



Newsletter

New Zealand Grain & Seed Trade Association Inc.

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Presidents past and present during cake cutting ceremony marking 100 years.



David Melhuish, John Duncan, George Gerard and Barry McCarter

NZGSTA Holds 100th Annual Conference

The NZ Grain & Seed Trade Association held its 100th Annual Conference 17-18 October at the Crowne Plaza, Christchurch.

The Conference featured a welcome reception and centennial book launch along with a reinstated golf tournament, trade exhibits, and a gala dinner.

President:	George Gerard 027 447 4807
Vice President:	Evan Johnston 03 344 1690
Past President:	Barry McCarter 09 307 0000
Chair: Forage & Turf Business Group	Callum Davidson 03 347 7950
Chair: Vegetable Seed Business Group	Charlotte Connoley 09 239 0890
Chair: Grains & Pulses Business Group	Peter Burton 03 308 1265
Chair: Services to Seeds Business Group	Evan Johnston 03 344 1690
General Councillors:	
Stephen Tait	03 307 6979
Mark Johnson	027 440 4839
General Manager:	
Thomas Chin	03 349 8430
Administration:	
Tricia Radford	03 349 8430



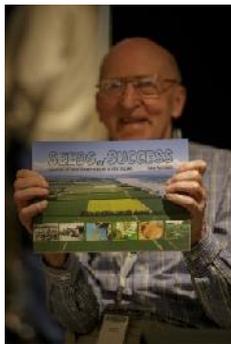
The golfers played at the Russley Golf Club and winners of the Ambrose tournament who received the "Duncan Storrier Memorial Cup" were Richard Grigor, Dudley Knox, Bob Mather, Steve Chapman, Evan Johnston and Kevin Inder.



Business group meetings and the AGM took place Wednesday along with the 11 exhibitors showing their products and services to the trade. The Centennial Book launch and cocktails in the evening were well received.



Dave McKinnon, Dave Melhuish, John McCaw



Ross Smith was quick to purchase his copy of Seeds of Success at the book launch

The general session had a diverse range of speakers including two Ministers of the Crown; Hon Damien O'Connor (by Skype) – Minister of Agriculture and Hon Kris Faafoi – Minister of Commerce, providing an update on phytosanitary and Plant Variety Rights issues related to the seed industry.

The Conference concluded Thursday with the gala dinner held at Sixty6 Peterborough. The theme for the evening was "Moulin Rouge" and Epic Entertainment Dancers were enthusiastically received by the delegates.

For more photos, go to the [NZGSTA website](http://www.nzgsta.co.nz).



The NZGSTA 101st Annual Conference is being planned for October 2019 in Rotorua.

NZGSTA Executive Council Members 2018-2019

At the 100th Annual General Meeting of the NZ Grain and Seed Trade Association in Christchurch, the following Executive Council members were confirmed for the 2018-2019 year.

George Gerard (President) – PGGW SEEDS, Barry McCarter (Past President)– GTL, Stephen Tait– CARRFIELDS, Peter Burton – MIDLANDS SEED, Mark Johnson – HYBRID SEEDS, Evan Johnston – SEED FORCE, Charlotte Connely – SPS.

Business Group Chairs for 2018-19 include:

Peter Burton - GRAINS & PULSES,
Callum Davidson – FORAGE & TURF,
Evan Johnston– SERVICES TO SEED,
Charlotte Connoley – VEGETABLES



Gene editing discussion paper

Earlier this month, the Royal Society (its purpose being advancing and promoting science, technology and the humanities in New Zealand) issued a discussion paper entitled: The use of gene editing in the primary industries.

The paper outlines the relevant considerations, risks and potential benefits for five scenarios of how gene editing could be used for primary production sectors including agriculture, forestry and horticulture.

One scenario the paper discusses is using gene editing to enable the production of chemicals in ryegrass to confer benefits such as drought tolerance, improve grass quality and/or provide health benefits to grazing livestock.

At present gene editing is regulated as 'genetically modified' under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act, even though the technology does not involve the insertion of DNA from a foreign source.

