

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.

23 Jan 2021

Daily grass growth rates:	Range 30 to 40 kg DM/ha/day.												
Average pasture cover:	2100 kg DM/ha.												
10 cm soil temperature:	24.2°C												
Rainfall (Hamilton)– Month to date:	82 mm. January 10 year Av 98 mm.												
Stock prices report:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Prime steers</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2.518/kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prime bulls</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2.500/kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boner Cows</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1.379/kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Store lambs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$87.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feeder Calves</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$287.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weaner bulls to 100 to 120 kg</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$4.078/kg av \$443.58/head</td> </tr> </table>	Prime steers	\$2.518/kg	Prime bulls	\$2.500/kg	Boner Cows	\$1.379/kg	Store lambs	\$87.41	Feeder Calves	\$287.50	Weaner bulls to 100 to 120 kg	\$4.078/kg av \$443.58/head
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Autumn calving farmers should be planning the drying off and dry-cow treatment of the autumn calvers. If you have autumn and spring herds make sure that the cows that have been dry-cow treated cannot get mixed up with the milkers.

Week commencing 25 January 2021

	This Week Nth Is	This Week Sth Is	Last Week Av	1 Year ago
18 kg YX Lamb (cents/kg)	\$6.45	\$6.20	\$6.35	\$7.45
21 kg Mutton (cents/kg)	\$5.08	\$4.70	\$4.82	\$5.07
P2 Steer (270 to 295 kg)	\$4.80	\$4.40	\$4.71	\$5.16
M Cow (160 to 195 kg)	\$3.40	\$3.45	\$3.42	\$3.97
Bull (270 to 295 kg)	\$4.75	\$4.55	\$4.65	\$5.20
Venison (60 kg AP Stag)	\$5.50	\$5.60	\$5.60	\$8.40
		Previous Week	1 year ago	2 yrs ago
Fine Crossbred Indicator price	\$2.30	\$2.14	\$ 3.67	\$ 4.16
Mid Micron Indicator price	\$7.15	\$7.85	\$10.19	\$10.77
Butter (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 6625	\$ 6175	\$ 5850	\$6200
Skim Milk Powder (SMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 4625	\$ 4250	\$ 4350	\$3650
Whole Milk Powder (WMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 4700	\$ 4620	\$ 4750	\$4075
Cheddar Cheese (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 5625	\$4550	\$ 5950	\$5150
Casein (lactose casein NZ \$ per tonne)	\$10675	\$10575	\$ 12500	\$9875
US currency	\$0.720	\$0.720	\$0.662	\$0.696
Euro	\$0.591	\$0.593	\$0.599	\$0.607
Australian dollar	\$0.929	\$0.928	\$0.967	\$0.957

Finance: The NZ dollar remained steady against the major trading currencies during the week. The USA presidential inauguration overshadowed all markets as the world waited to see what executive orders Biden would sign.

Wool: Wool prices are a disaster.

Beef, Sheep & Venison schedules: The meat schedules are steady with only minor inter-company changes being noted for the coming week. The major meat companies do not appear to be offering premiums to attract supply as shipping space is still under pressure with the Covid-19 pandemic affecting trade.

Dairy Prices: The g/DT lifted again by 4.8% with a good volume on offer. AMF +17.2%, SMP +7% (\$US3242), WMP +2.2% (\$US3380) & butter was up 4.6%. A positive result for the dairy industry!!

The eczema spore are increasing across the country. Prevention is essential as there is no real cure!!

1quad-bike death and 1 sidexside death so far this year. ACC received 1000 claims from work related quad-bike incidents last year costing \$12m. There have been 74 quad-bike deaths since 2006. A H & S policy won't stop accidents, but the management of the policies will develop a positive culture of safety in the whole business. Act now. **AgSafe can assist!!**

Quote: Mahatma Gandhi once said: *If there is an idiot in power, it means those who elected him/her are well represented!!*

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:

Immigration is always a divisive topic as a lot of the NZ housing crisis is blamed on immigration and poor driving is either tourists or immigrants according us good drivers (!!!). Both are factors in our daily lives that maintain a presence in the media. But without immigrants our labour force would be seriously depleted and our agriculture industries and those that service the agricultural sector in particular would not operate. The dairy sector in particular relies very heavily on immigrants to provide suitable qualified labour. The immigrants are prepared to provide an honest days work, they are less likely to take drug, and even the smoking of marijuana is uncommon – they are at risk of having their residence or other temporary status removed and they can also be deported. They don't mind living 20 minutes from a shopping mall and they are prepared to learn and develop their farming skills. Not all of them are "perfect" and there are exceptions. We have seen over the last year immigrant labour struggling to get into NZ and we now see immigrants in NZ with partners/spouses locked out as they were overseas when the pandemic struck. But the real concern is the dumbness that employers experience from the immigration department which is part of MIBE, the government department that deals with the application. I have recently experienced the ignorance of one of the assessors (not the first time) where we provided the necessary market test information and the reasons why the NZ applicants were not suitable. I was not going to recommend to an employer to employ someone who has changed jobs very regularly and the referees are vague and unsupportive and there are gaps in the employment history. I was not going to recommend someone who has recently been in prison (not a problem on its own) and openly states that they have a guard dog on site for personal protection and when the owner does like dogs around the houses; the need for protection has sinister overtones that the farmer does not need to deal with. The immigration officer has suggested we could arrange accommodation away from the farm so they can have their guard dog. Immigration officials need to get real and understand the agricultural sector and the basic requirements which to me are: job stability, drug free, a keenness to learn, an desire to look past the farm work as being a job but a career, they need to have basic skills that can be developed further and a major requirement is to be honest!!

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>	21/1/2021	
		<i>No's Sites Monitored</i>	<i>Highest count</i>	<i>Risk assessed</i>
Northland	Kaitaia			
	Kaikohe / BOI			
	Whangarei	3	5	Low
	Dargaville / Ruawai			
	Mungatoroto			
	Rodney	1		Low
Bay of Plenty	Tauranga	11	45	Moderate
	Te Puke			
	Whakatane	6	45	Moderate
	Opotiki			
	Rotorua	12	75	High
Auckland	Franklin	1	180	Extreme
North Waikato	Whitianga	8	30	Moderate
	Waihi	4	50	Moderate
	Hauraki Plains	10	130	Extreme
	Piako	3	8	Low
Central Waikato	Hamilton	3	5	Low
	Morrinsville	6	5	Low
	Matamata	See last	week	
	Raglan			
	Waipa	7	7.5	Low
South Waikato	Otorohanga	2	1	Low
	Waitomo	9	15	Low
	Taupo			
	South Waikato	4	45	Moderate
Taranaki	New Plymouth			
	Stratford			
	South Taranaki			
	Wanganui			
East Coast	Gisborne	2	35	Moderate
	Hawkes Bay	5	5	Low
	Wairoa			
Lower North Island	Rangitikei/Ruapehu			
	Manawatu	5	0	Low
	Horowhenua	5	0	Low
	Tararua			
	Wairarapa	2	32.5	Moderate
South Island	Tasman			
	Grey			
	Marlborough			

The action threshold is 20.

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