



Newsletter

New Zealand Grain & Seed Trade Association Inc.

NZGSTA Newsletter May/June 2017

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- 2017 NZGSTA Annual Conference registrations open
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NZGSTA NEWSLETTER MAY JUNE 2017

FAR Levy order

The Foundation for Arable Research (FAR) operates under the Commodity Levy Act and will be holding a referendum for new Orders prior to mid-2018. The referendum will determine the support for the continuation of FAR. As part of the process FAR will be consulting with organisations and individuals affected by the payment and collection of the levy in July-August 2017.

The levy is collected at the first point sale for all grain and seed, with the exception of maize which is collected on the seed purchased

Current levy rates are:

- Maize: \$1.00 per 10,000 seeds purchased
- Herbage and amenity seed: 0.9% of sale value
- All other grain and seed crops (cereals, pulses etc.): 0.9% of sale value
- Cereal silage : \$10/hectare
- Open pollinated vegetable seed crops : 0.9% of sale value
- Hybrid vegetable seed crops: 0.6% of sale value
- Onion seed crops are ZERO rated

AsureQuality - update

In its recent report to the Seed Quality Management Authority, AsureQuality Business Manager Paul Alexander reports that the restructuring of its **Plant & Seed Business** unit has been completed. Key organisational changes include the appointment of Justin Slater as a technical specialist for seed.

President:	Barry McCarter 09 307 0000
Vice President:	George Gerard 03 372 0864
Past President:	John Duncan 03 318 8514
Chair: Forage & Turf Section	Callum Davidson 03 347 7950
Chair: Vegetable Seed Section	Mark Johnson 04 972 1613
Chair: Grains Section	Peter Burton 03 308 1265
General Councillors:	
Craig Graham	03 307 6979
Evan Johnston	03 344 1690
General Manager:	
Thomas Chin	03 349 8430
Administration:	
Tricia Radford	03 349 8430

NZGSTA:

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Email: thomas.chin@seedindustrynz.co.nz

Phone 03 349 8430

The Seed Certification Bureau and Seed laboratory (based in Palmerston North) is headed by Andrew Ward (reporting to Paul). Other team members include: Barbara Campbell, Sue Cousins, Diane Bell, Aroha Wilson and Gerard Lysaght.

Elsewhere, AQ reports that:

- 36,830 ha were sown for certification in the 2017 harvest year, up 12% over 2016
- By species group “Grass” accounted for 58% of the sown area, followed by “Legumes” 28%, “Arable” and “Brassica” had 7% and 6% share respectively

Brassica seed exports to China

MPI officials are scheduled to meet with their counterparts from China’s Ministry of Agriculture and AQSIQ in the week commencing 19 June. On the bilateral discussions agenda, being held in Beijing, our officials aim to progress the industry’s brassica seed market access request.

China has been considering a package of technical information supplied by MPI, in the form of an Official Assurance Protocol covering diverse matters such as field history record keeping through to herbicide application rates, to restart the trade.

Hemp seed decision

On 28 April 2017 the Australia and New Zealand Food Ministers approved a recommendation by Food Standards Australia and NZ to allow the sale of hemp seed food products for human consumption.

The favourable decision could translate into as much as 2000 hectares of crop potentially generating for farmers a return of \$4500 to \$5500 a hectare in the medium to long term. It also means an alternative broad-acre annual or rotation crop option and it will likely boost investment in the infrastructure needed for the harvest, processing, storage and distribution of hemp seed.

The new standard will take effect six months after it has been gazetted and amendments will need to be made to domestic laws including, the Food Act, Misuse of Drugs Act and the Medicines Act.

Seed export growth says MPI

According to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) March 2017 edition of the [Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries](#) seed exports are forecast to rise 27 per cent to \$230m by 2021. Export revenue from ryegrass seed will grow the fastest at 62% followed by clover/legume seed at 33%.

Currently, Vegetable seed is the largest seed category accounting for 38.9% of total export turnover, followed by “Other grains & seeds” at 30.6% share, ryegrass at 22.2% and clover/legume seed at 8.3%.

Export revenue	June Yr 2017 _F	2018 _F	2019 _F	2020 _F	2021 _F
Vegetable seed	70	75	80	80	80
Ryegrass seed	40	40	55	60	65
Clover/legume seed	15	15	15	15	20
Other grains & seeds	55	60	65	65	65
Total Seed \$m	180	190	210	220	230

Record wheat harvest

Ashburton farmer Eric Watson has entered the book of Guinness World Records after producing the world's highest yielding crop of wheat. Watson produced 16.791 tonnes per hectare, beating the previous record of 16.519 tonnes held for two years by a UK farmer.

Plant Variety Rights Act review

Earlier this month the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) completed the second technical workshop on the Plant Variety Rights (PVR) Act review.

Of interest to plant breeders and our overall seed trade the workshop considered a range of key issues including:

- Definition of 'breeding'
- Distinctiveness requirement
- Extension of rights to cover harvested material
- Compulsory Licenses
- Membership of UPOV
- Farm Saved Seed
- Enforcement Regime for PVRs

The workshops will inform the development of substantive proposals for the second stage of engagement, which will be a formal, public consultation process (the timing of which has yet to be determined).

What is the Plant Variety Rights Act 1987?

Legislation that encourages investment in the development of new plant varieties by providing for the granting of proprietary rights to breeders and developers for 20 or 23 years. The grant of a plant variety right provides the exclusive right to sell and collect any royalties on seed or reproductive material of the variety.

