



# Merry Christmas COLDFACTS

## A Message From Your President DECEMBER 2020



Plans are well under way for next year's Conference which has been moved from Auckland to Wellington because of concerns regarding The Waipuna Conference Centre and the many Auckland hotels currently being used as managed isolation facilities. The Executive Committee met on the 17th of November to map out a draft programme

and the relevant presentations to be covered.

I know that many of you were disappointed with the cancellation of the 2020 conference but, if we had tried to proceed we would have been caught up in the middle of the second Auckland lockdown and the hotel would not have been available. Our annual conference is the one opportunity during the year when we can all get together. We will look forward to seeing you all in Wellington next year.

Again, I would like to thank Jack and all the members of the Executive for their input during the year.

Again, I would like to thank Jack and all the members of the Executive for their input during the year.

Sonia and I are looking forward to relaxing and spending time with family and friends over the Christmas break.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members, associate members and their families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Bruce Mulligan  
President.

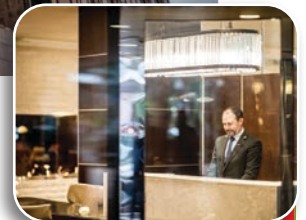
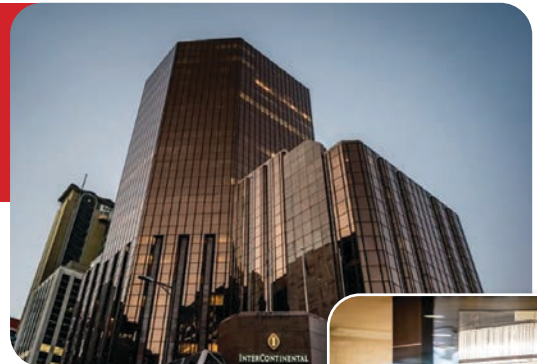


### STOP PRESS

### 2021 Conference moves from Auckland to Wellington

With the uncertainty of unrestricted international travel still unlikely for some time and with conferencing demand projected to be severely impacted by this your executive committee have decided to move the conference to Wellington. **Please mark in your diary:**

**Conference Venue - InterContinental, Wellington**  
**Conference Dates - Sunday 15th - 17th August 2021**







## NZ Scientists lead the charge to explore benefits of pasture-raised beef and lamb

New Zealanders will be invited to take part in a major research programme to assess the health and well-being benefits of eating pasture-raised beef and lamb, compared to grain-finished beef and plant-based alternatives.

Approximately 100 people will be monitored in two ground-breaking clinical studies, led by researchers from AgResearch, the Riddet Institute and the University of Auckland. The projects will assess the physical effects on the body from eating the different foods for up to 10 weeks, as well as psychological elements, such as satisfaction, sleep and stress levels.



The research team includes meat scientists, agricultural academics, dietitians, behavioural experts and social scientists. Research shows there is untapped global demand for natural beef and lamb raised on grass pastures and consumers are prepared to pay a premium for it.

New Zealand farmers have a compelling story to tell about our natural farming systems and a strong point of difference against many of our international competitors. The red meat sector

is working hard to ensure that story is heard by consumers around the world.



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## Lift in New Zealand sheepmeat exports to Europe and UK shows importance of preserving WTO tariff rate quotas.

A fall in sheepmeat exports to China (-13% by value) was offset by a significant increase in demand from the UK and Europe despite the uncertainty of the fast-approaching Brexit.

Sirma Karapeeva, chief executive of MIA, said the growth in sheepmeat exports to the UK and Europe highlights why the European Union and UK must not be allowed to split New Zealand's World Trade Organisation (WTO) country-specific tariff rate quotas following Brexit.

"Trade patterns are continuously changing. The red meat sector's ability to maintain steady overall export volumes and value during these difficult times underlines the importance of flexibility and responding to constantly

evolving market dynamics.

"It also illustrates the difficulty of predicting future trends based on historical trade data. We remain deeply concerned about the proposal for the EU and UK to split the World Trade Organisation tariff rate quotas, which would reduce that flexibility and disadvantage New Zealand."

