

UPDATE: 25 January 2024

Kia ora

In this week’s update, while there is growing optimism of a good harvest, there continues to be stark reminders of the impact of extreme weather events both in NZ and internationally while strikes and terrorist attacks disrupt supply chains and overseas government policies affect the flow of trade. You’ll find links to these as well as our regular items of regulatory notifications, consultations, national and international news, and upcoming events below.

Ngā mihi

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| GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS |

## ICPR changes & other updates

The following ICPRs have been updated in a number of sections since the last newsletter:

* Chile: [ICPR Chile](https://cbaff.outreach.co.nz/redirect/YTo3OntzOjM6InVybCI7czo0NToiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubXBpLmdvdnQubnovZG1zZG9jdW1lbnQvNjI5LUNoaWxlIjtzOjQ6InR5cGUiO3M6NDoiaHJlZiI7czo3OiJtZXNzYWdlIjtzOjU6IjkwNDEzIjtzOjc6ImFjY291bnQiO3M6NToiY2JhZmYiO3M6ODoiY2F0ZWdvcnkiO3M6NDoiNTIxNSI7czo3OiJzZW50X2F0IjtpOjE3MDYwNjcwMTM7czoxMDoibm90aWZpYWJsZSI7aToxO30.?oid=10784)
* Brazil: [ICPR Brazil](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/625)
* French Polynesia: [ICPR French Polynesia](https://cbaff.outreach.co.nz/redirect/YTo3OntzOjM6InVybCI7czozOToiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubXBpLmdvdnQubnovZG1zZG9jdW1lbnQvNjQ2IjtzOjQ6InR5cGUiO3M6NDoiaHJlZiI7czo3OiJtZXNzYWdlIjtzOjU6IjkyMzMzIjtzOjc6ImFjY291bnQiO3M6NToiY2JhZmYiO3M6ODoiY2F0ZWdvcnkiO3M6NDoiNTIxNSI7czo3OiJzZW50X2F0IjtpOjE3MDU4OTI4MjQ7czoxMDoibm90aWZpYWJsZSI7aToxO30.?oid=10784)
* Indonesia: [ICPR Indonesia](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/652)
* Japan: [ICPR Japan](https://cbaff.outreach.co.nz/redirect/YTo3OntzOjM6InVybCI7czo0NToiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubXBpLmdvdnQubnovZG1zZG9jdW1lbnQvNjU3LUphcGFuIjtzOjQ6InR5cGUiO3M6NDoiaHJlZiI7czo3OiJtZXNzYWdlIjtzOjU6IjkxMDUyIjtzOjc6ImFjY291bnQiO3M6NToiY2JhZmYiO3M6ODoiY2F0ZWdvcnkiO3M6NDoiNTIxNSI7czo3OiJzZW50X2F0IjtpOjE3MDUzNzQwODM7czoxMDoibm90aWZpYWJsZSI7aToxO30.?oid=10784)
* Samoa: [ICPR Samoa](https://cbaff.outreach.co.nz/redirect/YTo3OntzOjM6InVybCI7czo0NToiaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubXBpLmdvdnQubnovZG1zZG9jdW1lbnQvNjg0LVNhbW9hIjtzOjQ6InR5cGUiO3M6NDoiaHJlZiI7czo3OiJtZXNzYWdlIjtzOjU6IjkwODYwIjtzOjc6ImFjY291bnQiO3M6NToiY2JhZmYiO3M6ODoiY2F0ZWdvcnkiO3M6NDoiNTIxNSI7czo3OiJzZW50X2F0IjtpOjE3MDUwMjg3NTY7czoxMDoibm90aWZpYWJsZSI7aToxO30.?oid=10784)
* Vanuatu: [ICPR Vanuatu](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/704-Vanuatu)

If you need any further clarification, contact your Independent Verification Agency in the first instance.

#### *WTO and TBT Notifications*

Please find attached the most recent WTO and TBT notifications from countries that are considering changes to their plant import requirements for specific products. If you have any concerns about the notifications being presented, please contact [Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz) so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country.

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## Consultations

#### Proposals to Amend the New Zealand (Maximum Residue Levels for Agricultural Compounds) Food Notice

New Zealand Food Safety is inviting public comment on changes proposed to the Food Notice: Maximum Residue Levels for Agricultural Compounds. The proposed changes are: One amended entry for maximum residue levels in Schedule 1; One Schedule 1 entry proposed for removal; and 3 new entries for veterinary medicines for which no maximum residue level applies in Schedule 3.

