

CONTENTS

Agrecovery update	2
CropLife Asia update	3
Illegal products on e-auction sites	4
How farmers are fighting for our food	5
Animal health expert retires	6
Scholarships	7
Biotechnology focus at conference	8
Food loss and waste	9
Management of inhibitors	10
Review of agrichemical standard	
New members	11-12
New lead for GrowSafe	12
About us	13

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THE AGCARM NEWSLETTER

July 2020

Supporting a 48 billion dollar industry

By Agcarm Chief Executive, Mark Ross

The coronavirus crisis has brought into focus the incredible public health challenge our world faces, and nowhere is this challenge more apparent than in food production. Nourishing the world during this crisis is a top priority across nations.

The need for animal medicines and pesticides to keep animals and plants healthy is more important than ever to ensure an abundant, healthy food supply.

With foresight and planning, the availability of these products to meet grower and farmer demand for the 2020/21 season is faring well. Manufacturers have made sure that the active ingredients used in these products are in good supply.

Covid-19 has had minimal impact on New Zealand farming to

date. With increased freedom, the economy is picking up and we are starting to see increased efficiencies for our exports.

We are a small player in the international animal medicines and crop protection market, but one that is critical to the acceleration of the New Zealand economy - supporting a 48 billion dollar horticultural, dairy and meat export industry.

The recently announced Free Trade Agreement negotiations between New Zealand and the United Kingdom are welcome. As our sixth largest trading partner, we certainly see opportunities for developing realistic approaches to regulatory differences that protect animal health and don't unnecessarily impede trade.

We look forward to the forthcoming general elections. No matter who is in power after

September 19, we will continue to advocate for science and fact-based decisions to align with our vision for New Zealand of healthy crops, healthy animals and healthy businesses. ■



AGCARM CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MARK ROSS

Waiting on green light for groundbreaking projects



Some new initiatives by rural recycling programme, Agrecovery could see some groundbreaking project work given the green light.

Priority product status

The Minister for the Environment, Eugenie Sage, is considering advice on the outcomes of a priority product status consultation which took place in October last year. The consultation investigates proposals to make certain products, including agrichemicals and farm plastics, part of a mandatory product stewardship scheme - to ensure products are recycled at the end of their useful life.

An announcement, including which product categories to progress and any changes to scheme design features, is expected shortly.

Agrecovery welcomes proposals to regulate and further promote product stewardship, but

advocates for greater investment in domestic recycling infrastructure for farm plastics, especially for soft plastics such as wrap and bulk bags.

"Our recycling programme is successful because HDPE plastics can be recycled locally. We need this option for recycling other plastics - like the woven polypropylene bags used for feed, seed and fertiliser. There are options for recycling these, as well as the softer plastics of silage and bale wrap - but we need more local facilities to process the materials," says Andrew.

Veterinary medicine recycling trials

In the challenge to clear more waste from rural communities,

Agrecovery is trialling new ways to recycle animal health products.

The programme is working with the manufacturers of these products, as well as the veterinarians that use them, to try and find ways of making them useful again.

Trials initiated with Zoetis have resulted in the recycling of several products with the Auckland-based recycler, Astron.

One-stop-shop events

Nationwide events, where farmers can recycle and sustainably dispose of a variety of end-of-life products and packaging, will be held in Canterbury later this year, and in Taranaki next year.

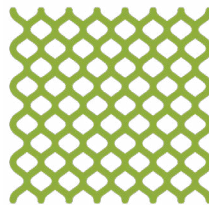
More than 37 tonnes of waste was dropped off at six events last year

- including agrichemical containers, unwanted agrichemicals, used agricultural oils, seed and feed bags, and soft plastics.

"The events allow us to work with farmers and growers to find the best ways of sustainably clearing on-farm waste," says Agrecovery General Manager, Simon Andrew.

2019/20 collection totals

Agrecovery collected approximately 410 tonnes of plastic during the 2019-2020 financial year. This is a nine percent decrease on the previous year - due to Agrecovery services being paused for nearly two months during the Covid-19 response. On-farm collections began during Alert Level 3 and sites opened at Alert Level 2. ■



Regional Advocacy & Communications during COVID-19.



By Duke Hipp

When the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) was declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a global pandemic in March of this year, it only confirmed what was already abundantly clear in New Zealand and throughout the larger region: the human health risk across society was real and potentially deadly. What was perhaps less clear at that time was the disruptive impact some national mitigation measures around Asia would have on the food value chain – and in turn, regional food security.

