



animal
& plant
health
NEW ZEALAND

Priorities for animal and plant health in New Zealand 2026 / 2027

- » Back innovation so farmers, growers, veterinarians, and developers have reliable, affordable access to modern, targeted medicines and tools to manage pests and diseases.
- » Leverage trusted regulators and harmonised processes, reducing duplication and cost to secure timely and consistent access to products to strengthen New Zealand's supply chain resilience, food security, environment, biosecurity, and animal welfare.

Without animal and plant health products, New Zealand could lose up to \$24 bn in export earnings



New Zealanders can access healthy food, at an affordable price



Enable New Zealand farmers and growers to be competitive and sustainable



Protect New Zealand from biosecurity threats

New Zealand's primary sector needs innovation and a resilient supply change to remain competitive

Access to innovation underpin the primary sector's goals for productivity, growth, sustainability, food security, and resilience to supply-chain shocks.

- Other OECD countries are using more modern biologicals and chemistry with improved environmental and market access profiles.
- There are opportunities to deepen international collaboration and increase use of mutual recognition of trusted regulator assessments, for a timely, certain, and efficient approval pathway.
- A blueprint of operational solutions that do not require legislative change stands at the ready to create an environment conducive to investment, innovation, and supply-chain security, so farmers, growers, and veterinarians have access to a broad toolkit to fight pests and manage diseases.

Why it matters



Affordable, healthy food

New Zealanders depend on the availability of safe, healthy and fresh food.

As producers, farmers need access to new products to control damaging pests and diseases and replace old chemistry.



Access to innovative technologies

Farmers, growers, and veterinarians lack timely access to more modern products available overseas, limiting pest and disease control and reducing marketable yields.



A competitive market

Innovation is bypassing the New Zealand market as global companies focus on countries with regulatory regimes more supportive of innovation, and that can better adapt to shifting consumer demands.



Animal and plant health products are at the heart of sustainable economic growth, and a resilient supply chain is essential to keep this within reach.

We call on the Government to deliver a more proportionate, efficient, transparent and certain approval pathway, strengthening New Zealand's ability to secure these products in the face of global geopolitical shocks.

Industry stands ready with lived experience and practical, solutions-focused proposals to work alongside Government to achieve this.



Clear the queue for innovation

- Focus on the applications and risks that matter most - new products and new label uses.
- Farmers, growers, and veterinarians gain access to a broad toolkit to fight pests and manage diseases.



Work more efficiently and reduce costs

- Adopt international harmonisation and use trusted regulator assessments for lower risk applications.
- Cut red tape and implement Self Assessable Changes to clear lower risk applications with no NZ-specific risks.
- Use Rule of Two approach for companion animal products that have no specific risk considerations.



Support investment in innovation

- Improve transparency for applicants on the status of their applications throughout the assessment process, with all stages of the application process reported.



**Healthy crops and animals
benefit our communities
and our environment**



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