More information on the proposal and how to make a submission are on the Ministry for Primary Industries [website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposals-to-amend-the-new-zealand-maximum-residue-levels-for-agricultural-compounds-food-notice-9/?utm_source=notification-email). Submissions close at 5pm on 13 February 2024.

#### Proposed amendments to the Organic Export Requirements: Organic Production Rules

New Zealand Food Safety is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the Organic Export Requirement: Organic Production Rules (OER: OPR) which forms part of MPI's Official Organic Assurance Programme.

In July 2023, New Zealand Food Safety invited applications to proposed changes to the generic inputs that could be used by organic producers under the Official Organic Assurance Programme. One application to amend the generic inputs was received and assessed by a panel of technical experts. The panel recommended that New Zealand Food Safety consult on the inclusion of lignosulphonate for use in organic production. Feedback is also invited for additional amendments to the OER: OPR including to the definitions; requirements for registration of organic operators; and provision of official organic assurances (organic export certificates).

More information on the proposed changes and how to make a submission are on the Ministry for Primary Industries [website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposed-amendments-to-the-organic-export-requirements-organic-production-rules/?utm_source=notification-email). Submissions close at 5pm on 2 February 2024 .

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| NEW ZEALAND NEWS |

## Government News

#### New Zealand deploying NZDF team to protect Red Sea shipping

New Zealand is deploying a six-member Defence Force team to the Middle East region to uphold maritime security in the Red Sea, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon says.

“Houthi attacks against commercial and naval shipping are illegal, unacceptable and profoundly destabilising.” Prime Minister Luxton said “This deployment, as part of an international coalition, is a continuation of New Zealand’s long history of defending freedom of navigation both in the Middle East and closer to home.”

The team will contribute to the collective self-defence of ships in the Middle East, in accordance with international law, from operational headquarters in the region and elsewhere. No NZDF personnel will enter Yemen. It is part of a continuous New Zealand defence contribution to maritime security in the Middle East since 2013. The deployment is mandated to conclude no later than 31 July 2024. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-deploying-nzdf-team-protect-red-sea-shipping)

#### Trade Minister travels to Geneva and Dubai

Trade Minister Todd McClay departed earlier this week to visit the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Following his appointment as a WTO Vice Chair, Mr McClay is traveling to prepare for the 13th Ministerial Conference of the WTO, being held in Abu Dhabi in February. While in Geneva, Mr McClay will meet key leaders within the World Trade Organization including the Director General, Deputy Director General, and the heads of key Regional Groups in the WTO, as well as Pacific Representatives.

Mr McClay will then travel to Dubai to meet with Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, to discuss New Zealand’s support for the UAE chairing of the 13th WTO Ministerial Committee, and our bilateral trading interests, including exploratory talks towards a bilateral Closer Economic Partnership Agreement. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/trade-minister-travels-geneva-and-dubai)

## Industry news

#### New season apples to hit market after tough year

A bountiful harvest on the East Coast is expected to put new-season apples back on supermarket shelves.

New Zealand Apple and Pear chief executive Karen Morrish told RNZ Morning Report while last year's harvest was disrupted by Cyclone Gabrielle, growing conditions for this season has been "fantastic". "In terms of Hawkes Bay and Tairāwhiti we had about 610 hectares of planted trees lost, so that's about 10 percent [of the crop in that area]...what we're looking at is a recovery phase to pre-cyclone levels so we've still got a little way to go in terms of that. "The good news is that apple trees are exceptionally resilient, as are our growers. Growing conditions this year, nationally, have been fantastic so we're certainly looking forward to an excellent crop." [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/507579/new-season-apples-to-hit-market-after-tough-year)

#### Zespri CEO resigns

Zespri chief executive Dan Mathieson will leave the grower-owned company later this year. He takes up a new position as president of the Americas for global berry company Driscoll’s.

Mathieson has been at Zespri for 21 years, almost seven of those as CEO and will remain at Zespri to oversee the 2024 harvest and start of the sales season and until a new CEO is appointed. The industry is poised to deliver one of its largest-ever crops to meet growing demand for Zespri Kiwifruit around the world.