Meanwhile, the New Zealand red meat sector exports maintained the volume and value increases that have been achieved over the last few months. The increased demand from the US offset a reduction in beef exports to China. "Overall, beef exports were largely unchanged" said Ms Karapeeva.

## CAREL GLD: Refrigerant Gas Leak Detectors for fixed installations

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## iMonitor Commended for Significant Contribution to Food Safety for COVID-19 Industry Support

iMonitor received Commendation for Significant Contribution to Food Safety for their support to the New Zealand food industry during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology (NZIFST) and Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) acknowledged how they helped New Zealand food businesses manage their COVID-19 practices via an immediate and comprehensive [online resource centre](#) and more than 600 individual phone call consultations. Amongst others, they provided food businesses with COVID-19 guidelines specifically tailored to their industry and created a COVID-19 checklist for food and pharmaceutical businesses.

## No major changes for agriculture with new Cabinet line-up



HON DAMIEN O'CONNOR

It's business as usual for the primary sector with ministerial portfolios remaining relatively unchanged but for a few tweaks. Damien O'Connor has kept his job as Minister of Agriculture, one he held last term, and picks up Trade and Export Growth from David Parker and Land Information from Eugenie Sage.

## New Zealand signs Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O'Connor have announced the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has been fully concluded and signed.

RCEP is a trade agreement between 15 economies in the Asia Pacific region that are home to almost a third of the world's population and take over half of New Zealand's exports.



“Securing free trade agreements like RCEP is an important part of New Zealand's Trade Recovery Strategy, helping to put

New Zealand in the best possible position to recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19 and seize new opportunities for exports and investment,” Jacinda Ardern said.

“A range of New Zealand industries will directly benefit from this new agreement, helping us to accelerate our economic recovery and build back better.

“Our primary industries will profit - with the new expectation that Customs authorities will release perishable goods within six hours of arrival, helping to reduce spoilage and save money. And the meat industry specifically will benefit from the elimination of tariffs on some meat products into Indonesia.

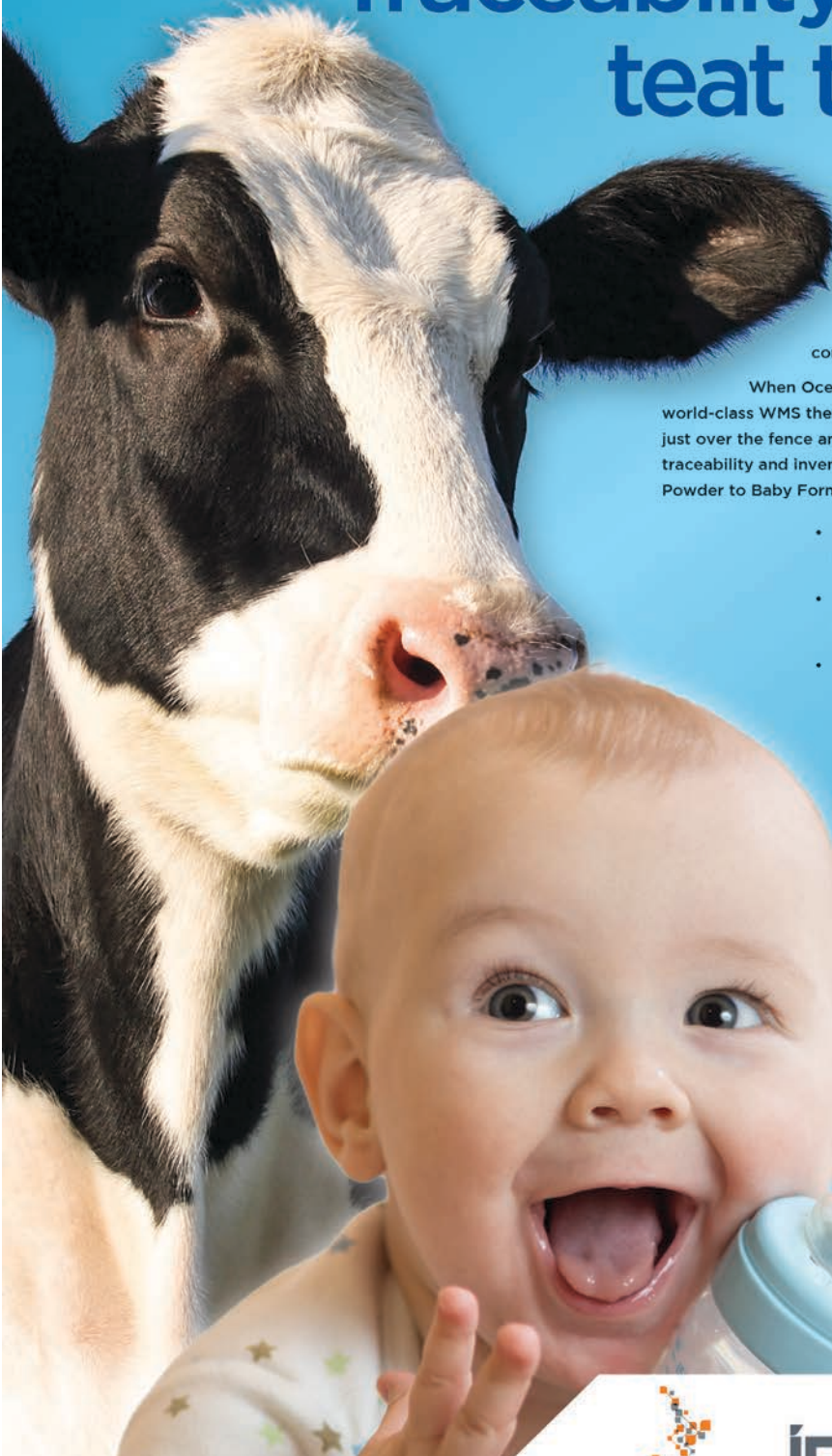
“This free trade agreement also holds significant strategic value for New Zealand, by strengthening and deepening our relationships across the RCEP region,” Jacinda Ardern said. New Zealand exported over