Public feedback on the discussion paper has been invited and the document is available online at <https://royalsociety.org.nz/news/potential-uses-of-gene-editing-for-new-zealands-primary-industries/>

Interceptions of Blackpoint disease with Imported cereal seed

We have been advised by the MPI 'Regulation and Assurance' team that formal identification of suspect 'blackpoint' disease

<https://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/cereal-disease-encyclopedia/diseases/black-point.aspx>) must be completed before they can authorise the seed to receive approved fungicide treatment. The only lab approved for this ID is the PHEL lab in Auckland. Several different species of fungi can cause 'blackpoint'.

The ID is required so that MPI can confirm that the signs and symptoms have not been caused by a fungal organism that may not be adequately treated with fungicide. The only other options for importers are reshipment or destruction.

Coated imported seed

This season MPI have taken a more strict approach to the inspection and clearance of heavily coated imported seed. Please note that this a separate approach to that taken for pelleted seed.

The MPI Import Health Standard for seed for sowing (155.02.05, Section 1.5.3) has the provision for samples of imported seed to be sent by MPI for lab analysis on arrival. This provision has been in place for some time. In recent months MPI have encountered some lots of heavily-coated seed (but not pelleted) where the NZ Seed Laboratory, in Christchurch, have advised that they are not able to satisfactorily complete an inspection for 'other seeds' (unless the coating is washed off the sample). This is because the seed

is so obscured and there is no natural colour visible at all.

Generally a light coating of fungicide is acceptable, because MPI should still be able to see variation in natural colour. Relying only on variation in size and shape is not going to give us the assurance that They need. Officers need to feel confident that they can adequately differentiate between the 'host' seed and any contaminants that might be present. MPI staff are also not trained seed certifiers.

Grouping of lots of imported seed with 'Basic' entry conditions

It is the practice of the MPI Target Evaluation Team, in Auckland, to group imported lots or varieties of non-pelleted 'basic entry' seed (as categorised on the MPI 'Plants Biosecurity Index' <https://www1.maf.govt.nz/cgi-bin/bioindex/bioindex.pl>) as one 'line', when the genus and species names are the same. The process is then for the inspecting officer to draw a consolidated sample, from across the lots, to inspect for contaminants.

For 'clean' seed (no contamination found), this results in shorter inspection times and less cost to the importer. If contaminants are found however, then the consolidated line will need to be split into the individual lots by MPI and re-sampled for inspection. Due to the high volume of inspection bookings at this time of year this usually results in a re-booking being required, which is likely to cause a delay of another 2-3 days.

Please contact MPI Border Clearance Services in Christchurch if you have any questions about these processes.

MPI Emerging risks - Melon necrotic spot virus

MPI operates the Emerging Risks System for Biosecurity. ERS-Biosecurity is designed to proactively identify and manage potential and emerging risks to New Zealand's biosecurity. The system focusses on plants and animal hazards of biosecurity concern to New Zealand.

Of relevance to the seed trade, the ERS – Biosecurity has concluded that Seeds-for-sowing is a potential entry pathway into New Zealand for **Melon necrotic spot virus (MNSV)**. Known hosts of MNSV are melon, cucumber and watermelon.

As to next steps, MPI is considering a review of the Import Health Standard, and a consultation document outlining risk management measures is being prepared.

Plant variety rights consultation started

On 17 September the Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Kris Faafoi announced the start of public consultation on New Zealand's plant variety rights law, which regulates intellectual property protection over new plant varieties.

An Issues Paper has been released and the Government is seeking feedback on the key issues they've identified with the effectiveness of the current plant variety rights regime.

Written submissions on the Issues Paper close on Friday, 21 December 2018.

The [consultation documents and more information are here](#).

OECD seed varietal certificates

AsureQuality advises that effective 12 September the cost of OECD Seed Varietal Certificates increased to \$20 for seed exporters.

The cost increase was to partly cover the current administration overheads for both AQ & MPI. The cost increase was also primarily driven by the SQMA for cost recovery in developing a web based service for the issuance of certificates using the E Phyto application. If this project is not initiated then the alternative would be a scenario going forward in which MPI will charge users for a wet signature which could be closer to \$50 per certificate.