As lockdowns, border closures and movement restrictions were understandably put in place, the detrimental effect on the region's farmers was immense – and in some instances, continues to be. Accordingly, CropLife Asia has led

and supported engagement around the region to help ensure farmers are enabled to continue producing the safe and nutritious food that drives food security across the continent.

With respect to our advocacy and communications efforts, CropLife Asia has taken a number of steps to amplify the voice of regional farmers and ensure the perspective of the plant science industry is included in policy-making dialogues.

Among these steps include:

- Leading weekly coordination calls to ensure alignment on Covid-19 outreach among CropLife regional communicators;
- Developing industry Covid-19 key

messages in support of media and outreach engagement;

- Drafting of letter template for national association use in conveying importance of industry movement exemptions;
- Placing a joint op-ed with the Asia-Pacific Seed Association on the Channel NewsAsia digital platform as well as related Singapore radio interview conveying industry's position;
- Developing and launching a 'Frontline Food Heroes' social media campaign highlighting challenges and perspectives of regional farmers growing food during the pandemic; and
- Engaging with the ASEAN Secretariat to submit industry recommendations for regional food production resiliency.

Unfortunately, in a number of instances around the region, the fragile nature and delicate balance of the food supply chain was exposed and made particularly vulnerable by the various national Covid-19 mitigation measures. In engaging with regional stakeholders, CropLife Asia has stressed policies that reflect the learning from that experience and guard against it repeating or worsening.

In particular, we've highlighted the need to ensure demand from markets and the supply chain reaches farmers so that they can

meet this in a timely manner. At the same time, it's crucially important to exempt agriculture as an 'essential service' while also providing necessary equipment and training to secure the safety of the farming community. Flexibility in policy-making is also helpful – specifically, adapting regulations and policies to deliver timely agricultural inputs and raw materials to farmers (including 'fast track' registration as needed and cross-border sharing of science-based, predictable regulations to support the introduction of new technologies).

While national governments around the region now largely exempt food and agriculture sectors to ensure continuity with food production, farmers are still adapting. In some instances, gaps between related national policies and on-the-ground state/provincial realities have also come to light.

For these reasons and to help ensure our regional food supply chain is made more resilient in the "new normal" of a post-COVID-19 landscape, CropLife Asia will continue to engage for the plant science industry on this important front.

Duke Hipp

is the Director of Public Affairs & Strategic Partnerships for CropLife Asia. ■

Illegal products removed from e-auction sites

The agrichemical industry and government have joined forces to remove multiple illegal animal medicine and pesticide products found for sale on online sites.

Several e-auction sites are selling products that do not comply with regulatory requirements to New Zealanders.

Recent checks by manufacturing members have found multiple listings of illegally branded products, with sellers based anywhere from Australia to the United Kingdom.

Some products are not even sold in New Zealand or Australia due to regulatory concerns. Of greater concern, are the products that have not passed the strict border biosecurity controls now in place within New Zealand.

Trade Me is the most proactive in removing listings when notified. Other sites, like Facebook marketplace, Amazon and eBay do not have New Zealand based offices and are harder to engage with and monitor.

Trade Me has agreed to catch more of these infringing listings and ultimately prevent the sale of these products. The e-auction site is now using a search query function to look for keywords provided by Agcarm against Australian sellers in the relevant categories. As a result, multiple products have been removed from sale. Household pet products, like flea treatments, are

the most prevalent items breaching the regulations. When questioned, the common response from sellers is an apology and a promise to remove such listings from their account.

Taking it a step further, Trade Me now requires all international sellers of animal medicines and pesticides to sign an agreement that prevents them from selling unregistered products in New Zealand. This excludes Australia, however, as the country is considered by the site as domestic.

Facebook marketplace recently had listings of herbicides, dips and drenches for sale. The New Zealand farmer was selling them per litre or as used products. This practice is illegal under our regulations and the listings were removed after the farmer was notified.

Example of agchems for sale on a Facebook page



Pet owners and farmers should only purchase animal medicines and pesticides from trusted sources, such as vet clinics or trusted rural retailers. To be sure that you are buying from a trusted manufacturer and retailer, check the list of members on the Agcarm website.

The Ministry for Primary Industries has also lifted its compliance monitoring and is requesting listings to be removed from Trade Me. According to the regulator, more than 50 products that did not meet regulatory requirements were removed from the site in the last six weeks.

