



Newsletter

New Zealand Grain & Seed Trade Association Inc.

NZGSTA Newsletter May/June 2018

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AIMI survey of cereal areas and volume

The Arable Industry Marketing Initiative (AIMI) released its 2017/18 survey of cereal areas and volume at the beginning of the month.

Key findings were:

- The 2017/18 season was regarded as poor by many growers (very wet at times, including flooding out of some crops, and too hot at other times).
- Average yields were down 12% (over all crops monitored – milling wheat, feed wheat, feed barley, malting barley, milling oats, feed oats) compared to last season. More hectares were harvested than last season (18% up), with a 3% increase in total tonnage compared to last season.
- The actual harvest was early and finished by 1 April.
- Carry-over stocks of feed wheat and feed barley were lower than at the same time last year. Unsold stocks on hand of last year's feed wheat and feed barley crops were 0.7% and 0.3% of the 2017 harvest tonnages respectively.
- Milling wheat, feed wheat and feed barley have similar stocks of unsold grain compared to this time last year (down 3%, up 4% and down 10% respectively).
- Autumn/winter sowings of feed wheat are predicted to be down by 3,400 hectares on predicted sowings a year ago, with feed barley up by 1,100 ha, milling wheat down by 5,700 ha, malting barley down 1,400 ha, milling oats up 500 ha, and feed oats down 500 ha.

The AIMI Survey is now available on the [FAR website](#).

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Changes to MPI structure

Following the Government's decision to re-structure MPI into separate business units, namely: Biosecurity New Zealand, Fisheries New Zealand, Forestry New Zealand, and New Zealand Food Safety, the process has now been completed.

For the seed trade's daily interaction with MPI, the relevant Business Unit is "NZ Food Safety". Within that is the directorate titled: "Plants and Pathways" headed by Pete Thomson. Within the directorate is:

- The *Plant Exports* team headed up by Geoff Ridley and includes John Randall and Hannah King
- *Plant Imports* headed by Stephen Butcher. Under this sits:
 - Plant Germplasm Imports headed by Ivan Veljkovic (Acting) and includes Rose Souza Richards

Aside from some internal MPI name changes it is largely business as usual.

Black-grass detected

In its March 2018 "*Border Space*" newsletter MPI reported that they had detected black-grass in two consignments of grass seed arriving in Christchurch from France.

The import documents suggested issues. Sampling by MPI officers confirmed there was contamination.

The consignments were directed to be reshipped or destroyed. MPI sometimes allow dirty seed consignments to enter New Zealand after dressing, a process that removes unwanted seeds. In this case, the black-grass would have been too hard to separate from the rest of the consignment. So MPI had no choice but to bar entry.

Black-grass is a serious invasive weed of crops in the United Kingdom, where it has caused major losses for farmers.

Submission request on blackgrass

At the last Seed Quality Management Authority (SQMA) meeting, NZGSTA was requested to survey its membership about a proposal to reduce risks around the importation of Black Grass. (*Alopecurus myosuroides*).

Presently if Black Grass is detected in the MPI sample taken at the border on an imported seed lot, be it for stock seed or commercial sale, the current options available to the importer on the biosecurity authority/clearance certificate are to re-export, destroy or re clean the affected seed lot.

The concern raised at the SQMA meeting centred around the risk associated with the re cleaning option, resulting in a proposal to remove the option of re cleaning.

It should be noted that as a body, SQMA does not have the mandate to request or enable such a change with MPI. Therefore, they are requesting that NZGSTA consult with its members, and based upon that feedback, take any required action forward with MPI.

It is expected that there will be a range of views on this proposal across the NZGSTA membership from full support for keeping black grass out of New Zealand to that of no further restriction on seed imports. As an industry organisation, NZGSTA is conscious of the balancing act required to preserve NZ's biosecurity but also ensuring NZ retains a competitive seed industry and a strong agricultural economy.

Submissions are invited from NZGSTA members on the above proposal by the 30th of May 2018

Pea weevil eradication programme

MPI and the pea growing industry are on track to eradicate the pest insect pea weevil from New Zealand. The pest was first discovered in the Wairarapa in 2016 and has been subject to an eradication programme since then. MPI trapping programme found only 15 pea weevils from 2 neighbouring sites this season. That is significantly

down on the 1,735 pea weevils which were found across 11 sites last season.

Trap crops will be planted again this season and when the results of this season's trap cropping are known the Governance group will review the eradication programme and make any changes required sometime in early 2019.



Long term management of velvet leaf

Last season MPI detected an incident where a seed merchant sold some old boxes of fodderbeet seed contaminated with the Velvetleaf weed seed.