Transitional facilities – New offences & penalties

MPI advises that they are reviewing the offences and penalties regime for all Transitional Facilities.

Of interest to TFs receiving, holding, inspecting or treating seeds (for sowing) the offence of not having an approved operator present on the site and TFs not operating to their operations manual (documenting how their procedures and systems work) will be \$400 for the individual and \$800 for the body corporate. MPI will implement the changes in early 2019.

Neonicotinoid pesticides under scrutiny

Neonicotinoid pesticides: clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam and their use in New Zealand, *is under increased scrutiny by the Environmental Protection Authority*.

Neonicotinoid pesticides can impact bees and other pollinators. The EPA sets rules around the use of these substances, which include particular rules to mitigate risks to pollinators, such as restrictions on use on flowering crops or near hives.

The deadline for sending information to the EPA is **30 December 2018**.

CGMMV Country freedom status

MPI has updated its Country Freedom status list and states that Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV) is not known to occur in NZ.

MPI's list helps exporters determine whether certain plant pest or disease organisms are present in New Zealand – information that maybe required on phytosanitary certificates to the destination country.

CPT Field Tour 12 December 2018

The annual Cereal Performance Trials field tour will be held on 12 December 2018.

It's an event where everyone with an interest in the grain industry – plant breeders, researchers/scientists, suppliers, consultants, producers, traders and buyers – come together for half a day to review local trials for yield, quality and disease and to hear from a variety of knowledgeable and dynamic speakers. A lunch will be sponsored by the NZ Plant Breeding and Research Association.

To reserve your place please contact [FAR](#) or Ph (03) 345 5783 by 5 pm Monday 11th Dec.

NZGSTA Scholarship applications open

Applications are now open for the NZGSTA scholarship through Lincoln and Massey Universities. The scholarship is awarded to 2nd year University students who wish to further their studies in the seed and arable sector.

New member announcement

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 company has applied to join the NZGSTA.

BASF

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

2018 Cereals harvest data

Yields t/ha	Milling Wheat	Feed Wheat	Malting Barley	Feed Barley	Milling Oats	Feed Oats
2012	8.8	9.3	6.4	6.1	4.1	3.4
2013	8.7	9.4	7.2	6.6	6.5	5.2
2014	8.6	8.8	7.1	6.9	5.5	4.4
2015	8.2	8.5	7.1	6.6	5.3	4.4
2016	8.3	9.4	7.4	6.7	5.2	5.1
2017	9.4	9.9	7.9	7.4	6.4	6
2018	8.4	8.8	6.9	6.3	5.4	4.8
7 Yr av	8.6	9.2	7.1	6.7	5.5	4.8
2018 vs AV %chg	-2.6	-3.9	-3.4	-5.4	-1.6	0.9

Total hectares sown in key cereal crops in 2018 was up 18% to 105,000ha compared with 89,000ha last season. And total domestic cereals production was estimated to be around 766,000

tonnes. This compares with 738,000 tonnes in 2017.

Overall, the data from the [Arable Industry Marketing Initiative \(AIMI\) Cereal Survey](#) shows cereal crop yields for 2018 were down compared to the rolling 7 seven year averages; milling and feed wheat yields were down 2.6% and 3.9%, malting barley down 3.4%, feed barley down 5.4%, milling oats down 1.5% and feed oats up 1%.

Good options for arable farmers

According to the recent Arable Industry Marketing Initiative (AIMI) report, cereals growers are positive about future prospects.

The Federated Farmers Arable Chairperson Karen Williams says domestic grain use by the livestock industry is more positive because of the closer price parity with imported supplement feeds and moves away from the use of imported supplementary feeds such as palm kernel. And growers are also positive with pricing and good options available in the milling industry.

With this future cropping situation in mind there maybe a potential impact on some vegetable seed production.

Whilst grower prices for Asian brassicas has remained stable for the last 4-5 years, with little or no price increases, in light of the current grain situation and lift in dairy farmer confidence, this may mean a necessary price increase is on the horizon for them next season.

