

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.

14 May 2022

Daily grass growth rates:	Range 12 to 40 kg DM/ha/day. Big range dependant on localised rainfall.										
Average pasture cover:	1700 kg DM/ha.										
10 cm soil temperature:	12.2°C										
Rainfall (Hamilton)– Month to date:	12 mm. May 10 year Av 117 mm. Had only +/-50% rain year to date.										
Stock prices report:	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Steers</td> <td>\$2.840/kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bulls</td> <td>\$2.680/kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boner Cows</td> <td>\$1.400/kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Store lambs</td> <td>\$ 90.97/head</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feeder Calves</td> <td>\$ 123.55 - big yarding</td> </tr> </table>	Steers	\$2.840/kg	Bulls	\$2.680/kg	Boner Cows	\$1.400/kg	Store lambs	\$ 90.97/head	Feeder Calves	\$ 123.55 - big yarding
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Many of us have followed the Burr case with interest where a farmer in a semi-remote rural area cut of the intruder's finger after being threatened with murder. The jury has returned a not guilty verdict which was a surprise to many of us, but the right outcome. Police support in the rural sector is poor and home/vigilante justice is increasing and the verdict supports it.

Week commencing 16 May 2022

	This Week Nth Is	This Week Sth Is	Last Week Av	1 Year ago
18 kg YX Lamb (cents/kg)	\$8.30 ^	\$8.35 ^	\$8.21	\$7.05
21 kg Mutton (cents/kg)	\$5.75	\$5.45	\$5.50	\$5.67
P2 Steer (270 to 295 kg)	\$5.87 ^	\$5.78 ^	\$5.71	\$4.80
M Cow (160 to 195 kg)	\$3.70	\$3.70	\$3.70	\$3.18
Bull (270 to 295 kg)	\$5.85	\$5.60	\$5.75	\$4.75
Venison (60 kg AP Stag)	\$7.95	\$8.05	\$8.00	\$5.27
		Previous Week	1 year ago	2 yrs ago
Fine Crossbred Indicator price	\$3.00	\$3.24	\$ 2.65	\$ 2.87
Mid Micron Indicator price	\$6.40	\$6.31	\$9.58	\$8.05
Butter (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 9920	\$10,100	\$ 7100	\$6310
Skim Milk Powder (SMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 6880	\$ 6750	\$ 4850	\$4150
Whole Milk Powder (WMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 6125	\$ 6475	\$ 5775	\$4385
Cheddar Cheese (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 9600	\$9250	\$ 6125	\$6450
Casein (lactose casein NZ \$ per tonne)	\$19500	\$16700	\$ 11675	\$14450
Global Dairy Trade Index	1379	1507	1290	893
US currency	\$0.625	\$0.642	\$0.718	\$0.610
Euro	\$0.602	\$0.610	\$0.594	\$0.558
Australian dollar	\$0.908	\$0.903	\$0.929	\$0.930

Finance: The NZ dollar continued its downward move as our economy continues to falter with high inflation. The budget this coming week will probably just confirm more unproductive spending on Green Party initiatives while ignoring major infrastructure.

Wool: Wool prices remain in the doldrums with minor market fluctuations that seem to come to nothing.

Beef, Sheep & Venison schedules: The meat schedules are mostly steady to firmer with some minor intercompany changes. Killing space is at a premium with dairy farmers finding it difficult to get culls away.

Dairy Prices: Prices have eased following last week's drop in the g/DT. Fonterra has lowered its forecast for the 2021/22 final payout. We are all interested to hear the opening price for the 2022/23 season.

There was ice on my car on Wednesday morning which is a sign that winter is coming. Soil temperatures will fall when the soils eventually see some moisture and then grass growth rates will decline as the sunshine hours also drop. Redo you feed plans for the winter and factor in the increased costs of supplements and nitrogen fertiliser.

Quote: "Not one prediction about the end of the world has happened. If only one prediction were correct, we would not be here." Prof Ian Plimer – Green Murder, a life sentence of net zero with no parole.

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. Back on the 17th January 2022.

Jim's Weekly Rant:

The government has finally agreed to open up the borders from 31 July 2022. This will allow students visa's and work visa's to be applied for. There is a massive shortage of staff in many areas right now and many of the shortages are in the basic semi-skilled worker category, that is the non-essential workers. There is a requirement with the new worker visa's that the minimum wage is \$27.76 per hour, so a 50-hour week on a farm sets the basic salary at over \$70,000 pa. They will be in the top tax bracket which is ridiculous and while they might have overseas experience, they have not proved themselves here in NZ. I have recently advertised for two farm assistants; they needed basic skills and a drivers licence. I received 15 replies as follows – 1 applicant sent in an application with only a phone number and a name – forget about him, 3 other applicants domiciled in NZ, 2 of which were offered jobs in a very competitive market, 1 was unsuitable and 1 couple arriving from South America this week for a working holiday and wanted a short-term dairy farm experience. And then there were 10 applicants all living overseas and wanting to come to NZ for work. We would have had to go through the visa application process and wait for the wheels of bureaucracy to grind away with no one on the farm. The new immigration rules require an employer to be registered and be an Accredited Employer. The Accredited Employer process opens for applications on 23rd May and could take an applicant a few days to several weeks to be approved, and the way the systems works it will be the several weeks. The standard accreditation is for employers seeking to bring in up to 5 employees and for this the application fee is \$740. An employment agency will be charged a fee to bring in multiple third-party arrangements, the fee being \$3,870 to do the job they are already doing. The accredited persons(employer) can then start the "Job-Check" process from 20th June. It seems like a whole new level of bureaucracy to do a job that was working ok before the Covid lock-up with the normal bureaucratic frustrations. The latest stats from Immigration show that visa's for essential workers (not farm assistants) will have 50% approved in 38 days, 75% approved in 74 days and 90% approved in 9 months. It is simply a mess and in spite of the all the media hype and promotion of opening the borders and bringing in workers, the reality is that it will be half-way through the dairy season before we see any overseas staff being available for employment on farms and the hospitality industry will miss the main winter holiday period. The rural industries need people now!!!

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.

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

AgDrive offers courses to upskill yourselves and your staff. It is important to ensure staff are upskilled and offered skill training courses. AgDrive is an independent training establishment. For course details and training information contact Sue 027-2354408.

Drone Spraying a cost-effective way to spray weeds, sow grass seed etc. www.dronespraying.co.nz Check it out and call Pete Campbell on 021-835375 or email pete@dronespraying.co.nz

The seasonal spore counts have concluded.