

17 September 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 news,

[The National Party has proposed separating Pak'nSave from New World and Four Square, subject to a Commerce Commission review, to increase supermarket competition and reduce grocery prices](#) [16 September, RNZ].

Government-commissioned modelling suggests the reform could lower prices by around 5% over time and save households up to NZ\$1,320 a year.

[Goodman Fielder has completed a NZ\\$100 million expansion of its Meadow Fresh plant in Christchurch, increasing production of UHT and high-protein dairy products for New Zealand and Asian export markets](#) [12 September, News Wire].

The upgrade includes new processing, research and development, and warehousing capabilities, and has created 25 jobs.

[Wool prices rose across all categories at the latest Christchurch wool auction, with reduced supply supporting stronger buyer competition and 96% of the offering sold](#) [14 September, Farmers Weekly]. The National Strong Wool Indicator increased by 20 cents, whilst Merino prices rose by up to 8%.

[Rabobank's Rabo Community Fund has awarded NZ\\$76,000 to 11 rural organisations across New Zealand for projects supporting community wellbeing, disaster resilience, environmental sustainability and agricultural education](#) [15 September, Farmers Weekly]. The latest round brings the fund's total commitment to rural communities to more than NZ\$4.2 million since its launch in 2021.

In international news,

[The Canadian Government has launched a C\\$1 billion \(\\$1.2 billion\) fund to finance mid-market agri-food infrastructure and technology projects that may struggle to secure traditional funding](#) [15 September, Mirage News]. Delivered by Farm Credit Canada, the fund aims to expand domestic processing capacity and increase value-added food production.

[The Irish Grain Growers Group has renewed its call for Irish whiskey producers to use more domestically grown grain, seeking changes to the product specification to better support local tillage farmers](#) [15 September, Agriland]. The group points to Irish Cream, which must use dairy cream produced from milk sourced on the island of Ireland, as a precedent.

[Varroa destructor has been detected in two beehives in Far North Queensland, marking the pest's northernmost confirmed spread in Australia](#) [11 September, ABC Rural]. The affected hives were destroyed, but authorities warn the mite may have spread further and are urging beekeepers to test their hives regularly.

[In the Philippines, successive tropical cyclones and monsoon rains have caused PHP12.4 billion \(NZ\\$370 million\) in damage to agriculture and infrastructure, affecting nearly 93,000 farmers and fishers and more than 80,000 hectares of farmland](#) [10 September, Asia News Network]. Agricultural losses totalled about PHP4.1 billion, with rice the most heavily affected crop.

Spotlight stories

Cosmetics Spotlight: [Äio and Tilk launch skin-boosting face cream with two waste-fermented yeast fats](#) [14 September, Green Queen]

Estonian biotech startup Äio and skincare brand Tilk have launched a face cream containing two fermentation-derived fats produced by feeding yeast with industrial sidestreams from the food, dairy and wood industries. The ingredients provide alternatives to palm, coconut and other conventional oils, extending precision fermentation into personal care. The cream follows the companies' earlier skincare serum and is the first cosmetic product to combine two of Äio's fermentation-derived fats.

Regulatory Spotlight: [Amai Proteins' sweelin® wins Israeli approval, opening a reduced-sugar market](#) [31 August, Food & Beverage Magazine]

Israeli biotechnology company Amai Proteins has received approval from the Israeli Ministry of Health for sweelin®, its precision-fermented sweet protein. The ingredient can reduce sugar content by up to 70% and is approved for use across more than 25 food and beverage categories. Israel is the third market to authorise sweelin® in less than six months, following approvals in the United States and Singapore.

This week's headlines

[New Zealand-grown apple variety makes its global debut in Vietnam](#) [14 September, RNZ]

T&G Global has launched its new premium apple variety, Joli, in Vietnam, marking the global debut of a cultivar developed and grown in New Zealand. The launch follows the success of T&G's Envy brand, which recently surpassed NZ\$1 billion in global sales, as the company targets further growth in premium apple markets. T&G plans to expand Joli plantings in New Zealand and internationally to 1,500 hectares by 2035.

[Waitrose adds regenerative farming logo to own-brand milk](#) [15 September, Farming UK]

Waitrose has become the first UK supermarket to introduce a regenerative farming label on its own-brand fresh milk, highlighting practices used across its network of 40 dairy suppliers. The 'Championing Regenerative Farming' logo identifies milk produced using practices such as cover cropping, agroforestry, reduced soil disturbance and biodiversity monitoring. The initiative supports Waitrose's commitment to source key own-brand products from farms adopting regenerative practices by 2030 and provides customers with greater visibility of on-farm sustainability measures.

[European Union and FAO join forces to boost climate resilience of agrifood systems in Afghanistan](#) [13 September, FAO]

The European Union and FAO have launched a €5 million (~NZ\$10 million) programme to strengthen climate resilience across Afghanistan's agrifood value chains through farmer support, market access and agribusiness development. The initiative will establish four rural service hubs providing technical advice, climate information and market connections, alongside matching grants to help agrifood businesses expand. It will also restore 2,000 hectares of degraded land and support women-led nurseries and agrifood enterprises.

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,



Ian Proudfoot
Global Head of Agribusiness



Andrew Watene
Head of KPMG Propagate™



[Legal](#) | [Privacy](#) | [kpmg.com/nz](#)

KPMG New Zealand:
18 Viaduct Harbour Avenue
PO Box 1584
Auckland 1140
T: +64 9 367 5800

The information contained herein is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. Although we endeavour to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No one should act upon such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation.

This publication may incorporate AI-assisted content which has been subject to human review in accordance with KPMG's Trusted AI Framework.

© 2026 KPMG, a New Zealand Partnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organisation of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved.