

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

**4 May 2024**

Daily grass growth rates:	Range 38 to 56 kg DM/ha/day.	
Average pasture cover:	2300 kg DM/ha.	
10 cm soil temperature:	14.3 °C	
Rainfall (Hamilton)– Month to date	10 mm	May 10 yr Av 117 mm.
Stock prices report:	Steers	\$3.040/kg
	Bulls	\$3.000/kg
	Boner Cows	\$1.720/kg
	Store lambs	\$ 66.78
	Feeder calves	\$231.82

The end of the dairy season is only 3 weeks away and winter rotations should be planned, supplementary feeds sorted and staff organized for the new season. Ensure all plant and equipment has been serviced after the more intensive autumn use and of course plan what you might need to buy at the Fieldays to benefit from the “Fieldays Deals”!!!!

Week commencing 6 May 2024

	This Week Nth Is	This Week Sth	Last Week Av	1 Year ago
18 kg YX Lamb (cents/kg)	\$5.75	\$5.45	\$5.60	\$7.07
21 kg Mutton (cents/kg)	\$2.50	\$2.30	\$2.40	\$4.15
P2 Steer (270 to 295 kg)	\$5.50	\$4.95	\$5.26	\$5.59
M Cow (160 to 195 kg)	\$3.50	\$3.15	\$3.37	\$3.45
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	\$3.30	\$3.30	\$ 3.41	\$ 3.42
Mid Micron Indicator price	\$5.13	\$5.13	\$ 7.32	\$ 6.40
Butter (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$11,075	\$11,075	\$ 7775	\$ 9920
Skim Milk Powder (SMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 4250	\$ 4250	\$ 4625	\$ 6880
Whole Milk Powder (WMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 5425	\$ 5425	\$ 5000	\$ 6125
Cheddar Cheese (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 7325	\$ 7325	\$ 7275	\$ 9600
Casein (lactose casein NZ \$ per tonne)	\$13,600	\$13,600	\$19,750	\$ 19,500
Global Dairy Trade Index	1086	1084	996	1507
US currency	\$0.597	\$0.597	\$0.631	\$0.638
Euro	\$0.556	\$0.555	\$0.571	\$0.604
Australian dollar	\$0.908	\$0.913	\$0.937	\$0.909

**Finance:** The NZ dollar was steady over the week finishing marginally ahead of last week. Brent Crude is trading at \$US83/barrel!!

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

**Beef, Sheep & Venison schedules:** All meat schedules are steady for the coming week with some minor intercompany changes. Lamb prices are very disappointing and some pundits are predicting further falls.

**Dairy Prices:** The next g/DT auction is to be held on Tuesday night. It is expected to have a zero or near zero movement which will stabilise the payout and support a decent opening payout for the 2024/25 season which will announced around 29<sup>th</sup> May..

**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: “Be the reason someone smiles. Be the reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness in people.”*

**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:**

*The Todd Corporation is seeking to develop a 1022 ha solar farm at Rangitaiki on the Napier-Taupo road. The issuing of the consent was challenged and ended up in the Environment Court. The hearing took place on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and the decision was given on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The appeal/challenge was declined, and they have been given the green light to proceed with the development. They call solar panels and wind turbines sources of renewable energy whereas the only thing renewable about them is that they have a limited life and need to be renewed regularly. Solar panels last between 10 and 25 years while wind turbines last between 15 and 30 years. They are both subject to the climate and a hailstorm recently destroyed a large solar farm in the USA and excessive winds are turning some of the large turbines inside out or blowing them over while other turbines catch on fire burning the large volumes of oil in them. Both are a visual blight on the landscape and produce very little power. They require batteries for storage if they are to be of any use at all and the batteries are another story. Solar panels produce power for between 14% to 21% of the time and even during the times of production the output varies as clouds cross the sky and other natural compromise their effectiveness, they have to be 100% clean to work efficiently!! To manage the fluctuating power output there needs to be base loading produced by hydro, gas and coal that can be varied up and down to produce the required stable loadings for the national grid so businesses can continue to operate without interruption throughout the day. Because the base loading needs to be maintained at an operational level the true value of solar and wind generated power is very low, it is just a feel-good factor for the Greenies!! Solar farms are swallowing up productive farmland and much of it is dairy land. Fonterra and the other farming groups don't seem to care!! All you need to do is look around the world and see how the solar & wind farms in Germany have failed and the massive increases in electricity costs the Germans have experienced, and then closer to home the South Australian experiment where power prices are skyrocketing and supply is unreliable. I have tried to find the amount of land in NZ that is committed to solar farm development and I can currently identify areas somewhere in excess of 9,000 ha's spread across the country and it is mostly on productive dairy land. Nearly 4,000 ha's been purchased by foreign investors for development and to obtain the government subsidies for doing so. Once the land has been removed from dairying it will never be allowed to return to be productive dairy land again and part of the reason will be due to the toxic chemicals that leach from the panels to the land. Some farm sheep under the panels. It is shameful the way the solar and wind farm business have been encouraged by the government and supported by the agricultural industries by their lack of opposition. Beef & Lamb NZ, Dairy NZ, Fonterra, Open Country Dairies, Silver Fern Farms, AFFCO, Federated Farmers, Ground Swell and others have all been missing in action in the battle against the most unreliable and toxic form of energy generation in NZ. A few private activists have been left to oppose the developments at their own costs while the rural industries continue to be sucked in to the IPCC climate ideology. Just imagine a country covered in solar panels and wind farms and having nothing growing on the land to trade with the rest of the world!!!*

**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](http://www.dronespraying.co.nz) Check it out and contact Jordan Salmon email [jordan@dronezap.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto:rachel@mendingfences.co.nz), or visit the website <https://mendingfences.co.nz/>

<b>Spore Counts</b>		<b>Date:</b> <b>2/5/2024</b>	<b>Week 17</b>	
	<b>No's Sites Monitored</b>	<b>Average count</b>	<b>Highest count</b>	<b>Risk assessed on highest count</b>
<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>	<b>1</b>	<b>11000</b>	<b>11000</b>	<b>Low</b>
<i>North Shore</i>				
<i>Tauranga</i>				
<i>Te Puke</i>				
<i>Whakatane</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>75500</b>	<b>300000</b>	<b>Extreme</b>
<i>Opotiki</i>				
<i>Rotorua</i>				
<i>Franklin</i>				
<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>				
<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>				
<i>Horowhenua</i>				
<i>Tararua</i>				
<i>Wairarapa</i>				
<i>Canterbury</i>				
<i>Marlborough</i>	<b>1</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>Low</b>
<i>West Coast</i>				

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