It is crucial to stop the sales of unregistered products to avoid damaging consequences to the

environment and risks to the health of people and animals.

Pet owners and farmers should only purchase animal medicines and pesticides from trusted sources, such as vet clinics or trusted rural retailers. To be sure that you are buying from a trusted manufacturer and retailer, check the list of members on the Agcarm website. ■

How farmers are fighting for our food

Farmers around the world have had to dig deep to cope with sudden and major disruption to supply, production and logistics resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.



Consumers across the world stockpiled food as lockdown measures loomed and restaurant closures removed an integral part of the food supply chain. This has forced farmers to adapt quickly to huge spikes and drops in demand at a time when preserving our health is so critical.

Some farmers have adapted by finding new ways to sell their produce and look after their livestock. Smaller farmers have

adopted online delivery services and promoting themselves via social media.

For the most vulnerable people the world over, food and nutrition security continues to be a concern. Organisations, like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), are working to provide smallholder farmers with livestock, tools and support, so they can continue producing animal food products for the local community.

The EU Commission has outlined proposals to grant aid for storing milk, meat and dairy products.

In the United States, where major poultry producers and hatcheries have been forced to slow production, authorities announced a US\$19 billion relief programme to support farmers.

The FAO assembled a dedicated Covid-19 Fisheries and Aquaculture Task Force to assess and address the impact of the disease on the sector.

Interest in on-farm digital technology – such as digital devices that can track and monitor livestock and enhance animal welfare – will be stronger than ever because producers have been forced to rethink how they farm. Industry bodies are also calling for new technologies to create a more robust industry.

There is still a way to go until production returns to normal around the globe. In the meantime, retailers, animal health organisations and veterinarians are working with farmers to help them through this crisis. Our input industries are continuing to support farmers by managing pests and weeds in animals and crops. ■

“Interest in on-farm digital technology – such as digital devices that can track and monitor livestock and enhance animal welfare – will be stronger than ever because producers have been forced to rethink how they farm.”

Agcarm's animal health expert retires

AFTER A 17 YEAR TENURE, DR JAN QUAY IS RETIRING NEXT MONTH AND WILL BE MISSED BY AGCARM LEADERS, COLLEAGUES, MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS.

"As Technical Director - Animal Health, Jan's contribution to Agcarm is well-respected, including her work in resistance management - both antimicrobial and anthelmintic, as well as her engagement with regulatory stakeholders and industry groups. She worked diligently to collate the labelling guide, the yearly tracked substances list and to support the board and the Agcarm committee groups.

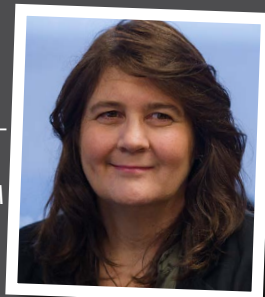


Before Agcarm, Jan worked as a veterinarian in the Wellington region for 25 years, a career where she says she "got to see the best and worst of people".

From next month, Jan will take a well-deserved rest before engaging in more voluntary work, quilting, sewing, a genealogy project and eventually - some travelling."

In their words

"Jan has been instrumental in leading a strong technical focus for Agcarm and giving our collective voice real credibility."
- PAULINE CALVERT, AGCARM PRESIDENT



"Jan has a great capacity for dealing with issues as they arise, and this is a real bonus when you have a small staff. Her technical expertise and ability to work with members will be hard to replace.

Even when under pressure, Jan manages to stay calm, with her 'no fuss' attitude keeping many regulators and government officials on their toes. On a personal level, I will miss Jan's sense of humour, support and knowledge. I wish Jan well as she ventures off to spend more time with her family and enjoying life outside the work environment."

- MARK ROSS, AGCARM CHIEF EXECUTIVE



"The ACVM team would like to acknowledge Jan's professionalism in her many dealings with ACVM over the years. Her understanding of the respective roles of the regulator and Agcarm ensured there was always a constructive working relationship between the two. Jan's expertise and contribution on important areas of work such as labelling, antimicrobial and anthelmintic resistance has been much appreciated. We would like to wish her all the best with her retirement."