The contaminated seed lines were: Kyros

16UB128, Bangor 15UB079, Bangor 16UB114, Bangor 16UB126, Troya 16UB112, Feldherr 16U131.

MPI and industry encourage seed merchants to check what seed boxes are being sold and if they are the contaminated lines, contact MPI at info@mpi.govt.nz. Any new sightings of velvetleaf are to be reported to Biosecurity New Zealand – MPI on 0800 80 99 66

2018 Seed Technology Short Course

Lincoln University's 2018 Seed Technology Short Course Programme is being held at Lincoln on Monday 25 June - Thursday 12 July 2018.

Course topics range from seed quality assurance and current issues in seed production to seed drying and seed storage to organic seed production and strategies for plant protection.

The course will be presented primarily by Professor John Hampton (Lincoln University) and Professor Phil Rolston (Foundation for Arable Research) and register online [here](#).

Changes to China's regulatory agencies

Overseas news reports describe a major reorganisation going in China involving a number of their state agencies, including their AQSIQ (the agency, responsible with the Ministry of Agriculture, for reinstating our brassica export seed trade to China).

Specifically the State Market Regulatory Administration (SMRA) has been established to deal with all import and export activity.

The SMRA will acquire the responsibilities held by a number of individual government bodies, including the AQSIQ. SMRA will be a critical agency for NZ exporters.

OECD Labelling

New Zealand is one of the few countries where the OECD Designated Authority issues OECD certified labels before official seed tests are completed. Your seed lot IS NOT certified until this happens.

Having this dispensation is a huge benefit to the NZ seed industry, saving it significant time and money by avoiding the double handling of seed lots.

Recently, MPI has advised industry representatives of two situations where overseas OECD designated authorities have identified NZ OECD seed labelling errors on exported seed.

One of these shipments had not had the official laboratory test completed. While MPI will deal with the two seed companies involved, it has put the spot light internationally on the reputation of the NZ seed industry.

NZGSTA member seed merchants and processors must adhere to New Zealand's seed certification rules. We MUST insure that documentation and labelling is correct before exporting or domestic sales.

As an industry, none of us can afford to lose the dispensations we have, otherwise, we will become uncompetitive in international markets. If you are

uncertain about the rules, please contact the Association or your Independent Verification Authority for advice.

New plant breeding techniques

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has announced that foods edited with gene-editing tool CRISPR won't be regulated as GMOs. The USDA said that it had no plans to regulate crops "that could otherwise have been developed through traditional breeding techniques." The announcement means US biotech companies can use CRISPR to modify plants and potentially save years of research and significant monies in the development of new plant varieties.

CPTPP Agreement – law changes soon

The NZ seed trade along with our other primary sector exporters will benefit from the recently signed Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

For NZ seed exporters all tariffs on seed for sowing will be removed, including Canada's 5.5% duty on some minor lines of vegetable seed and the agreement will also help ensure plant health requirements do not overly disrupt NZ exports. But a more tangible win for the NZ seed trade is the obligation on the NZ Government to make sure our plant breeding laws are in alignment with the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants of 1991 (UPOV 91). In short, the Government will have three years from when CPTPP enters into force for New Zealand to accede to UPOV 91 or give effect to UPOV 91 in our PVR regime

For New Zealand to ratify (bring into domestic law) the CPTPP agreement, Parliament needs to enact empowering legislation which could occur by the end of the year. [The Foreign Affairs, Defence & Trade Select Committee completed its examination of the treaty on 18 April]. Parliament will also need to amend the Plant Variety Rights Act – a major undertaking ahead. (See following item).

In other related trade areas negotiations for a free trade deal between New Zealand and the European Union could commence by the end of the year.

MBIE Plant Variety Rights Act Review

In preparation for the updating of the Plant Variety Rights Act 1987 MBIE has been reviewing the Act since early 2017. As part of this work MBIE is currently testing a draft issues paper on the review of the Plant Variety Rights Act with key industry and Māori experts.

A finalised issues' paper for public consultation is expected to be released in July.

[The Plant Variety Rights Act 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].

NZ's arable exports forecast to rise

New Zealand's arable exports are forecast to rise nearly 22 per cent in the year ending June 2018 to \$240million - the largest annual increase since 2013 - the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) said in its latest quarterly update.

The ministry's latest [Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries report](#) shows export revenue across the sector has been strong over the past?

MPI says "Arable yields overall are expected to reach average levels despite variable weather, with a wet winter and early spring delaying the planting of some crops, followed by one of the driest summers on record".

NZGSTA Workshop on Export Phytosanitary Certification Scheme

On 10 April 2018 the Association hosted a workshop on the export phytosanitary certification for seed. The workshop was well attended by more than 40 industry staff involved in the facilitation or administration of export seed documentation.