Zespri chairman Bruce Cameron says Mathieson leaves as a world-class CEO who has helped turn Zespri into a leading sales and marketing company and with the industry well positioned to continue to succeed. [Full article here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/hort-news/hort-general-news/zespri-ceo-resigns?ct=t(RNG_23_JANUARY_2023_COPY_01))

#### December hail storm causes $6 million losses for Canterbury arable farmers

A late hail storm in Canterbury has caused around $6 million in damages for 12 to 15 arable farmers. The storm, which occurred on December 13, left valuable small seed and other crops buried under a thick layer of hail. Darrell Hydes, Federated Farmers arable seeds vice-chairman, described the storm as the worst he has experienced in his farming career since 1988.

Hydes reported that about half of his farm was severely damaged, with some of his family's blocks suffering up to three-quarters damage. The storm was particularly devastating for crops within the hail belt. Hydes' spinach seed crop was so badly damaged that it had to be discarded and replaced with greenfeed oats.

Other crops, such as cocksfoot and rapeseed, were also severely damaged, resulting in lower yields. A potato crop on Hydes' land was stripped back to stalks, yielding only a reduced harvest. Hydes estimates that it will take him several years to recover from the losses. Only his wheat crops were partially covered by disaster relief insurance from United Wheat Growers.

The hail storm affected a 2 km-wide strip from about 5 km out of Methven and continuing towards Highbank and the Rakaia River. South Pacific Seeds also reported significant damage to their specialist seed crops in the affected area. [Full article here](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/december-hail-storm-causes-6-million-losses-for-canterbury-arable-farmers/NW6YOAWI5NEUBPXWV62E5TCJHE/)

## Reports & Insights

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: United Kingdom: Border Target Operating Model

The United Kingdom is making a range of changes to its customs regime under the recently announced Border Target Operating Model (BTOM). The intention is to simplify, digitise and over time, deliver border controls through the UK’s new Single Trade Window. It will also implement the same controls on imports from European Union countries as those from non-EU countries. These changes will be implemented at three milestones: extra certification requirements for some products imported from the EU will come in from 31 January; physical border checks on goods from the EU will begin occurring from 30 April; and full implementation is expected by 31 October.

The first tranche of changes on 31 January will affect goods moving from the EU to Great Britain, so it will not affect New Zealand exporters sending directly into Great Britain, but New Zealand exporters exporting from EU to Great Britain will need to be aware of the new requirements. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/united-kingdom-border-target-operating-model-january-2024/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=530d050f05-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_01_16_11_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-530d050f05-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

#### MFAT Market Intelligence Report: South Africa: agriculture opportunities

South Africa has the most developed, productive and diverse agricultural sector in Africa, comprising animal production, horticulture and field crops. Agriculture has been one of the few sectors of the South African economy that has experienced continued expansion and increased employment over the years since the Covid-19 pandemic. Positive weather forecasts predicting good rains for the upcoming planting season boosts confidence in the outlook for the sector. Challenges include biosecurity, inconsistent energy supply, and logistics constraints. [Full report here](https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/mfat-market-reports/south-africa-agriculture-opportunities-december-2023/?utm_source=MFAT&utm_campaign=fd9d6304ac-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_01_11_12_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-fd9d6304ac-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

## Upcoming events and webinars:

* IFPA – A-NZ Food Safety Trends - 2024 Edition Webinar, 1st Feb 2024. Free. [Full details here](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/food-safety-trends-2024-edition-tickets-778019305687?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_eid=ba99fc8413&mc_cid=3240ff07c2)
* Hort Connections, 3-5 June 2024, Melbourne Convention Centre, Australia. [Full details here](https://hortconnections.com.au/)
* Horticulture Conference and RSE Conference, 28-30 August 2024, Tauranga.

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| INTERNATIONAL NEWS |

## GAIN reports:

Gain reports are from the “Global Agricultural Information Network” and are produced by the USDA. They are designed to provide timely information on the economy, products and issues in foreign countries that are likely to have an impact on United States agricultural production and trade. The information in them is written for USA exporters but the majority is equally relevant to New Zealand. For import regulations for a particular market, New Zealand exporters should first check the countries ICPR on MPI’s web site.

Exporter Guides: [Vietnam](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Exporter%20Guide_Hanoi_Vietnam_VM2023-0074)

A resource for US exporters that provides an economic and market overview for each country, as well as demographic trends, practical tips and information on local business practices, consumer preferences, and trends.

Citrus Annual: [Turkey](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Citrus%20Annual_Ankara_Turkiye_TU2023-0042), [Israel](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Citrus%20Annual_Tel%20Aviv_Israel_IS2023-0013)

Australia a Key Market for US Fresh Fruit

Australia is a crucial market for U.S. fresh fruits because of the year-round demand for high-quality products. The U.S. has benefitted from a well-established reputation for producing quality and safe fruits. While demand for fresh fruit was low in Australia from 2018-2020, the fresh fruit industry has recovered, and demand will likely increase for the next five years. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Australia%20a%20Key%20Market%20for%20US%20Fresh%20Fruit_Canberra_Australia_AS2024-0001)

Hong Kong Fresh Fruit Market

Farmland in Hong Kong is limited. In 2022, local agricultural production (livestock and crops) yielded about $173 million worth of fresh food. Hence, Hong Kong relies on imports of fresh produce to feed its 7.3 million residents. The openness of the Hong Kong food import regime and its well-travelled consumers who demand a wide range of fruit offerings, make this city a great and competitive export destination for fresh fruit. Hong Kong consumers are health conscious and fruits are an integral part of their daily diets. In 2022. Among all U.S. fruit exports, the top selling items in Hong Kong are oranges, cherries, apples, strawberries, and grapes. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Hong%20Kong%20Fresh%20Fruit%20Market_Hong%20Kong_Hong%20Kong_HK2024-0001)

## In The News:

#### Australian port dispute escalates, inflicting economic damage

A growing industrial conflict between Australia's principal stevedore, DP World, and the union representing its workers is causing an increase in supply chain costs and distress for businesses in the maritime-reliant nation.

Joseph Saina, a director at a fresh produce logistics firm, A.S. Barr, and chairman of the Australian Horticultural Exporters' & Importers' Association, is dealing with the consequences daily. For instance, a shipment of produce meant for Singapore was delayed at DP World.

Since October, DP World, owned by the UAE, has been in a dispute with the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), which is advocating for a pay rise for wharf workers and opposing proposed changes to the roster system. Many workers at DP World's four terminals have participated in a series of protected industrial actions while negotiating a new enterprise bargaining agreement (EBA). DP World estimates the industrial action has cost Australia an average of AU$84 million in lost productivity per week since it began, leading to a backlog of over 48,000 containers that will take months to clear. The company, the opposition coalition, and industry groups for affected sectors are urging the federal government to intervene. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/oceania/article/9593255/australian-port-dispute-escalates-inflicting-economic-damage/?utm_medium=email)

#### Australia's potato industry: Vulnerable to shortages due to extreme weather events

A year after Australia's hot chip shortage, the industry still grapples with unresolved supply chain issues, indicating potential future shortages. Australian potatoes are primarily grown for three uses: hot chips, crisp chips, and fresh cooking potatoes. In January 2023, hot chip potatoes were scarce, with Victoria and Tasmania's yields affected by wet weather. Crisping potatoes also faced potential shortage.

Terry Buckley, a major potato grower in South Australia's Pleasant Park, warns that the industry is always on the brink of another shortage due to unpredictable weather conditions. Buckley is contractually obligated to grow specific potato varieties, limiting his ability to grow extra supplies in anticipation of difficult seasons. The industry largely grows to contract, leaving little room for surplus to cover potential shortfalls.

So, with more weather events predicted in the coming years, how will the industry cope? A strengthened export market may be the answer. "If we are consistently exporting more product, that could be shuffled around a little bit more when we need to," Mr Buckley said. "But if we do remain entirely in Australia, then these highs and lows are certainly going to happen. "But Australia's cost of production is very high, and it is hard to compete in some of those markets." [Full article here](https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2024-01-20/potato-crops-in-australia-are-still-susceptible-to-shortages/103368238)

#### Onion import suspension in the Philippines to control dropping prices

The Philippines is putting a temporary halt to onion imports until May, or possibly even July, in an attempt to prevent the prices from becoming excessively low. This is a stark contrast to the situation a year ago when the country was grappling with a shortage of the vegetable staple, which led to soaring prices.

The current situation has prompted Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. to order the suspension of onion imports to avoid further price depression. The decision comes after the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. called for such a measure earlier this week. The group's president, Danilo V. Fausto, warned of the potential for onions to be discarded on the streets if importation is not halted. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/asia/article/9593884/onion-import-suspension-in-the-philippines-to-control-dropping-prices/?utm_medium=email)

#### Imported fruit gaining a bigger foothold in Vietnam market

The total import turnover of fresh fruit products grows steadily each year, making Vietnam a promising market for Australian and New Zealand businesses.