*Continued on Page 6*





## Traceability, from teat to teat



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\$36 billion of goods to RCEP countries and nearly \$12 billion of services in the year ending December 31, 2019.

“This agreement will secure market access for New Zealand exporters to a region which includes seven of New Zealand’s top 10 trading partners,” Damien O’Connor said. “RCEP is projected to add \$186 billion to the world economy.”



**For New Zealand exporters, businesses and investors this means:**

- A single set of trade and investment rules across the entire RCEP region, increasing certainty and reducing complexity that comes from different rules with different partners.
- The opportunity for our exporters to get their products into RCEP-wide regional value chains, increasing demand for New Zealand inputs into the engine room of the world economy.
- More market access opportunities, especially for services and investment into China and some ASEAN member states.
- Less red tape for exporters, and more streamlined trade; and
- New rules on government procurement, competition policy and electronic commerce, which will help New Zealand exporters take advantage of increased business opportunities.

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“As a party to RCEP, New Zealand has a seat at the table of this globally significant regional economic agreement and it shores up support for international trade rules which small countries like New Zealand rely on, at a time when we’re seeing increasing protectionism,” Damien O’Connor said.

## Ministerial Appointments that directly impact the food industry

**Hon Damien O’Connor** - Agriculture, Trade and Export Growth, Biosecurity, Rural Communities

**Hon Dr Megan Woods** - Research Science and Innovation

**Hon Chris Hipkins** - COVID 19 Response, Education

**Hon Carmel Sepuloni** - Social Development and Employment

**Hon David Parker** - Environment

**Hon Nanaia Mahuta** - Foreign Affairs

**Hon Stuart Nash** - Economic and Regional Development

**Hon Kris Faafoi** - Immigration

**Kiri Allan** - Conservation

**Ayesha Verrall** - Food Safety

**Hon James Shaw** - Climate Change



## Zespri reflects on ten years since Psa discovery in New Zealand

Over 100 guests from across the kiwifruit industry gathered at Zespri to mark ten years since Psa was discovered in New Zealand. The evening provided an opportunity to reflect on the resilience of the industry and the growth that they have been able to realise in recent years through our collaborative and innovative approach.



The final shipment of this season’s New Zealand kiwifruit export campaign has departed the Port of

Tauranga. Alastair Hulbert, chief global supply officer of Zespri, said they used 49 chartered reefer vessels and 17,829 refrigerated containers to ship around 157m trays of kiwifruit to more than 50 countries around the world this season. Zespri shipped over 87m trays of SunGold kiwifruit over the 2020 season, while 70m trays of green kiwifruit were supplied to customers across the globe.

## China to strengthen supervision of imported cold-chain foods

China will take measures to realize full-chain, closed-loop, traceable management of imported cold-chain foods to minimize importation risks of COVID-19, according to a plan released by the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism against COVID-19. To effectively block the transmission of COVID-19 through imported cold-chain foods, complete disinfection of

those products will be carried out while novel coronavirus tests will be conducted at the ports, according to the plan. For imported cold-chain foods that test negative for the virus, the interiors of cold chain vans and the outer packaging of the foods should be disinfected before being transported. The foods that test positive for COVID-19 will be returned or destroyed.

The plan requires cold-chain logistics firms to strictly check customs clearance documents for imported cold-chain foods and disinfect vehicles, ships, and other transportation equipment. Workers who have direct contact with the foods should take protective measures.

Cold storages should keep records of imported

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cold-chain foods coming in and out, and the records should be kept for at least two years. Efforts should go into ensuring all the imported cold-chain foods entering the market are traceable. The plan also requires improving customs clearance efficiency of the ports to avoid overstocking and safeguarding the stability of the industrial and supply chain.

## New Zealand records biggest annual trade surplus in 28 years as imports drop

New Zealand has posted its biggest annual trade surplus in 28 years as Covid-19 led to a sharp fall in imports.

Exports edged higher on the back of increased earnings from dairy and fruit and will start to ramp up again as agricultural production gets into full swing. "All up, international trade has proven remarkably resilient, and that's been a boon for a small exporting economy like New Zealand. And there are signs the recovery is strengthening," ASB economist Nat Keall said



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## New Zealand is the best country in the world to be in during the coronavirus era, according to a Bloomberg resilience ranking.

Bloomberg’s report ranks economies worth more than \$200 billion on 10 key metrics, including growth in virus cases, the mortality rate, testing capabilities, vaccine supply agreements, capacity of the local healthcare system, the impact of virus-related restrictions like lockdowns on the economy, and citizens’ freedom of movement. Fifty-three countries are ranked based on where COVID-19 has been handled “most effectively with the least amount of disruption to business and society”.

”New Zealand tops the ranking as of November 23 thanks to decisive, swift action,” the report said. “Having largely achieved it, New Zealanders are basically living in a world without COVID. The nation has seen just a handful of infections in the community in recent months, and live music and large-scale social events are back on.”

**Covid Resilience Ranking**

← Worse Better →

Get info and sort on table headers

		COVID STATUS				QUALITY OF LIFE	
RANK	ECONOMY	BLOOMBERG RESILIENCE SCORE	1-MONTH CASES PER 100,000	1-MONTH CASE FATALITY RATE	TOTAL DEATHS PER 1 MILLION	POSITIVE TEST RATE	ACCESS TO COVID VACCINES
1	New Zealand	85.4	2	0%	5	0%	2
2	Japan	85	29	0.6%	15	8.1%	4
3	Taiwan	82.9	0	0%	0	1.2%	0
4	South Korea	82.3	10	1%	10	2%	2
5	Finland	82	129	0.3%	68	1.9%	3
6	Norway	81.6	281	0.2%	56	3.1%	3
7	Australia	81.2	1	0.6%	36	0%	3
8	China	80.6	0	0%	3	0.1%	5
9	Denmark	77	550	0.3%	135	1.8%	3
10	Vietnam	74.3	0	0%	0	0.1%	1
11	Singapore	74.2	4	0%	5	0%	0
12	Hong Kong	73.6	5	0.9%	14	0.1%	1
13	Canada	73.2	316	1.3%	305	6.7%	5
14	Germany	71.2	604	0.8%	168	9.5%	3
15	Thailand	70.2	0	0.5%	1	0.2%	1
16	Sweden	68.7	967	0.5%	634	12.6%	3
17	United Arab Emirates	67.5	371	0.2%	56	1.1%	1
18	United States	66.5	1,129	0.9%	776	14%	5
19	Indonesia	66.1	42	2.4%	58	12.5%	4
20	Ireland	65.1	308	1%	410	3.7%	3
21	Israel	65	232	2.3%	323	1.7%	3
22	Russia	65	412	1.7%	246	4.6%	1
23	Netherlands	64.4	1,247	0.9%	523	7.4%	3
24	Bangladesh	64.2	31	1.2%	39	12.8%	2
25	Egypt	63.2	7	5.5%	64	-	3

