

5 March 2026

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...

[Fertiliser co-operative Ravensdown says it has enough fertiliser in New Zealand, or en route, to meet farmers' autumn needs, despite expected price rises linked to Middle East conflict](#) [3 March, RNZ]. The region supplies about 40% of global nitrogen fertilisers, meaning prolonged disruption could affect prices and availability later in the year.

[The Bioeconomy Science Institute will lead a five-year Kiwifruit Action Plan to help grow kiwifruit in India, providing science and technical support to develop sustainable production, and supply chain systems](#) [4 March, Bioeconomy Science Institute]. The project is part of broader New Zealand–India collaboration in horticulture following the Prime Minister's visit in March 2025.

[Beef + Lamb New Zealand has partnered with Pacific Toyota to launch the 'Lamb Cruiser', showcasing the Toyota Prado's performance alongside the recovery and nutrition benefits of lamb](#) [2 March, Farmers Weekly]. The Landcruiser Prado will be driven by ambassador Stacey Waaka, touring locations such as beaches, rugby clubs, and barbecues.

In International news...

[British retailer Tesco has partnered with potato supplier Branston to launch low-carbon potatoes](#) [26 February, Tesco]. The first crop includes 500 tonnes of Georgina potatoes, grown using low-carbon techniques that achieve over 50% lower emissions than traditional potato growing methods.

[The city of Helsinki, has voted to halve meat and dairy use in public food services such as schools and hospitals](#) [27 February, Green Queen]. The City Council approved the 'Puolet Parempaa' (Half Better) policy, which commits the city to reducing meat and dairy procurement by 50% by 2030.

[Germany's economy ministry plans to end subsidies for small solar power systems under a draft law, citing falling solar panel prices and government efforts to curb energy costs](#) [28 February, Reuters]. Subsidies for installations up to 25 kilowatts will be discontinued as many systems are considered economically viable without support.

[The Singapore Government will invest SG \\$800 million \(NZ \\$1.06 billion\) over the next five years to accelerate decarbonisation and meet its 2035 emissions target, and 2050 net-zero ambition](#) [2 March, Channel News Asia]. The funding will be targeted to advance large-scale low-carbon solutions in the power and industrial sectors, responsible for over 80% of national emissions.

Spotlight stories

Trade Spotlight: [Shipping suspended on key Middle East route](#) [2 March, Farmers Weekly]

Escalating conflict in the Middle East have led shipping lines to suspend services through the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting a key route for New Zealand exports. Exporters are developing contingency plans as cargo is rerouted, with supply chain operator Kotahi reporting around 4,000 TEU (20-foot equivalent unit containers) containers are currently affected in transit on this trade lane.

Functional Foods Spotlight: [Aqua Theon Nets \\$13M to Scale OoMee's Seaweed Drinks for GLP-1 Users](#) [3 March, Green Queen]

Californian tech startup Aqua Theon has raised US\$13 million (NZ \$22.1 million) in seed funding, including US \$5 million (NZ \$8.5 million) to expand OoMee, its seaweed-based functional drink brand. OoMee is positioning itself for the growing GLP-1 market in the United States, as well as the US' rising consumer demand for fibre amid widespread dietary fibre deficiency. Their non-carbonated beverages use agar-agar, a red seaweed-derived soluble fibre, to promote satiety and help curb cravings.

This week's headlines

[KiwiSaver laws changing to help farmers buy first homes](#) [2 March, RNZ]

The government is changing KiwiSaver rules to help farmers and other rural workers buy their first homes. The reforms will allow people in service tenancies, such as farm workers required to live in employer-provided housing, to use their KiwiSaver without having to live in the purchased home. Changes will also let first-time farm buyers use KiwiSaver funds to buy farms through companies or trusts they majority own. Legislation is expected mid-year.

[Winegrape growers welcome the establishment of national vineyard register](#) [26 February, ABC News]

The Australian Federal Government will establish a National Vineyard Register to collect data on vineyard size, age and grape varieties, responding to industry calls for greater visibility amid ongoing grape oversupply. Led by Wine Australia, the register will be delivered via a new digital platform expected to be operational by the end of 2026, with the aim to improve planning and transparency across the sector.

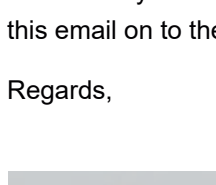
[British beef enters US market tariff-free amid severe supply shortage](#) [2 March, Food Ingredients First]

The first tariff-free shipment of British beef has entered the United States under the UK–US Economic Prosperity Deal, as the US faces a severe beef supply issue. US cattle herds have fallen to a 75-year low, the effects are compounded by the closure of the US–Mexico border to live cattle due to New World screwworm. Ground beef prices have risen 72% since 2020, prompting temporary import quota expansions whilst major processors are reporting heavy financial losses.

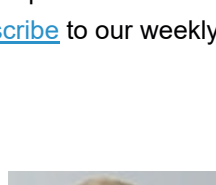
At KPMG, we believe that the future success of New Zealand depends on our ability and willingness to add value to our primary produce and take it to the world. Keeping informed on the latest news and discussions is just one of the ways to make this happen for New Zealand's most significant contributor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

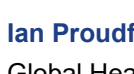
Regards,



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