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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 news,

[Independent New Zealand supermarket retailer Paddock to Pantry is planning a \\$25 million expansion, with more than 20 stores to open over the next five years](#) [9 October, RNZ]. Currently operating two stores alongside a nationwide online supermarket business, it plans to target communities with limited supermarket choice and invest in a new distribution center and delivery fleet.

[Kai Commitment has received NZ\\$750,000 in government funding over three years to continue and expand its voluntary programme helping food businesses measure, manage and reduce food waste across the supply chain](#) [13 October, Kai Collective]. The funding will support more businesses to join the programme and build on its work to reduce food waste through measurement, collaboration and practical action.

[FoodHQ, established to bring together research organisations, industry, entrepreneurs, investors and government across New Zealand's food sector, will close after 13 years](#) [12 October, Farmers Weekly]. The shareholders cited it was no longer needed as a standalone organisation following changes in the research sector, including the establishment of the Bioeconomy Science Institute.

[Rabobank has launched its inaugural HortPathways programme, bringing together 28 emerging horticulture leaders in Papamoa for professional development and industry networking](#) [8 October, Rural News Group]. The programme covered communication, succession, people management, governance and goal setting, with positive feedback supporting plans to run it again.

In international news,

[The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed reallocating biofuel volumes exempted through small refinery waivers to other refiners, helping maintain overall demand under the Renewable Fuel Standard](#) [13 October, Successful Farming]. The move has been welcomed by biofuel groups because it would protect demand for crops used in biofuel production, including corn and soybeans.

[Protein Industries Canada is investing C\\$1.3 million \(~NZ \\$1.6 million\) across nine companies to develop and scale plant-protein foods using Canadian-grown crops, alongside C\\$600,000 \(~NZ \\$750,000\) from the businesses](#) [8 October, Green Queen]. Projects range from pulse-based bakery products and high-protein bread to non-dairy products and fava bean tofu, with a focus on increasing domestic processing and reducing reliance on imported ingredients.

[The UK Food Standards Agency has recalled eggs from a Ukrainian supplier after testing found Salmonella Enteritidis, with the strain linked to 36 cases in England this year](#) [13 October, WATT Poultry]. Separately, another Salmonella outbreak in the UK has caused more than 500 infections and one death.

[Australia's competition regulator, the ACCC, has launched Federal Court action against 12 egg producers and suppliers, alleging cartel conduct and anti-competitive behaviour since at least 2020](#) [13 October, ABC Rural]. The regulator alleges the businesses coordinated decisions on production, distribution, expansion and culling to manage egg supply and reduce competition.

Spotlight stories

Intellectual Property Spotlight: [Onego Bio lawsuit against The EVERY Co dismissed on jurisdictional grounds](#) [11 October, AgFunder News]

In the U.S., a Delaware court has dismissed Onego Bio's lawsuit against The EVERY Company, ending a legal dispute between the two precision-fermentation egg protein companies. The dispute centred on EVERY's patent covering the production of ovalbumin, the main protein in egg white, using engineered microbes. The court did not rule on the patent's validity or whether Onego Bio infringes it, instead finding it lacked jurisdiction to make that determination.

Regenerative Agriculture Spotlight: [Regenerative Grazing Project Backed by Global Fund in NZ](#) [14 October, Rural News Group]

A New Zealand regenerative grazing initiative has received international backing from the Regenerative Fund for Nature to support sheep farmers in Otago and Canterbury. The Whole Story Savory Hub project aims to regenerate 50,000 hectares of farmland, improving soil health, biodiversity, water function and climate resilience through holistic grazing practices. It will also measure ecological outcomes to help create a pathway for verified regenerative wool into premium global markets.

This week's headlines

[LIFT Programme Names Nine Farms for Virtual Fencing Trial](#) [14 October, Rural News]

State-own farming enterprise, Pāmu's LIFT programme has selected nine hill country farms from Northland to Otago to trial virtual fencing in real-world farming conditions. The five-year, NZ \$8.5 million programme will examine whether the technology can improve grazing and stock management, as well as production, financial and environmental outcomes. MPI is contributing NZ \$3.5 million through the Primary Sector Growth Fund, with findings to be shared with farmers through field days, practical guidance and annual reports.

[Heydon announces €46.2m Fertiliser Exceptional Aid Scheme](#) [14 October, Agriland]

Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has announced a €46.2 million (~NZ \$92 million) support package for farmers facing higher fertiliser costs linked to the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. The scheme will provide €40 per tonne (~NZ \$80) of eligible fertiliser, funded through €15.38 million in EU support and a €30.8 million national contribution. Payments will be calculated using existing fertiliser purchase data, with eligible farmers not required to apply and support expected before the end of 2026.

[Australian buyers make their mark at NZ wool sale](#) [13 October, Farmers Weekly]

New Zealand's latest national wool sale generated NZ\$9.5 million, with 91% of the offering sold amid strong participation from Australian wool exporters. Australian buyers were active across all wool types, helping support competition despite limited volumes on offer. The Strong Wool Indicator lifted four cents, while crossbred fleece was largely unchanged, second shear made modest gains and merino prices were mixed.

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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