## The China export game - how NZ’s largest seafood market held up in 2020

New Zealand Trade & Enterprise (NZTE) has just released analysis of New Zealand’s seafood exports into China during the upheaval of COVID-19.

With the food service sector recovering, the market in premium product is expected to increase as high-income consumers seek high quality dining experiences again. Some 35 percent of New Zealand’s seafood is exported to China, making it New Zealand’s largest market.

China has increased the level of inspection on goods entering the country and NZTE’s report suggests both the percentage of goods sampled and tested across multiple entry points in China

have resulted in increased delays in clearing goods. The report says that before the pandemic, an average of eight items were sampled per container and that has now increased to as much as 30 percent being sampled.



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But, despite the challenges of 2020, the outlook for seafood into China remains positive. And that is good news for New Zealand seafood exports.

## Govt offers Kiwis \$1000 bonus to take up horticulture work amid labour shortage

Kiwis who take up horticulture jobs could pocket an extra \$1000 and get help with accommodation costs under a new scheme to tackle the country's severe shortage of seasonal workers.

Due to Covid-19 border restrictions, New Zealand's \$10 billion horticulture industry has been left short of thousands of seasonal workers and Kiwis have been reluctant to fill the roles. The Government hopes to change that with new incentives including a \$1000

bonus for workers who complete six weeks or longer, up to \$200 a week towards accommodation, and higher wet weather payments when people can't work.



"The Government is very aware of the need to balance the labour needs of the horticulture and wine growing industries as well as those of unemployed New Zealanders and we're working with the sector to making sure the conditions are good and that Kiwis make up the workforce this season and beyond." *Continued on Page 11*

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The Government also announced a major border exemption allowing 2000 horticultural workers from the Pacific to enter New Zealand in the new year under strict conditions. It is the first significant opening of the border to foreign workers since the Covid-19 pandemic hit.



## Air NZ awarded more international cargo flights

Air New Zealand has been awarded more international cargo flights under the International Air Freight Capacity (IAFC) Scheme. This comes after the Government announced Phase Two of the IAFC scheme which runs from 1 December 2020 through to 31 March 2021. Air New Zealand will operate approximately 55 international flights per week going forward.

Air New Zealand General Manager Cargo Anna Palairret says this is great news not only for the airline but for importers and exporters wanting to get their product to key markets around the world. "It's great to see the extension of the IAFC scheme as it provides much-needed support and stability to New Zealand importers and exporters.

We'll be sending more than 1000 tonnes of lamb up to the UK in time for Christmas and more than 3500 tonnes of stone fruit around the globe with a majority moving into China for the Chinese New Year".

## Jack's CORNER



Nobody could have predicted what was in store for us when we all happily left our desks and offices last December to prepare for a well-earned Xmas break. 2020 really has been a year that we will never forget. But, we have come out of what has been a shocker relatively unscathed

compared to the rest of the world. Some could argue that we are stronger for it. Now we need to build on this and our cold store members will be an integral part of New Zealand's recovery. Thank you for all your support during 2020 and I look forward to working with you all in 2021. Have a wonderful Xmas and holiday break.

## OFFICE HOURS OVER THE HOLIDAYS



### Please note that

The Cold Storage Association office will close for the year on Friday 18 December 2020  
We re-open on Monday 18 January 2021.  
(Your next Newsletter will be in February - see you then!)

