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Weekly news update from the KPMG Agribusiness Network

Welcome to this week's issue of Field Notes, a summary of Agribusiness news from across the sector, prepared by the KPMG Agribusiness network.

Week in review

In Aotearoa...

[New Zealand's deer industry is expected to have a positive season for 2026](#) [15 January, The Country]. Venison pricing has stabilised at approximately NZ\$11/kg, supported by North American demand for larger cuts volumes. Response to this venison demand has seen a significant volume of velvet also exiting the system, rebalancing its supply.

[Dutch agri-tech company Nedap has launched its product range of electronic tags, collars and livestock monitoring technology in New Zealand](#) [20 January, Farmers Weekly]. The business claims a 40% global market share supported by data from seven million cows and 10,000 farmers worldwide.

[New Zealand's Tractor and Machinery Association recorded a 10% annual increase in new tractor deliveries in 2025, reflecting stronger farmer and contractor confidence](#) [20 January, Rural News]. Total annual deliveries reached 3,088 units, attributed to the strong performances of the dairy and red meat sectors.

In International news...

[The United Kingdom government has extended tariff-free access for Ukrainian eggs and egg products for a further two years](#) [19 January, FarmingUK]. The move has prompted criticism from local producers and welfare groups, who argue it contradicts domestic welfare policy and undermines British farmers.

[India and the European Union are finalising a free trade agreement this month, with agricultural goods deliberately excluded from the scope](#) [15 January, India Today]. The exclusion reflects the agriculture's large employment share in India, accounting for around 44% of the workforce. The agreement is however expected to reduce India's current 150% tariffs on European wine and spirits.

[The government of the Ivory Coast has announced it will buy all unsold cocoa stocks](#) [21 January, The Associated Press]. Cocoa prices have fallen globally since October 2025, leaving around 15% of the country's harvest unsold, and significantly affecting farmers in the world's top cocoa producing nation.

Spotlight stories

Circular Economy Spotlight: [Backed by Bezos, UK–Australian Project Turns Food Waste Into Microbial Protein with AI](#) [15 January, Green Queen]

Australia's CSIRO and the UK's University of Leeds are developing an AI driven tool to convert food industry waste into microbial protein. The tool applies AI to optimise fermentation conditions for vegetable crops, grain sidestreams and dairy byproducts to produce price competitive protein powders. Co created with more than 40 stakeholders, the open access platform aims to support circular production models. The project is backed by a US\$2 million (NZ\$1.17 million) Bezos Earth Fund grant.

Shipping Sustainability Spotlight: [First Kamsarmax Methanol-Fuelled Bulker Delivered for Cargill Charter](#) [16 January, The Maritime Executive]

Global bulk ocean shipping provider, Cargill, has taken delivery of new vessel, *Brave Pioneer*, the first Kamsarmax dry bulk carrier capable of operating on green methanol. Built by Tsuneishi Shipping Co. in the Philippines, the dual fuel vessel can run on either traditional marine fuels or green methanol, enabling substantial reductions in CO₂, NO_x and SO_x emissions. Cargill is planning a series of operational trials to understand methanol bunkering readiness and also to assess market appetite for low-carbon freight services.

This week's headlines

[UN food agency to issue guidance on safety of methane inhibitors](#) [20 January, Agriland]

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will release a report and technical brief to provide new guidance on the potential food safety risks linked to environmental inhibitors, including methane reducing feed additives and nitrogen inhibitors used in soils. Residues from these substances can enter the food chain and require careful assessment, as current regulatory frameworks are fragmented across regions.

[EU–US tariff standoff over Greenland threatens billions in agri-food costs](#) [19 January, Food Ingredients First]

The European Parliament has postponed ratification of the 2025 EU–US trade agreement after new US tariff threats targeting eight European countries. The new tariffs are in response to these nation's opposition to US efforts to acquire Greenland. The proposed duties, increasing from 10% to 25% over the coming months, threaten €24.2 billion (NZ\$48.7 billion) in EU agri-food exports. EU leaders are now considering activating the Anti-Coercion Instrument, which would restrict US access to the single market if diplomatic efforts fail.

[Dairy farmers retain and upskill international workers as visa data shows positive shift – Federated Farmers](#) [20 January, Rural News]

Recent figures from Immigration New Zealand show dairy farmers are increasingly retaining and upskilling their international staff, with a rising share of visa approvals now for higher-skilled roles such as herd managers rather than entry-level positions. Approximately 40% of these advanced applications come from workers already in New Zealand, reflecting structured on-farm training and career progression.

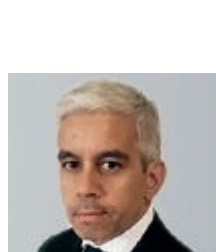
At KPMG, we believe that the future success of New Zealand depends on our ability and willingness to add value to our primary produce and take it to the world. Keeping informed on the latest news and discussions is just one of the ways to make this happen for New Zealand's most significant contributor to prosperity.

If others in your organisation would find this publication useful, please forward this email on to them. They can then [subscribe](#) to our weekly newsletter.

Regards,



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