Warren Hughes, Principal Adviser ACVM, Assurance Directorate, New Zealand Food Safety - Haumaru Kai Aotearoa, Ministry for Primary Industries

"Jan was a joy to work with while I was on the Board and especially in the President role. Jan only worked part time but you wouldn't think so - she was such a highly contributing team member. Not only was she able to assist with technical issues effortlessly but she also handled multiple other issues including regulatory contact, constitution queries, and greatly assisting in managing board meetings! Jan always has a smile and kind word for all. A truly nice person whom I wish all the best for the future."



Mark Christie, Agcarm's longest standing President and former Country Manager for FMC Agricultural Solutions

Dr Jan Quay has contributed a huge amount to animal health in 40 years as a dedicated veterinary professional. I worked with Jan for only seven years of her stellar innings but I know that she was of huge assistance to Agcarm members in coordinating and channelling their collective brilliance for the benefit of the sector. Always well prepared for the frequent member gatherings, Jan also successfully 'flew the flag' for Agcarm at many regulatory and stakeholder forums, notably AVMAC, Wormwise, and the animal health committee. And for me personally, Jan was also a wise head who contributed a reasoned and strategic view when the sector faced challenges from activists or in the media - in other words, she calmed me down.

Graeme Peters, former Agcarm Chief Executive



Agcarm boosts agriculture and veterinary students

Massey University students, Alexandra Tomkins and Kate Poole, have each been awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from Agcarm to help with their studies.



ALEXANDRA TOMKINS

The journey of New Zealand's high-quality nutritious food from farmer to fork is what drives Agcarm's horticultural scholarship winner, Alexandra Tomkins in her goal to be a leader in food production.

Tomkins is in her third year of a Bachelor of AgriCommerce degree and will put her winnings towards her student loan, which she says is "fairly daunting".

Growing up in New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand before finishing her school studies in New Zealand, Tomkins says that, as New Zealanders, we don't realise how good our produce is - that high quality is the norm. She intends to share New Zealand's story and encourage the food industry to be more consumer-centric and sustainable.

"I'm passionate about the New Zealand primary industries; putting our high quality and nutritious products on the world stage." She would like to be a leader in New Zealand's food production industry, encouraging the industry to be even more consumer driven, producing high quality products sustainably, and sharing the New Zealand story. "I'm particularly interested in supply chain management and logistics; getting a product from the farm gate to final consumers around the world."

Her interest in horticulture was ignited when living in Asia for six of her schooling years. "Seeing NZ quality horticultural products in supermarkets, particularly kiwifruit, sparked my interest in the NZ primary industries and horticulture," she says. Once she returned to New Zealand, living in the Bay of Plenty, she witnessed first-hand the drive of growers to place "quality horticultural products in household fruit bowls all over the globe".



Growing up on a sheep and beef farm in Taranaki, in the Southern Hawkes' Bay, veterinary science student, Kate Poole developed a passion for farm life and a fascination for the influence of veterinary science on the welfare of animals.

The 20-year-old wants to help evolve New Zealand's production systems in the face of industry challenges.



KATE POOLE

"Without the constant investigation and development of new products by the veterinary pharmaceutical industry, control and treatment of disease in livestock would be less effective, limiting production efficiency on farm," she says.

Exotic animals and the diagnostic processes of diseases in small animals are other areas that captivate Poole. "I see myself working in a mixed practice environment with a whole lot of production animals around me," she says.

Poole says she will use her winnings to pay for travel costs associated with clinical placements for her studies. "This would mean that I would have the freedom of choosing placement clinics based on my interests rather than solely on affordability".

AGCARM OFFERS TWO SCHOLARSHIPS A YEAR TO SUPPORT EDUCATION AND TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT CAREERS IN AGCARM-RELATED INDUSTRIES.

The scholarships are an example of industry initiatives led by Agcarm to provide safe and sustainable animal health and crop protection

technology for the future of New Zealand, and educating the community about the industry's contribution.

Summer conference

A diverse range of people spoke at the notable event, which had a strong focus on biotechnology.



Parmjeet Parmar

Gene editing is presenting a challenge to our current legislative framework, says Parmjeet Parmar, National Party MP and Spokesperson for Research, Science and Innovation.

The National government will make changes to upgrade regulations that are stifling innovation. "We will modernise our biotech legislation if we get elected this year," promises Parmar.

"In my view, biotechnology is needed more than ever – not just for the environment, but for health issues as well," says Parmar. The Malaghan Institute is using genetic modification for treating cancer. "Why would you not want that?"

We should be doing everything to support our scientists to the extent that they feel confident progressing their work in New Zealand.