If the New Zealand arable farmer can grow grains at a reasonable level, they may want to see a price lift in the more difficult crops they grow, i.e., Asian brassicas.

Arable Crops Levy

FAR has reviewed the levy rates for Arable Crops and they remain unchanged

Pursuant to section 4 of the Commodity Levies (Arable Crops) Order 2018 (“Order”), a levy has been imposed on, and shall be payable by, the

producers of any arable commodity grown in New Zealand.

In accordance with section 14 of the Order, the Foundation for Arable Research Incorporated has determined the levy rates for **1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019** will remain unchanged at:

- Herbage and amenity seed – 0.9% of sale value.
- All other grain and seed crops (cereals, pulses etc) – 0.9% of sale value.
- Open pollinated vegetable seed crops – 0.9% of sale value.
- Hybrid vegetable seed crops – 0.6% of sale value.

Dated this 18th day of September 2018.

A. STEWART, Chief Executive, Foundation for Arable Research Incorporated.

Contact Details: PO Box 23133, Hornby, Christchurch 8441.

End Point Royalty 2019

The 2019 End Point Royalty figures have been updated on the website.

Hemp seeds as food

MPI advises that amendments to regulations to allow hemp seed to be sold as food is expected to be in force by early December 2018.

The move follows the 28 April 2017 trans-Tasman ministers approval for a change to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. The change will allow the use of hemp seed as a food for human consumption. The NZ Government has been working to change some laws to enable that to happen.

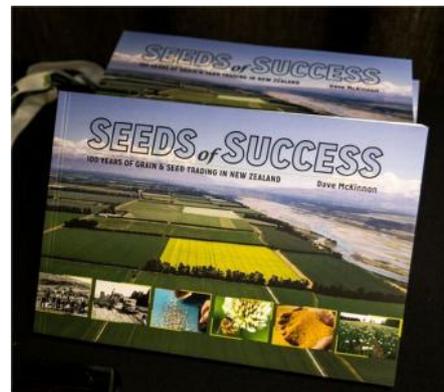
Changes are required to regulations under the: Food Act 2014, Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 and Medicines Act 1981.

NZGSTA Centennial book- available for order

At Conference, we launched the book “*Seeds of success*” – a history of the Association written by Dave McKinnon.

Online Booking is available on the NZGSTA website <https://www.nzgsta.co.nz/seeds-of-success-publication-october-2018/>. The book is very reasonably priced at \$45.95 + delivery if not picking up. Cartons can be purchased for \$592.25 + delivery if not picking up.

The book is ideal as a gift to domestic and overseas customers, and is especially perfect with Xmas coming up.



Meeting Schedule of NZGSTA Executive Council for 2019 to be held at the Seed Industry Office unless otherwise stated:-

- 9am, 17 Jan 2019 (in Chch)
- 9am, 21 Mar 2019 (in Chch)
- 9am, 23 May 2019 (in Chch)
- 9am, 24 Jul 2019 (in Wgtn)
- 9am, 22 Oct 2019 (in Rotorua)

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

Seed Varietal Certification Statistics



Seed Certification Bureau
 Batchelar Agriculture Centre T 64 6 351 7962
 Tennant Drive, PO Box 585 F 64 6 351 7906
 Palmerston North 4474, New Ze W www.asurequality.com

