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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,

[The NZ–India FTA came into force on 20 October, opening new opportunities for New Zealand exporters across products including kiwifruit, apples, honey, wine and lamb](#) [Farmers Weekly, 20 October]. Special Agricultural Trade Envoy Nathan Guy was in India this week and commented that the opportunity will depend on building long-term relationships and trusted supply chains across India's diverse state-based markets.

[The New Zealand Government is weighing a WTO case against Canada over dairy subsidies, following two years of pressure from the dairy industry, but will first seek to resolve the issue through new bilateral trade talks](#) [21 October, Farmers Weekly]. DCANZ says subsidised Canadian dairy products are undercutting NZ exporters in global protein markets, estimating the resulting pressure on margins is costing exporters NZ\$256 million annually.

[The recently established New Zealand Wool Collective has announced its focus areas of industry collaboration, transparency and educating manufacturers and end users about wool](#) [16 October, Farmers Weekly]. Bringing together the work of Wool Impact and Campaign for Wool, the Collective will also focus on strengthening connections across the supply chain and broadening industry investment beyond growers.

[Beef + Lamb New Zealand has backed National's agriculture plan, particularly its focus on resource management reform, workable freshwater rules and not pricing agricultural emissions](#) [20 October, Rural News Group]. B+LNZ says the plan should go further on carbon farming, calling for tighter rules to prevent the wholesale conversion of sheep and beef farmland into carbon forests.

In international news,

[Australian and Chinese red meat industry bodies have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation, technical knowledge-sharing and commercial links across their livestock and red meat supply chains](#) [Food & Beverage Industry News, 21 October]. The agreement brings together Meat & Livestock Australia, the Australian Meat Industry Council and the China Meat Association and supports ties with a major export market worth more than A\$4.3 billion (~NZ\$5.3 billion) annually.

[Pakistan's largest farmer alliance is planning nationwide protests over farm incomes, demanding a wheat support price of Rs5,000 per maund \(~NZ\\$0.80/kg\) and a sugarcane price of Rs700 per 40kg \(~NZ\\$4.40\)](#) [Global Agriculture, 16 October]. The 36-member Pakistan Kisan Rabita Committee is also calling for the return of state wheat procurement, subsidized inputs and easier credit as rising production costs and weak returns squeeze growers.

[The UK and EU will meet in Brussels on 20 November for a Brexit 'reset' summit, with agreements on agri-food trade, emissions trading and youth mobility on the agenda](#) [POLITICO, 12 October]. The proposed agri-food agreement is intended to reduce sanitary and phytosanitary barriers affecting trade in food and agricultural products between the UK and EU.

[US e-commerce retailer Amazon is ending dedicated online storefronts for grocery partners such as Weis Markets and Winn-Dixie, instead bringing their products into its main shopping platform](#) [19 October, Progressive Grocer]. The move is part of a wider shift in Amazon's grocery strategy towards online delivery and Whole Foods Market.

Spotlight stories

Sustainability Spotlight: [China sets 2028 targets for new-energy inland vessels](#) [Transition Economy Review, 13 October]

The Chinese Government has released a 2026–2030 action plan to accelerate new-energy vessels across the country's inland shipping network, targeting a doubling of the fleet from 2025 levels by 2028. By 2028, the plan targets more than 1,000 electric cargo ships, over 100 methanol-powered vessels and 3,000km of zero-carbon waterways, supported by expanded charging, battery-swapping and methanol bunkering infrastructure. Electric vessels will be prioritised for shorter routes, while methanol-powered ships are expected to support longer-distance, larger-tonnage freight.

Innovation Spotlight: [Better Dairy targets 2027 launch of human lactopontin protein after US safety determination](#) [Green Queen, 20 October]

British precision-fermentation company Better Dairy has self-affirmed its lactopontin ingredient as Generally Recognized as Safe in the US, with finished products expected from early 2027. The human-identical milk protein occurs naturally at much higher levels in human milk than cow's milk and is being targeted at adult nutrition applications, including healthy ageing, gut, joint and skin health, and sports recovery. Better Dairy plans to notify the US Food and Drug Administration of its determination and is also pursuing regulatory approvals in the UK, EU and Asia.

This week's headlines

[Zespri Red kiwifruit makes its European debut in Belgium](#) [Fruit Today, 20 October]

Zespri Red has made its European commercial debut in Belgium, with Italian-grown fruit available from mid-October following more than 15 years of breeding, selection and trials in New Zealand and Europe. It is the first red-fleshed variety from Zespri's breeding programme to be commercially launched in Europe, joining Green and SunGold in its portfolio. Initial volumes are limited, with Zespri planning to establish 170 hectares of Red orchards in Italy between 2026 and 2028 to support future European supply.

[NZ biotech start-up Daisy Lab's expansion hopes after UK acquisition](#) [NZ Herald, 16 October]

Auckland biotech start-up Daisy Lab, which uses precision fermentation to produce dairy-identical proteins including lactoferrin, has been acquired by UK industrial biotechnology company Mycofeast. Daisy Lab will retain its New Zealand research team whilst gaining access to Mycofeast's US research capabilities and European manufacturing capacity. The acquisition provides a pathway to scale Daisy Lab's New Zealand-developed technology for global markets, with commercial production expected to move to Mycofeast's European facilities.

[UK salmon suppliers switch to chicken-derived feed](#) [20 October, Grocery Gazette]

Major European salmon producers are introducing or trialling poultry by-products in salmon feed to reduce costs and reliance on wild-caught marine ingredients. The ingredients are sourced from poultry raised for human consumption and use parts that are not eaten. The shift may lower waste and the environmental impact of salmon farming, but retailer acceptance remains a consideration because some UK supermarkets have previously restricted poultry-derived ingredients in salmon feed.

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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