

WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT:

Farm Advisors NZ Ltd & AgSafeNZ Ltd

Property & Farm Management Consultants & Safety Consultants

Phone: 07-8563443; e-mail: findlay@farmconsulting.co.nz **We are now located at Innovation Park in Hamilton.**

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

8 February 2020

Daily grass growth rates:	Range 4 to 15 kg DM/ha/day.												
Average pasture cover:	1550 kg DM/ha.												
10 cm soil temperature:	27.2°C												
Rainfall (Hamilton)– Month to date:	0 mm. February 10 year Av 70 mm. no rain forecast!!.												
Stock prices report:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Prime steers</td> <td>\$2.617/kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prime bulls</td> <td>\$2.533/kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boner Cows</td> <td>\$1.289/kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Store lambs</td> <td>\$73.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feeder Calves</td> <td>\$265.71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weaner bulls to 100 to 120 kg</td> <td>\$2.914/kg av \$319.24/head</td> </tr> </table>	Prime steers	\$2.617/kg	Prime bulls	\$2.533/kg	Boner Cows	\$1.289/kg	Store lambs	\$73.14	Feeder Calves	\$265.71	Weaner bulls to 100 to 120 kg	\$2.914/kg av \$319.24/head
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Water for the livestock is the No 1 Priority right now. Have you checked your current supply and its reliability? Is there an alternative supply available? Don't wait until the water runs out, make sure that alternative source is ready to go with pumps etc. and ways of connecting into the main supply.

Week commencing 10 February 2020

	This Week Nth Is	This Week Sth Is	Last Week Av	1 Year ago
18 kg YX Lamb (cents/kg)	\$7.00	\$6.75	\$7.45	\$6.70
21 kg Mutton (cents/kg)	\$4.65	\$4.50	\$5.07	\$4.82
P2 Steer (270 to 295 kg)	\$4.87	\$4.75	\$5.16	\$5.12
M Cow (160 to 195 kg)	\$3.60	\$3.60	\$3.97	\$3.60
Bull (270 to 295 kg)	\$4.95	\$4.75	\$5.20	\$4.67
Venison (60 kg AP Stag)	\$8.10	\$8.07	\$8.40	\$9.66
		Previous Week	1 year ago	2 yrs ago
Fine Crossbred Indicator price	\$3.42	\$3.67	\$ 4.32	\$ 4.14
Mid Micron Indicator price	\$9.98	\$10.19	\$10.77	\$14.60
Butter (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 5850	\$ 5850	\$ 6200	\$7200
Skim Milk Powder (SMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 4350	\$ 4350	\$ 3650	\$2850
Whole Milk Powder (WMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 4750	\$ 4750	\$ 4075	\$4385
Cheddar Cheese (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 5950	\$5950	\$ 5150	\$5200
Casein (lactose casein NZ \$ per tonne)	\$12500	\$12500	\$ 9875	\$6775
US currency	\$0.646	\$0.662	\$0.679	\$0.736
Euro	\$0.588	\$0.599	\$0.598	\$0.597
Australian dollar	\$0.961	\$0.967	\$0.957	\$0.936

with China

Finance: The NZ dollar eased against the major trading currencies during the week. World trade has been disrupted with the coronavirus and NZ has a huge reliance on China for our primary industry exports.

Wool: Coarse wool prices are still weak while there is reasonable demand for the finer wools. Wool prices are steady but weaker.

Beef, Sheep & Venison schedules: The schedules have all fallen off the highs experienced before Christmas. Meat exports demand has fallen due to the coronavirus. The dry conditions also have pressure of the works as farmers become desperate to get stock off the farms.

Dairy Prices: The g/DT lifted 1.7% at last weeks auction. Butter was up 5.5% and WMP lifted again to \$US3233/tonne, up 2.4%. The SMP prices are maintaining their upward trend.

The Coronavirus is impacting on world trade. Many millions of Chinese are not going to restaurants for dinners and only basic foods are being purchased. Things like live crayfish are off the menu!! The Chinese officials have one regions in lock-down, there are +28,000, cases reported and 555 deaths. AND the country is virtually in lock-down or lock-out. It is interesting to put it in perspective when there were 80,000 people died in the USA in 2018 from the flue!!! Is most of the danger media hype, is there some other subtle reason????