The Minister asked for feedback from Agcarm members on how to modernise this legislation.

The National Party intends to enact the changes in the first 100 days,

she says. "There is a lot to do, as it won't just change the HSNO Act – there are another four acts that will be impacted by it."



David Farrar

Political blogger David Farrar shares his top tips on the upcoming election.

- **The Greens** - don't have charisma or controversy. If they're polling at 4.8%, people will tactically vote for them.

Voters are younger – but younger voters don't turn up to vote. By comparison, 95 percent of those over 65 do.

- **Labour** - For the six months prior to February this year, support for Labour has been in decline.

- **Minor parties** - It's ok if 90% hate you, you only need 5% to vote for you.

- **ACT** - David Seymour did a good job with the Euthanasia Bill. The two big issues are the gun changes and free speech.

- **NZ First** won't come back. Half of their supporters will go to Labour or the Greens. The party's only chance is if National does very badly.

Globally:

- **The United States** has only had four brief periods since the 1970s when Americans believed that the country was going in the right direction – with the latest being in 2004.



William Rolleston

Science priorities for agriculture are to increase productivity, create new products, add value to old ones and reduce our risk – environmental, biosecurity, market, social – the latter being the most difficult to mitigate.

"We are placed with some unique environmental challenges" combined with feeding an increasing population, says William Rolleston, former Federated Farmers National President.

Opportunities do exist for us to benefit the health of our economy, our health and the environment, but New Zealand regulation is a huge barrier to our competitive development.

"We need these technologies to add value to our products and support our environmental aspirations."

Farmers also need to have a choice of all the tools in the toolbox.

Debates where science really counts are based on emotion versus reason. "We have to be the dripping tap of reason. We can't push back on an emotional level", we're not selling fear, he says, "but if we're pushing the evidence based arguments, they will win in the end".

"We need to move away from technology-based legislation to risk-based legislation."

"We are at the dawn of the genetic revolution and it's coming at us like a freight train." We need to change our legislation so that we can be part of this revolution that is sweeping across the world.

Gene editing (GE) can be useful in animal vaccines, changing the gut bacteria of animals to reduce greenhouse gases, and for the production of new products. "The opportunity for gene editing to produce desirable animal traits is a freight train that's coming towards us at a very high speed." GE is cheap, precise and undetectable.

The benefits, such as a decrease in CO₂ emissions of 26 million tonnes, is equivalent to taking 12 million cars off the road.

"Scientists have to work together to normalise genetic modification," he adds. ■

Embracing the power of food loss technology and food waste solutions to strengthen global food security.



Today there are 800 million undernourished people in the world, yet the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that one-third of the world's food is either lost or wasted. The New Zealand government's recent decision to allocate \$14.9 million to redirect unused food will go some way to address the issue, but there are broader challenges to address.

Food loss begins in the planted field where, without pest management, up to half of all crops can be lost to pests, diseases, and post-harvest losses. Droughts and natural disasters can also be devastating.

The Treasury estimates that the 2007/08 and 2012/13 droughts jointly reduced New Zealand's GDP by around \$4.8 billion. Globally, droughts were responsible for 83 percent of all global crop losses and damage in the decade up to 2016. Floods, storms, and other catastrophic events meant a loss of approximately \$159 billion worth of crops and livestock between 2005 and 2015.

Reduced harvests, insufficient storage, or not being able to pack and transfer goods can cause the supply chain to break down. This can be exacerbated by restrictions in transport and supply of workers, as experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. All of this can lead to food shortages and fluctuations in prices.

According to the UN's food loss index, an average of 14 percent of the world's food is lost from post-harvest till it reaches the consumer. This is due to inadequate storage, transit, or human error. These losses vary by region. In central/southern Asia, the losses average 21 percent. In Australia and New Zealand, they are just 6 percent.

Crops and animals need protection from harmful pests and diseases to ensure an abundant food supply. If farmers couldn't access innovations in plant science and animal medicines, global food losses would double.

Food waste exacerbates the issue. Supermarkets often reject food because it is the wrong shape, size or colour - such as apples not being red enough. As supermarkets occupy a large portion of the supply chain in many countries, this waste is considerable. New Zealand supermarkets waste approximately 60,500 tonnes of food a year - equating to 160 tonnes per store per annum. In the UK, where big retailers represent 85 percent of the market, a reported 25 percent of apples, 20 percent of onions and 13 percent of potatoes are wasted for cosmetic reasons.