Australia’s total fruit export turnover to Vietnam is expected to have reached $1.4 billion in 2022-2023, according to data from Austrade. Besides peaches and nectarines, the country also has great potential to export other fresh fruits such as grapes, oranges, or cherries.

Chris Morley, commissioner at the Australian Trade and Investment Commission in Vietnam (Austrade) said “Agricultural products and fresh fruits will continue to become a key trade promotion centre in the close diplomatic relationship between the two countries,” “Vietnam is also Australia’s second-largest export market for agricultural products, and we will be interested in developing fruit products here in the near future.”

Food and beverages account for 77 per cent of New Zealand’s total exports to Vietnam, with produce fruits and nuts forming 23.4 per cent of that sector’s exports. New Zealand has consistently posted double-digit growth of the exports of apples and kiwi to Vietnam over the past few years.

“With consistent growth of New Zealand’s export of apples and kiwis to the Vietnamese market over the last few years, the potential for further growth of imported fruit consumption looks to continue, especially in terms of apples,” said Giang Nguyen, head of business development at NZTE. “Taste, price, and product safety are currently the key drivers for consumers when purchasing fruit. New Zealand exporters who are able to clearly define and highlight these factors to Vietnamese consumers can position themselves better in the long run,” Nguyen said.

Duong Gia Linh, deputy head of Import Department of Viet Products Development JSC (VPD), commented that Vietnamese consumers are increasingly concerned about their health than ever before, they are willing to spend more on imported food, especially fresh fruit products. “Compared to fruits imported from Japan, South Korea, or North America, Australia and New Zealand have fruits of stable quality and diverse types, so they are very popular with consumers and their prices are more reasonable,” Linh said. [Full article here](https://vir.com.vn/imported-fruit-gaining-a-bigger-foothold-in-market-108233.html)

#### Rise in South African nectarine exports expected

While three South African stonefruit categories are likely to decline in volume this year, nectarines are expected to show strong growth. Some exporters have said they have packed and shipped up to 60 per cent more nectarines in the early season – however logistical problems in the port of Cape Town have hampered exports.

Hortgro predicted that exports of nectarines would increase by 20 per cent this year – from 7.7m cartons last year to 9.2m this year. “The increase is due to young orchards coming into production as well as new cultivars with higher yields,” Hortgro noted. ”The early season volumes are up by 23 per cent, and mid and late season volumes are estimated to respectively increase by 22 per cent and 23 per cent compared to 2022/2023.” For apricots it is another story of declining volumes. The export crop is expected to drop by some 33 per cent year-on-year. The drop in peach exports is another ongoing continuing trend seen over the past few seasons [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/rise-in-south-african-nectarine-exports-expected/257848.article)

#### South African apple and pear industry set to bounce back in 2024

South African pome fruit producers are looking forward to exports bouncing back. This is on the back of a lower pome fruit export crop due to hail damage in some of the major fruit producing areas during 2023.

"The 2024 harvest season is already in full swing, a week to 10 days earlier than last season, with indications that we can expect promising apple export volumes and a slightly below average pear export crop. This was largely influenced by a good, cold, and wet winter with more favourable weather conditions impacting positively on fruit production," the industry body Hortgro said in a statement.

Apple export volumes are anticipated to increase by 7%, mainly due to young orchards coming into production coupled with more favourable weather conditions. The pear export estimate on the other hand indicates a more moderate outlook with a volume increase of 1% on last season’s volumes.  [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/asia/article/9592920/south-african-apple-and-pear-industry-set-to-bounce-back-in-2024/?utm_medium=email)

#### UK industry fears disruption from new post-Brexit border checks

British businesses are warning of a new wave of post-Brexit trade disruption because EU exporters are not ready for UK customs changes which start this month, and Britain's port infrastructure might be unprepared too.

Britain left the European Union's single market in January 2021 but it has repeatedly delayed imposing checks on EU imports. By contrast, the EU immediately enforced its rules, leading to port delays in 2021 and prompting some British exporters - such as cheese-makers and high-end beef farmers - to give up on selling to the bloc, at least initially.

Britain has postponed full implementation of its post-Brexit border controls on food and fresh products five times due to worries about port disruption and the cost-of-living crisis. But its new Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) comes into force on Jan. 31 and will be introduced in three phases. [Full article here](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-industry-fears-disruption-new-post-brexit-border-checks-2024-01-23/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_campaign=Daily-Briefing&utm_term=012324&user_email=b2b7302eec288cded54cb9cdad2ef273639f17733b3c15fb7fa4b3eb3795721a)

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