MPI's John Randall, Peter Johnson, Hannah King and Luke McLean discussed the importance of the phyto-cert system, linkages between phytosanitary certification and seed varietal certification and the electronic Phyto system was demonstrated.

NZGSTA Workshop on Seed Certification – Ashburton Hotel - 26 June 2018

To be held at the Ashburton Hotel, Tuesday 26th June, 9.00am to 12 noon

An NZGSTA workshop presented by Asurequality covering the key aspects of the NZ Seed Varietal Certification Scheme

This workshop is free and targeted at Growers, Seed Cleaning Organisations and Merchants

Understanding the Key Requirements:-

1. Grower Applications - closing dates, documentation accuracy, supply of labels, paddock history, maps and part paddocks
2. Crop Inspections - field standards, isolation distances, contamination, off types, key weeds and their impact for exporting
3. New Variety Listings - key information required for NZ and multiplication and re-export, supporting documentation and its timely supply
4. Label Applications - Grower declarations, label types, NZ, OECD, EU and AOSCA, splitting, bulk and defacing of labels

Contact the Seed Industry Office if you would like to attend and haven't been sent a registration form. tricia.radford@seedindustry.co.nz

Maximum seed lot sizes and 5% tolerance

On 24 April 2018 MPI provided further clarification on maximum seed lot size and 5% tolerance. MPI states:

As per the ISTA and OECD seed scheme rules, maximum seed lot sizes are specified for each individual scheme. As an example, the Grass and Legume Seed Scheme states that for seed smaller than wheat, one seed lot shall not exceed 10,000kg and a tolerance of 5% on the maximum is permissible.

Examples of how this can be applied to 10 tonne seed lots in 25kg bags:

- 1) *A machine dressed seed lot of 10,300kg*
 - *The maximum seed lot size is 10,000kg and the additional 300kg is within the 5% tolerance therefore 412 labels can be applied for as one seed lot*
- 2) *A machine dressed seed lot of 10,600kg*
 - *The additional 600kg exceeds the 5% tolerance on the 10,000kg maximum seed lot size. The seed lot will need to be split into two seed lots prior to labels being attached.*

There may be significant ramifications for organisations if seed lots are found to be in excess of the both the maximum lot size AND the 5% tolerance (>105%).

When packing to 105%, organisations are taking a risk that further accidental weight might be added or gained which would put it outside of the maximum lot size plus 5% tolerance, and therefore forfeit the certification status of that seed.

New member applications

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.

The Association is pleased to announce the following companies have applied to join the NZGSTA.

Tasman Seed Co Ltd are a production and seed breeding company residing in Pukekohe; and **PMR Contracts Ltd T/A PMR Grain Systems**, a company who design, supply and install seed cleaning and general grain storage equipment, residing in Ashburton.

All members are being notified of these applications here through this newsletter.

2018 NZGSTA Annual Conference - Golf day

Tuesday 16th October 2018. Russley Golf Club, Memorial Avenue

Things to know:

- 1.30pm Burger and Beer – tee off from 2.15pm
- Format – four person Ambrose
- Prizes include longest drive, best outfit (team), winning team, and closest to the tee
- Refreshments on course
- 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

Registrations available on the conference page of the NZGSTA Website.

2018 NZGSTA Annual Conference - Early-bird registrations open

You can now register for the 100th NZGSTA Conference which will take place October 17-18, 2018 in Christchurch.

As it's our centennial celebrations bring along the next generation of possible industry leaders or first-timers to Conference and involve them in industry affairs

WHAT:

There are two days of meetings, business and networking possibilities. A unique opportunity for hear from expert speakers, learn about important policy discussions, hear about success stories and have a bit of fun.

WHO:

More than 100 industry leaders and key personnel from across the trade will be attending.

WHEN:

October 17-18, 2018.

WHERE:

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Christchurch.

Register on the [NZGSTA website](#) and benefit from the early bird registration fee before June 30, 2018. For more information contact [Tricia Radford](#) at the Seed Industry Office.

Duncan Storrier

Former NZ Grain and Seed Trade Association (NZGSTA) Councillor and larger than life industry figure Duncan Storrier passed away earlier in the month.

Duncan served as a General Councillor on the NZGSTA Executive between 2011 and 2015. He made a significant and noteworthy contribution to the policy and governance of the Association. Duncan was also a driving force in initiating the Centennial book project. Now published, the book is a worthy contribution to his legacy as an industry leader. He will be sadly missed.



(Photo: Duncan's casket departing St Stephens Church in Ashburton)

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

- 24th July 2018 - Wellington
- 16th October 2018 (ChCh)

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