casein (lactose casein NZ \$ per tonne)	\$11200	\$11200	\$ 12800	\$8225
US currency	\$0.722	\$0.714	\$0.646	\$0.682
Euro	\$0.595	\$0.597	\$0.594	\$0.601
Australian dollar	\$0.932	\$0.941	\$0.957	\$0.958

Finance: The NZ dollar remained steady against the major trading currencies during the week, but did firm slightly against the US dollar while easing against the Australian dollar.

Wool: Wool prices are a disaster. However, the finer wools have lifted at the recent sales.

Beef, Sheep & Venison schedules: The meat schedules are mostly steady with only minor inter-company changes being noted for the coming week. Lamb schedules have eased slightly.

Dairy Prices: The dairy commodity outlook is positive. The g/DT has been steady since November 2016 where the index was 1001. November 2018 it had dropped to 846 then increased to November 2020 to 970. The index is currently at a high of 1136.

Early maize crops are being harvested while others are being “green fed” with cut and carry. If you are ensiling your maize, check with the contractors regarding harvesting dates as there is still a shortage of operators. Check the crop for maturity and have the bunkers ready so the contractors can arrive at the best/optimum time for you and your crop. Quality silage = quality feed = premium products.

Quote: *When you fear your struggles, your struggles consume you. When you face your struggles, you overcome them.*

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)

Jim's Weekly Rant:

*"You can't train stupid" is a common response we get when we post matters regarding accidents and health and safety on farms on our **AgSafe Facebook** page. It is an attitude that seems to pervade the brain of a number of people in the farming community that leads to complacency and a level of bravado and ignorance that often foreshadows accidents. The "stupid" label is best leveled at those who reject any form of instruction and show an early arrogance about the tasks being undertaken. The "stupid" label is also leveled at those think it is OK to operate plant and equipment while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The "stupid" label should also be leveled at the employer who fails to instruct an employee on how to operate or undertake a specific task. The "stupid" label could also be leveled at the person who fails to understand who can be deemed to be responsible under the Act. The use of the word stupid is seen as belittling and bullying and will often stop a discussion on a matter – if I disagree I am stupid so I shut-up!!!*

*There is a real frustration by businesses trying to operate within the Health & Safety at Work Act 2015 as there is no true defense, only mitigation. It is an Act of strict liability which is often referred to as absolute liability. Strict liability is **the legal responsibility for damages, or injury, even if the person found strictly liable was not at fault or negligent.** The use of strict liability was seen, in part, in a case reported in December 2020 where a charity farm worker (WOOF"s) was killed in a side x side accident. The driver of the side x side plead guilty to dangerous driving charges, and was convicted and discharged. The farm owner was later fined \$275,000 and ordered to pay an additional \$110,525 in reparation, even though he wasn't driving the vehicle. The farmer was found to be negligent as the door had been removed from the side x side, which is not uncommon, and the seatbelt was faulty, and they are not often used. It is the failure to understand the chain of responsibility that can put any of the parties at risk of prosecution together with the unwillingness to understand the working relationships between staff members and the ownership and management structure. These are all important and when understood the parties seem to look out for each other and a culture of safety is developed **and perhaps that is how we train stupid!!** The use of the word **stupid** is not one I would usually use and is perhaps the wrong word, but it is the one that keeps getting thrown up by farmers and staff.*

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. The early weaning saves milk and allows more milk to be sold!

QLabs 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 Utilisation 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

Check out our Facebook site **Citizens Reject Atmospheric Policies – CRAP**. We will keep you up-dated with access to properly researched and peer reviewed scientific papers from eminent astrophysicists and climate scientists. We are not interested in political papers from the hysterical masses!!!

AgDrive offers courses to upskill yourselves and your staff. It is important to ensure staff are upskilled and offered skill training courses - When there is an accident or incident that is investigated one important question that is always asked relates to the ongoing training offered and undertaken. AgDrive is an independent training establishment. For course details and training information contact Gareth 022-5300251 or Vinette 027-2844219.

<i>Spore Counts</i>	<i>The counts are the highest in the area noted</i>	<i>Date:</i>	12/2021	
		<i>No's Sites Monitored</i>	<i>Highest count</i>	<i>Risk assessed</i>
Northland	Kaitaia			
	Kaikohe / BOI			
	Whangarei	3	20	Low
	Dargaville / Ruawai	2	60	Moderate
	Mangawhai	6	110	Extreme
	Rodney			
Bay of Plenty	Tauranga	2	65	High
	Te Puke			
	Whakatane	6	25	Low
	Opotiki			
	Rotorua	1	5	Low
Auckland	Franklin	1	95	High
	Manurewa	2	5	Low
North Waikato	Whitianga	3	15	Low
	Waihi			
	Hauraki Plains			
	Piako	1	5	Low
	Waikato	6	70	High
	North Waikato			
Central Waikato	Hamilton	4	75	High
	Morrinsville	2	5	Low
	Matamata			
	Raglan			
	Waipa	12	30	Moderate
South Waikato	Otorohanga	2	20	Low
	Waitomo			
	Taupo			
	South Waikato	5	60	Moderate
Taranaki	New Plymouth			
	Stratford			
	South Taranaki			
	Wanganui			
East Coast	Gisborne	6	75	High
	Hawkes Bay	4	57	Moderate
	Wairoa			
Lower North Island	Rangitikei/Ruapehu			
	Manawatu			
	Horowhenua			
	Tararua	2	45	Moderate
	Wairarapa			
South Island	Tasman			
	Grey			

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