Restaurants can waste up to 12 percent of their total food spend. In a crisis, such as Covid-19 where restaurants, cafés, caterers, corporate cafeterias and farmer's markets are forced to close, farmers face a huge supply issue because there is nowhere for their highly perishable produce to go.

The response to the pandemic disrupted food supply chains and retailers, causing problems with access to food and risking further food waste.

As outlined by the Minister of Agriculture, Damien O'Connor, the food with the highest risk of being wasted is the fresh fruit and vegetables that move through non-supermarket channels (20% of the supply) and 10 percent of weekly egg production.

Finally, food is wasted in homes around the country, with kiwi households wasting an average of 86 kgs of edible food each year. Often this is due to households buying too much and not having

time to eat it all or throwing it out because it has reached the 'best-before' date, even though it is still fit for consumption. A survey by Love Food Hate Waste NZ shows that Kiwis waste 157,389 tonnes of edible food, equal to 271 jumbo jets. At a value of about \$1.17 billion, it is enough to feed the population of Dunedin for nearly three years. Instead, that food goes somewhere to rot.

To combat food waste, government plans, companies and consumers all have a part to play.

As part of Budget 2020, the government allocated \$14.9 million to redirect unused food. This initiative provides funding to purchase and distribute primary produce to those in need, scale up Fruit in Schools to deliver an additional 100,000 fruit and vegetable boxes to children over 10 weeks, and develop and trial digital platforms to enable other novel solutions to connect food with consumers.

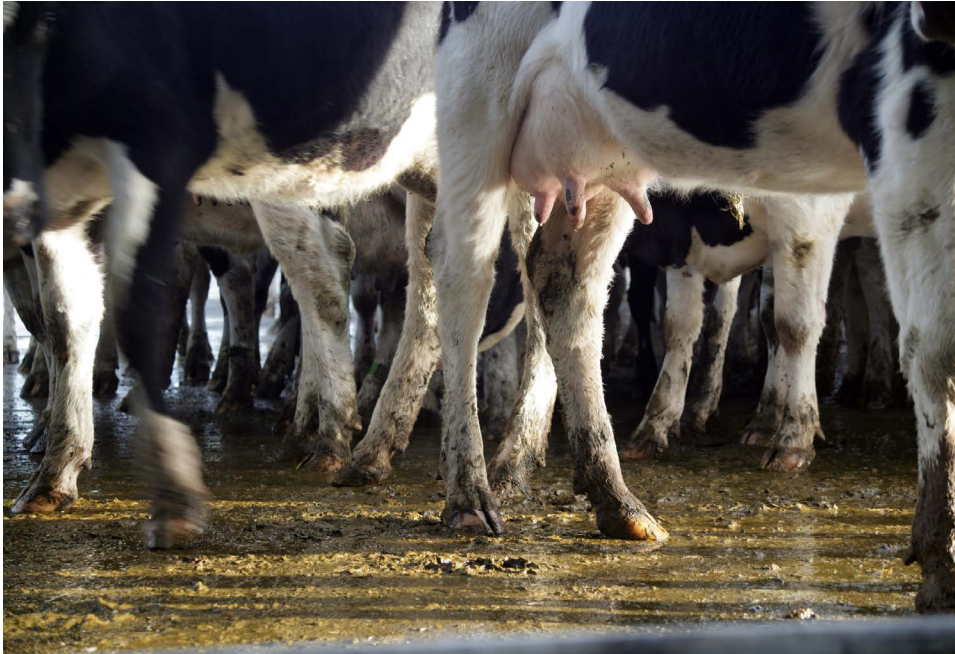
Companies like KiwiHarvest help alleviate waste by linking food that would be wasted with community groups that support people in need. Some other well thought out solutions include food sharing apps to connect neighbours to local shops so that surplus food isn't thrown away. This approach has been adopted in more than 30 countries. Some companies, like Imperfect Foods in the United States - take surplus and 'imperfect' food items from farmers, growers, and food purveyors and deliver them to customers at a discount. This initiative has saved more than 52 million kilos of food from going to waste since it began in 2015.

The actions of everybody in the production cycle, from farmers to consumers, and everyone in between, will make the difference in global attempts to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12, which includes halving global food waste by 2030.