Quote: – *Success is what comes after you stop making excuses.*

I am often asked what a farm consultant does. Last weekend the report was a little shorter than usual as I undertook perhaps my most interesting consultancy project ever. 4 pm on Friday 31 Jan I was asked to go to Vietnam to repatriate a former (retired) client who had taken ill and needed to come home in a wheelchair. Saturday, I flew to Hong Kong, then Singapore then Ho Chi Mien City. I met the client in hospital and arrange his release and flew home arriving on Tuesday morning for the client to be taken off the plane and to Middlemore hospital. A consultant work is varied!!! I just went to Vietnam for the weekend for work, what did you do???

Jim's Weekly Rant:

Employment on farms not a sexy business to be in!!! David Lange, the late former PM, made a comment in 1984 that "the corner grocer was a better businessman than a farmer". The statement, while being simple and perhaps a throw-away line in one of his many provocative speeches, had a profound affect on the morale of the farming community. The rural sector felt under-valued by the government, a government that seemed to have little time for the primary industry. There was a noted decline in young people seeking careers in the rural sector after the comment; the decline was directly attributed to David Lange. It took at least 15 years for the rural sector to recover and feel valued again. The rural sector lost half a generation of potentially exceptional people who were encouraged to seek employment outside of agriculture. Student numbers at Lincoln & Massey both declined. There is a similar situation now with commentary from the media and government that portrays the farmers as the polluters of the environment, the brutal managers of the animals under their care, the rapists of the resources and the exploiters of staff and on top of that they have an excessive amount of debt that is causing problems in the banking sector. None are true. The rural leaders have failed to counter the negative portrayal by trying to walk alongside the rhetoric and provide counter commentary. That plan has failed. An all-out attack on the wider community is required by the rural sector to sell the skill-set required and the knowledge and ability it takes to be a farmer. Farmers are skilled people being required to act as vets, engineers, plant operators, accountants, stock managers, legislative compliance officers, economists and meteorologists while being family people, community support people and local volunteers!!

Lets all stand up and be counted so we can grow the employment base and ensure the next generation of farmers has a viable vision and the knowledge that they are valued in the most important business sector in NZ.

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.

Quad safe helmets – contact Pacific Helmets NZ. www.pacifichelmets.co.nz/shop

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

On Climate Change. *The notion that complex climate "catastrophes" are simply a matter of the response ... to a single forcing, CO2 (or solar forcing for that matter), represents a gigantic leap backwards in the science of climate. Many disasters associated with warming are simply normal occurrences whose existence is falsely claimed to be evidence of warming. And all these examples involve phenomena that are dependent on the confluence of many factors.* Dr Richard Lindzen, Nov 30, 2009.

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!!!

No updated counts this week.

<i>Spore Counts</i>	<i>The counts are the highest in the area noted</i>	<i>Date:</i>	30/1/2020	
		<i>No's Sites Monitored</i>	<i>Highest count</i>	<i>Risk assessed</i>
Northland	Kaitaia			
	Kaikohe / BOI			
	Whangarei	3	15	Low
	Dargaville / Ruawai			
	Mungatoroto			
	Rodney	2	-	
Bay of Plenty	Tauranga			
	Te Puke	10	15	Low
	Whakatane	6	5	Low
	Opotiki			
	Rotorua			
Auckland	Franklin	11	10	Low
North Waikato	Whitianga	3	-	
	Waihi			
	Hauraki Plains	6	5	Low
	Piako			
Central Waikato	Hamilton	8	20	Low
	Morrinsville	3	-	
	Matamata			
	Raglan			
	Waipa	8	20	Low
South Waikato	Otorohanga	5	15	Low
	Waitomo	16	10	Low
	Taupo	6	-	
	South Waikato	11	120	Extreme
Taranaki	New Plymouth			
	Stratford			
	South Taranaki			
	Wanganui	6	5	Low
East Coast	Gisborne	6	135	Extreme
	Hawkes Bay	3	20	Low
	Wairoa	4	-	
Lower North Island	Rangitikei/Ruapehu			
	Manawatu			
	Horowhenua			
	Tararua	3	8	low
	Wairarapa	4	42	Moderate
South Island	Tasman			
	Grey			
	Marlborough			

The action threshold is 20.

<30 = Low, 30 to 60 = Moderate, 60 to 100 = High Plus 100 = Extreme

