



Newsletter

New Zealand Grain & Seed Trade Association Inc.

NZGSTA Newsletter January/February 2018

Page 1

This newsletter covers the following items of interest:

- Forage Industry Strategy
- Seed for sowing change of procedure for ryegrass & fescue
- Fusarium oxysporon on lettuce seeds
- MPI re-organisation
- Cereal harvest down
- Seed exports growing says MPI
- Plant law reform
- EPA briefing papers
- Ministry for the Environment review GM
- Breeders field days
- PVR Act reform
- Non-Proprietary and Uncertified Seeds Levy rates 2018
- Centenary book launch
- 2018 NZGSTA Annual Conference & Golf day



Cereal breeders inspecting a wheat crop

President:	George Gerard 03 372 0864
Vice President:	Evan Johnston 03 344 1690
Past President:	Barry McCarter 09 307 0000
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
Damian Lynch	03 372 0864
General Manager:	
Thomas Chin	03 349 8430
Administration:	
Tricia Radford	03 349 8430

Forage Industry Strategy

Forages are key to the success of our \$20 billion pastoral industry.

Industry groups including Dairy NZ, Beef+Lamb New Zealand, the New Zealand Plant Breeding and Research Association (NZPBRA), the Foundation for Arable Research (FAR) and the Fertiliser Association have come together to develop an integrated strategy for the forage industry.

The Strategy's objective is to increase the value of forage grown on NZ farms so individual farmers are more profitable and sustainable.

The Strategy will incorporate projects including expanding the Forage Value Index into the sheep and beef industry and working with Government to update regulations around gene editing to enable these innovative breeding tools in the plant breeding industry.

NZGSTA:

P.O. Box 23-143, Templeton, Christchurch, NZ 8445
Email: thomas.chin@seedindustry.co.nz

Phone 03 349 8430

The strategy and supporting documents are available at www.nzpbra.org

Seed for sowing change of procedure

MPI has advised that effective 20 December changes to their clearance process for imports of seed for sowing consignments.

The sampling size for ryegrass and fescue imports will be increased to “five times the sample stipulated in the ISTA rules” to assist the detection of the BLACKGRASS weed seed.

Fusarium oxysporum on lettuce seeds

MPI has been undertaking a targeted consultation on proposed amendments to the IHS Seeds for Sowing to manage the disease, Fusarium oxysporum (Lettuce Fusarium wilt) in imported lettuce seeds.

Lettuce seeds are currently basic. MPI are looking to create a schedule for lettuce seeds with phytosanitary requirements for country freedom or Pest free area declarations.

The proposed requirements have the potential to result in a disruption to seed supply chains from countries where the disease is established: The pathogen is present in Italy, Iran, Portugal, USA (Arizona and California), Taiwan, North Korea, Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu, and Kyushu), France, The UK, Netherlands, Belgium, and probably Brazil.

As these countries are the major suppliers to NZ, the disruption could halt the importation of lettuce seed causing wide economic impact to New Zealand lettuce producers, their staff, and consumers.

The Association’s Vegetable Section members continue to engage with and are providing information to MPI to discount seed as a pathway for the fungal pathogen.

MPI re-organisation

The Minister of Agriculture Damien O’Connor has announced that MPI will be reorganised and under its umbrella there will be four portfolio entities to cover forestry, fisheries, food safety and biosecurity.

The Minister of Agriculture will have ministerial responsibility that includes food safety and biosecurity.

The new entities are expected to be up and running by April 1 2018.

Cereal harvest down

New Zealand farmers produced around 855,000 tonnes of wheat, barley, and maize grain from 98,000 hectares in the 2017 harvest, according to latest Agricultural Production data from Statistics NZ.

Wheat

For the year ending 30 June 2017, 41,000 hectares of wheat was harvested, down 17 percent compared with the 5 year average. A total of 409,000 tonnes was harvested, equating to a yield per hectare of 9.9 tonnes, significantly higher than the five year average of (9.1 tonnes per hectare.) The dry summer was conducive to a good wheat harvest.

Barley

In the year ended 30 June 2017, 42,000 hectares of grain barley was harvested, down 36 percent on the 5 year average. The total yield was 296,000 tonnes, or 7 tonnes per hectare, compared with 6.8 tonnes recorded for the 5 year average. Canterbury accounted for over two-thirds of the total area harvested.