If New Zealand truly embraces the power of food loss technology and food waste solutions, we will find a wealth of ways to contribute to global food security. ■

Future management of inhibitors

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is working with the wider agricultural sector on proposals for the future management of inhibitors. Agcarm supports a higher level of legislative oversight by government where legal obligations are put in place to manage risks, such as residues.



Inhibitors are broadly viewed as substances used, or intended for use on plants or animals, or to be applied to the place, feed or water on or in which there are plants or animals, to mitigate environmental, sustainability, and/or climate change impacts. There are multiple risks with the lack of regulatory settings for inhibitors, including potential

residue, trade and environmental issues, and allowing products to be used that are not effective.

The most important issue will be drafting the legislation so it protects trade, human health and the environment without hampering innovation.

Every effort is needed to ensure that the issues with the HSNO Act

aren't repeated - where the rules (or particular interpretations of them) make it very difficult to trial and register new products which could replace older chemistry with potentially higher environmental and health risks.

Agcarm urges those drafting the new legislation to think about how similar existing legislation is, or is not, working. Much depends on exactly how inhibitors are firstly defined, and secondly, regulated.

Certain products could be exempt from registration. Some vaccines, or crop protection products that fall outside the true definition of an inhibitor should be able to be exempt. These products may already be registered with the Environmental Protection Authority and/or the MPI and would not require further registration as an inhibitor.

MPI proposes to regulate inhibitors in the same way as pesticides. At this early stage, we urge MPI to be open to regulation options, which would differ from how pesticides are regulated. Inhibitors would become an agricultural compound but should be kept separate from pesticides, in terms of the definition as well as the requirements for registration.

Inhibitors are not widely regulated globally and do not have global data packages - the most expensive component of regulatory submissions. New Zealand is unlikely to provide a business opportunity for generating such a comprehensive data set. A cow feeding study alone, required for animal transfer evaluation, costs several hundred thousand, up to a million, USD. The data requirements for inhibitors should be flexible and realistic (e.g. only overseas data for Magnitude of Residue trials if available, argument or simplified/alternative data for animal transfer and metabolism).

MPI needs to have realistic expectations about what is or can be available for inhibitors. A global dossier to the same standards as a novel pesticide is highly unlikely. ■

Review of agrichemical standard underway

Changes in the regulatory environment of hazardous substances have made a review of the NZ8409 necessary.

NZS8409:2004 is the New Zealand Standard for the Management of Agrichemicals and informs the use of agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines. It has been over 15 years since the standard was last reviewed and updated.

A review of the standard is being led by the New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust (NZAET). The first step in the process was to establish the Standards Development Committee (SDC) with representatives from industry, central and local government as well as agrichemical users. The SDC was approved by Standards NZ in November with the first meeting of the Committee taking place in December last year, led by Chairman, Mark Ross - Agcarm Chief Executive.

Five working groups were formed to look at specific elements of the Standard. They are: application technology; notification; signage and spray drift; off-label use;

drones (and aerial); and dairy detergents.

The groups include members of the SDC as well as external technical and industry experts to review specialist topics.

Each group provided input, resulting in every section of the standard being thoroughly reviewed. Technical and regulatory specialists reviewed specific sections e.g WorkSafe, EPA, Ministry of Transport, and Agrecovery. The team managing the review, led by Jane Lamb - General Manager of NZAET, has put together a preliminary draft and identified specific issues that need to be considered by the SDC.

A second draft is now being written in preparation for a final SDC meeting on August 5, where agreement will be reached for a final draft to go out for public consultation.

If you would like to provide input on the NZS8409:2004 Standard, contact [Mark Ross](#). ■

New members



Paul Munro has been in the crop protection industry since 1980, starting as a technician in the plant science department at Lincoln College. In 1983, he joined Shell Chemicals as a Field Trials Officer, based in Palmerston North, conducting field trials in the lower North Island - working in a range of arable and horticultural crops, and also with animal remedies. This work continued through to 1996 during the time Cyanamid purchased the Shell Agriculture business.

A move to Pukekohe in 1996 saw the establishment of Alpha Research, an independent contract research business. In 2008, a partnership was developed with Peracto in Australia. As Managing Director of Peracto New Zealand, Paul expanded the business into Hawkes Bay and Canterbury, and operations are currently in three locations today.

The business was sold three years ago to Staphyt, a French based research organisation, to become Staphyt Research Limited in NZ.