MPI Consultations

Imported Pelleted seed

MPI has been conducting pre-public consultations with the seed industry (and others) in regards to the importation of pelleted and coated seed.

Industry members have also briefed MPI officials on their import systems and risk pathways.

It is expected that public consultations will open next month for feedback on proposed importation requirements for pelleted seeds to be introduced into a revised import health standard.

Grains forum 19 September 2017

The NZGSTA will host a free half day Grains Forum, **9.00am to 3pm on Thursday 19 September 2017**, at Plant & Food Research's Fitzgerald boardroom, Lincoln and you are invited to attend (or send a delegate from your organisation).

We have 8 different speakers on:

- Global trends & outlook
- Grain trader perspectives
- Farmer perspectives
- Poultry industry perspectives
- Malting industry perspectives
- Pork industry perspectives
- Grain quality/animal nutrition perspectives
- Shipping & transport opportunities
- There will be no charge for attending the workshop

A registration flyer can be found at: www.nzgsta.co.nz. More information can be received by contacting tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz

2017 NZGSTA Conference registrations open – save \$155 before 19th July

The NZGSTA has opened registration for its annual Conference which will kick off in Wellington on 18-20 October 2017 and be held at the Rydges Hotel.

Our theme is "*Seeds of change*", especially relevant with this year's general election. There will be a line-up of experts in their fields to address the Conference and their knowledge will be vital to the development of ideas in the conference.

Early registration for members costs \$595.00 per person. Early registration ends 19th July. After that date, registration will be \$750.00.

A registration flyer is available on our website: www.nzgsta.co.nz. More information can be received by contacting tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz

Centennial book project pledges

We are getting closer to our target of \$50,000 and wish to thank the following companies for their contribution to date:

- *Carrfields Grain & Seed*
- *Carter Seed Management*
- *Cates Grain & Seed Ltd*
- *Cropmark Seeds*
- *Hybrid Seed Co. NZ Ltd*
- *Luisetti Seeds Ltd*
- *Midlands Seed Ltd*
- *NZ Agriseeds Ltd*
- *Pasture First Ltd*
- *PGG Wrightson Seed*
- *Seed Force Ltd*
- *Smith Seeds Ltd*
- *Specialty Seeds NZ Ltd*
- *Townsend Seeds International Ltd*

We appreciate the generosity of these companies who have given amounts ranging from \$250.00 to \$10,000 from Midlands Seed

We still have a shortfall of \$15,000 to reach our target so please consider being part of this worthwhile piece of the seed industry history of the seed industry and pledging your contribution.

NEW NZGSTA MEMBERS

The Association is the national trade body comprising around 80 member companies. Its members are involved in a range of activities including: research and development, seed production, seed multiplication, seed processing and sales and marketing.

The Association is working to foster the best business environment for our grain and seed industry members.

We are pleased to announce Osgro Seed Service has applied to join the NZGSTA. Osgro Seed Service is a retail seed sales and seed cleaning company based in Blenheim.

All members are being notified of this application here through this newsletter.

DIRECTIONS TO SEED INDUSTRY OFFICE, 185 KIRK ROAD, TEMPLETON

SEED INDUSTRY OFFICE –

Available for members' use

The Seed Industry Office is located at:

**185 Kirk Road, Innovation Park,
Templeton, CHRISTCHURCH**

The office is handily located on the southern outskirts of Christchurch, just off State Highway 1. We are only 10minutes from the airport.

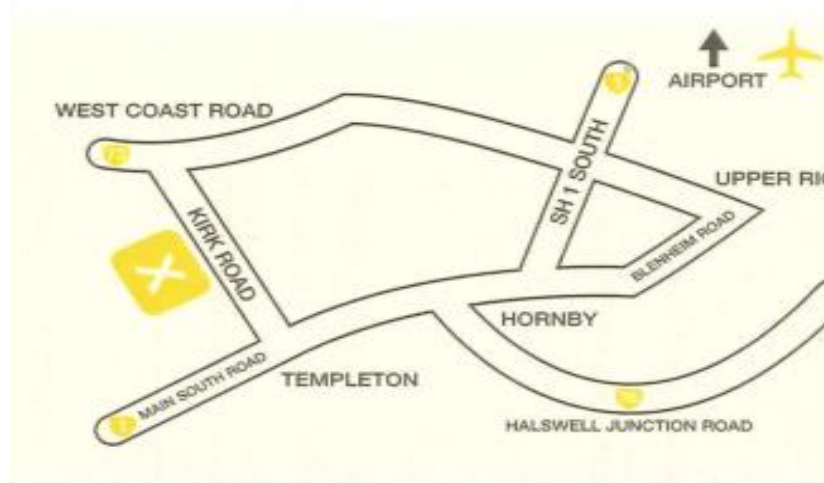
Our boardroom is available for meetings, and members are welcome to call in and re-charge a cell phone, make a fax, or just stop in for a coffee break when passing through Christchurch. Please let Tricia know if you wish to book the boardroom.

PLEASE NOTE OUR CONTACT DETAILS:

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**Meeting Schedule of NZGSTA Executive Council
for 2017**

- 25th July 2017 – Wellington
- 17th Oct 2017 – AGM & Conference –
Rydges Hotel, Wellington

Please advise Thomas Chin of any matters you wish to have discussed at a meeting.