Maize grain

The area of maize grain harvested was 15,000 hectares for the year ending 30 June 2017, 44% down on the 21,000 ha 5yr average.

Seed exports growing says MPI

According to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) December 2017 edition of the [Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries](#) arable seed exports are forecast to rise 22 per cent to \$240m by 2022.

Export revenue from ryegrass seed will grow the fastest at 62% followed by clover/legume seed at 33%.

Currently, Vegetable seed accounts for 33% of total export turnover, ryegrass at 23% and clover/legume seed at 11%. Other grains and seed has 32% share.

Export revenue	June Year 2017	2018 ^f	2019 ^f	2020 ^f	2021 ^f	2022 ^f
Vegetable seed	64	85	80	95	95	95
Ryegrass seed	46	45	45	45	50	50
Clover/legume seed	23	25	25	25	30	30
Other grains & seeds	63	65	65	65	70	70
Total Seed \$m	197	220	220	235	240	240

Plant law reform

In briefing papers to the new Minister of Commerce, the Hon Kris Faafoi, officials from MBIE have told him that they are reviewing the Plant Variety Rights Act 1987.

The Act incentivises plant breeding and the introduction of foreign cultivated varieties by overseas breeders. It provides for the granting of intellectual property rights to people who breed and develop new cultivated plant varieties.

MBIE began reviewing the Act in the first quarter of 2017 and intend to release an Issues Paper for public consultation pending Cabinet approval.

Also pending is Ministerial approval to test the issues paper with key industry and other experts (in advance of release).

EPA briefing papers

Briefing papers from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to its new Minister reveals the following points of interest on some key issues:

Glyphosate: “EPA’s view is that, provided users follow safety instructions on the label, glyphosate substances are safe for use in the garden”.

And in a report prepared for EPA it concluded, *“on all the evidence available, that glyphosate is unlikely to be genotoxic or carcinogenic to humans”.*

New biotechnologies: “The EPA is enthusiastic about facilitating debate on the potential of some new biotechnologies to achieve the Government’s environmental goals”.

In other areas EPA has indicated that it may:

- “Reassess the use of methyl bromide”
- “Reassess the use of paraquat – a general purpose herbicide”

Ministry for the Environment review GM

The views of the Ministry for the Environment were presented to the new Minister David Parker in recently released briefing papers.

Of interest to the seed trade was Ministry’s call for a review to see if the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO) system was still fit-for-purpose for genetic modification and using new genetic technologies.

MfE says some jurisdictions have already decided not to regulate some products made using new technologies, and/or are reviewing their regulations.

Breeders field days

Over 50 agronomists, seed company representatives, merchandisers, traders, millers and other end users attended last month’s Cereal Performance Trials (CPT) field day held in mid-Canterbury.

On show were new varieties developed for NZ conditions. Data was provided on their performance across a different range of soil and irrigation/non irrigated sites

The CPT system has been running for over thirty years and since its inception has delivered improved cultivars with traits that increase yield and resist specific pathogens such as leaf rust and fusarium and certain insects.

Approximately 400,000 tonnes of wheat is harvested each year. Wheat is used to produce high quality ingredients for the New Zealand food industry and is also a valuable food source for animals.

Barley is one of New Zealand's leading crops with approximately 300,000 tonnes harvested per year. Barley is grown for malting and for use in animal feeds.

Meanwhile a maize variety open day took place at the Foundation for Arable Research (FAR) northern crop research site, Tamahere Hamilton on Thursday, December 14.

It showed show a range of crops including maize varieties trialled under the 2017-18 maize performance trials programme. Speakers included international guests Professors Bob Nielsen and Jim Camberato from Purdue University in Indiana.

Non-Proprietary and Uncertified Seeds Levy rates 2018

The Herbage Seedgrowers Subsection of Federated Farmers collects a levy on Non-Proprietary and Uncertified Seeds (the Commons). The levy funds the continued maintenance of the breeding stock of common cultivars.

Growers are required to pay the levy on the first Purity and Germination test of non-proprietary and uncertified lines of any ryegrass, white and red clover. The levy is collected by testing stations

on behalf of growers and paid to the Herbage Seedgrowers Subsection of Federated Farmers.