Paul started JPMunro Consulting a year ago, providing services to a select number of clients. In June this year, Paul was appointed to the position of Transition Technical Lead for the Horticulture NZ Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Programme - A Lighter Touch: Agroecological Crop Protection to Meet Future Consumer Demands. Continuing relationships with Agcarm members is seen as an important conduit to this role, along with the industry support the organisation provides.

New members

Tim Robinson is the Managing Director of Ranui Field Research – an independent research company providing contract research services to the agrichemical industry in New Zealand.

Tim Robinson is the second generation from both sides of his family to work in the primary industries and has over 25 years of personal experience.

In August 2019, after a number of years working for other crop research organisations, Tim made the decision to utilise his skills and knowledge to work more closely with his clients in their requirements.

Ranui Field Research contracts work all over the North Island of New Zealand in both efficacy and residue trial work.

His decision to join Agcarm was mainly to belong to a like-minded corporate body where all individuals work closely together for a common cause and outcome. This, he says, was reinforced during the Covid-19 response. "I very impressed with the great work that came from all the team who kept us up to date with the fast-paced changes and challenges we were all facing.

"As a small company the value was immense and allowed me peace of mind which meant I didn't need to spend time worrying about the day to day changes as I could rely on the Agcarm team to provide this. This experience gave me greater insight into the benefit of belonging to such an organisation." ■

New lead for GrowSafe

Erin Simpson is the recently appointed Chair of the New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust (NZAET) - which aims to develop and maintain good practice standards of agrichemical use.



Simpson's career in horticulture started in the halcyon days of kiwifruit in the early '80's when he completed a cadetship under the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. He moved to apples in the '90s, and worked within many private and corporate horticultural organisations across the fruit production and post-harvest sectors in New Zealand and internationally.

"I am fortunate to have gathered a robust and insightful understanding of the skills needed by employees and employers to be effective members of the modern industry and am passionate about ensuring that industry skills and training are fit for purpose in the future unknown world of work," says Simpson.

Over the last decade, Simpson has worked in education – in programme development, teaching and, in his current role, to engage and collaborate with government and industry training providers within the apple and pear sector's mandate to attract, grow and retain talent.

"I was again fortunate to be a member of the MPI skills leaders' group to develop a skills action plan for the Minister of Agriculture, Damien O'Conner during 2019," he says. This plan develops initiatives to create a skilled workforce for the current and future needs of the food and fibre sectors.

The reform of vocational education (RoVE) will provide new and flexible options to learners who want modular specific learning in small bite size chunks. The primary industries are well placed to use this new way of training to their full advantage.

"There is an important role to play in how it takes its GrowSafe programmes forward into the new world of work and I am excited to be able to be part of this journey and the opportunities that lay ahead," says Simpson.

His governance experience to date has been centred around the family orchard business, where he has chaired national charitable trusts and community-based organisations, and his children's school where he has been Chair of the board of trustees for five years.

"I am looking forward to continuing as a member of the NZAET whanau in my new role as Chair and hope to extend on the good work done by my predecessor Russ Ballard". ■

Why wouldn't you join?

Becoming part of Agcarm means that you have experts representing your interests - providing experienced, sector-wide feedback and rational on policies that affect your business.

Because we represent the majority of New Zealand's crop protection and animal medicine industries, you get back the freedom to operate and do what you do best.

We will seek and share any relevant news and proposed changes for your industry, making sure you receive critical information first, while meeting industry regulators, policy-makers and government officials on your behalf.

You will also have the opportunity to network with colleagues in a non-competitive environment.

Read about [our member benefits](#).

See [who else has joined](#). ■

What is Agcarm?

Agcarm is the industry association which represents crop protection, animal health, and rural supplier businesses. Agcarm members distribute and sell the majority of veterinary medicines and crop protection products in New Zealand. Agcarm members promote responsible use of products right through the product life cycle, from research to disposal. Agcarm is also a positive voice for its members and lobbies for progressive and sensible policy.

For information on joining Agcarm, go to www.agcarm.co.nz

Our mission is to protect and enhance the health of crops and animals through innovation, development and responsible use of products.

We work with governments and stakeholders from around the globe to shape policy and meet the shared goals of health and safety to protect the environment and the food chain.

Our ability to source information from experts around the world gives legislators access to the best advice.

Agcarm's priorities:

Safe Food / Provision of Innovative Compounds / Resistance Management / Healthy Animals and Crops / Product Stewardship / Bee Health / Sustainability.



**The voice of crop protection
and animal health.**