For the 2018 levy year the rates below will be applied to the below varieties.

Cultivar	Est Grower Price	NPC %	Levy \$/kg
Red Clover			
Pawera	\$5.50	1.60	0.088
u/cert red	\$3.50	0.30	0.0105
White Clover			
Huia	\$5.25	0.50	0.02625
u/cert white	\$4.70	0.30	0.0141
Ryegrass			
Tama	\$1.70	1.60	0.0272
Moata	\$1.70	1.60	0.0272
Manawa	\$1.70	1.60	0.0272
Nui	\$1.80	0.50	0.009
Ruanui	\$1.80	1.60	0.0288
u/cert ryegrass	\$1.50	0.30	0.0045

If you have any questions or comments regarding the levy, please contact Philippa Rawlinson (prawlinson@fedfarm.org.nz or 021 512 971).

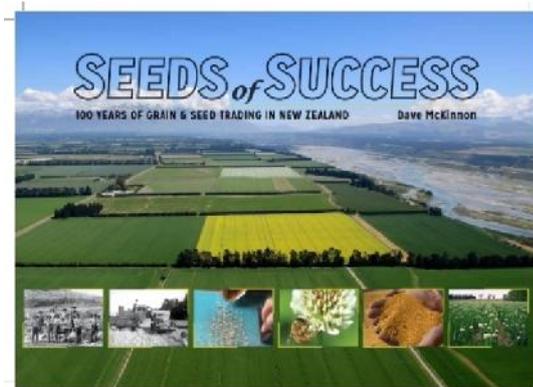
**Book launch:
2018 Conference – ChCh
Order Form available soon**

**WITHOUT YOUR HELP THIS WOULD NOT
HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE**

We acknowledge the support given by our member companies who have made this book project a reality.

Please contact the Seed Industry Office if you are haven't made a pledge but are now interested in making a pledge towards the history of the association. Send your request to tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz

Sample from the Book



- Marking 100 years since the founding of the NZGSPMF in 1918.
- How and why it was formed and its evolution into today's NZGSTA
- A story of NZ's grain and seed industry

2018 NZGSTA Annual Conference - Golf day



To kick off the 2018 NZGSTA Annual Conference we invite delegates to join our reinstated annual Golf Tournament.

Venue this year is **Russley Golf Club**, 428 Memorial Avenue, Burnside on **Tuesday 16 October 2018**.

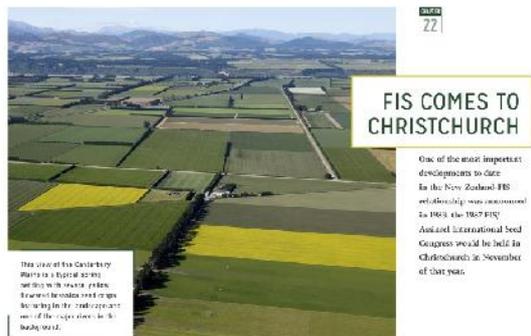
Please send your expression of interest to: tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz

Things to know:

- Tee off times from 1.00pm.
- Format – to be advised
- Prizes include longest drive, best outfit (team), winning team, and closest to the tee
- You don't have to be a golfer to join the golf day
- A great chance to network with like-minded seedsmen and seedswomen while having fun
- Drinks and Prizegiving in the Clubrooms

Please send your expression of interest to: tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz

SEEDS OF SUCCESS - 100 YEARS OF GRAIN & SEED TRADING IN NEW ZEALAND 57



**2018 NZGSTA Conference - Save the date
Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th October 2018**

The NZGSTA will host its centenary Conference in Christchurch at the Crowne Plaza Hotel,



There will be a range of informative and thought provoking presentations from Industry-leaders, industry experts and more. A pre-Conference golf tournament and popular gala dinner will also be held.

Conference will bring together those involved in the industry for valuable opportunities to network and to look at current issues that are critical to the seed industry. Member companies are urged to bring along staff members who will form the next generation of business management and expose them to industry and association affairs.

Registration and other details will be advised in our next newsletter.

Meeting Schedule of NZGSTA Executive Council for 2018 to be held at the Seed Industry Office unless otherwise stated:-

- **22nd March 2018**
- **24th May 2018**
- **25th July 2018 - TBC**
- **16th October 2018**
-

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