		Harvest 2017 Statistics			Harvest 2018 Statistics			
		Entries	Hectares	Average Hectares	Entries	Hectares	Average Hectares	
Arable Crops	Durum wheat	1	3	1.0	Durum wheat	1	3	3.0
	Linseed	6	45	7.5	Linseed	16	134	8.4
	Maize	145	638	4.4	Maize	120	428	3.6
	Oat	73	630	8.6	Oat	49	344	7.0
	Pea	21	153	7.3	Pea	13	101	7.8
	Ryecorn	3	14	4.7	Ryecorn	4	20	5.0
	Triticale	25	179	7.2	Triticale	14	108	7.7
Brassicas	Wheat	38	350	9.2	Wheat	43	482	11.2
	Barley	91	788	8.7	Barley	111	987	8.9
	Ethiopian Cabbage	1	10	10.0	Ethiopian Cabbage	0	0	0.0
	Kale	22	212	9.6	Kale	31	350	11.3
	Turnip	38	415	10.9	Turnip	36	342	9.5
	Swede Rape	0	0	0.0	Swede Rape	2	21	10.5
	Swede	8	61	7.6	Swede	8	70	8.8
	Raphanobrassica	0	0	0.0	Raphanobrassica	6	92	15.3
	Rape	49	617	12.6	Rape	37	410	11.1
	Oilseed rape	25	274	11.0	Oilseed rape	29	358	12.3
Herbage & Amenity	RADISH	6	83	13.8	RADISH	3	56	18.7
	Fodder Radish	42	568	13.5	Fodder Radish	9	79	8.8
	Red Fescue	1	9	9.0	Red Fescue	2	29	14.5
	Hybrid Ryegrass	159	2022	12.7	Hybrid Ryegrass	146	1867	12.8
	Brome Grass	3	29	9.7	Brome Grass	3	30	10.0
	Browntop	33	326	9.9	Browntop	35	363	10.4
	Cocksfoot	80	872	10.9	Cocksfoot	106	1229	11.6
	Coloured Brome	0	0	0.0	Coloured Brome	0	0	0.0
	Crested Dogtail	7	56	8.0	Crested Dogtail	4	38	9.5
	x Festulolium spp	3	51	17.0	x Festulolium spp	1	15	15.0
Legumes	Italian Ryegrass	436	4872	11.2	Italian Ryegrass	256	3278	12.8
	Meadow fescue	31	311	10.0	Meadow fescue	18	219	12.2
	Mountain Brome	0	0	0.0	Mountain Brome	0	0	0.0
	Perennial Ryegrass	907	11294	12.5	Perennial Ryegrass	820	10562	12.9
	Prairie Grass	16	256	16.0	Prairie Grass	9	136	15.1
	Smooth Brome	4	28	9.0	Smooth Brome	0	0	0.0
	Tall Fescue	62	665	10.7	Tall Fescue	60	717	12.0
	Upland Brome	8	103	12.9	Upland Brome	6	90	15.0
	Grazing Brome	6	59	9.8	Grazing Brome	4	42	10.5
	Festulolium spp	53	709	13.4	Festulolium spp	57	650	11.4
Other Species	Annual Ryegrass	7	92	13.1	Annual Ryegrass	0	0	0.0
	Timothy	0	0	0.0	Timothy	4	44	11.0
	Western Yarrow	0	0	0.0	Western Yarrow	1	6	6.0
	White Clover	743	9002	12.1	White Clover	651	7880	12.1
	Egyptian Clover	0	0	0.0	Egyptian Clover	1	0	0.0
	Talish Clover	0	0	0.0	Talish Clover	0	0	0.0
	Red Clover	155	1381	8.9	Red Clover	151	1334	8.8
	Persian Clover	2	8	1.0	Persian Clover	3	15	5.0
	Lucerne	42	190	4.5	Lucerne	46	201	4.4
	Arrowleaf	2	8	4.0	Arrowleaf	2	12	6.0
Totals	Lotus	7	58	8.3	Lotus	8	53	6.6
	Plantain	6	68	11.3	Plantain	38	448	11.8
	Chicory	15	224	14.9	Chicory	16	246	15.4
	Cannabis	3	33	11.0	Cannabis	8	59	7.4
	Phacelia	0	0	0.0	Phacelia	0	0	0.0
Totals	3385	37764	11.2	Totals	2988	33948	11.4	

Please note that the above data has been subjected to rounding.

The following Public Varieties are included in the above totals:

		Entries	Hectares	Average Hectares	Entries	Hectares	Average Hectares	
Hybrid Ryegrass	'Grasslands Manaw	11	160	15	'Grasslands Manaw	9	118	13
	'Grasslands Moata	82	974	12	'Grasslands Moata	59	725	12
	'Grasslands Tama	35	436	12	'Grasslands Tama T	20	292	15
Perennial Ryegrass	'Grasslands Nui	334	4250	13	'Grasslands Nui	258	3380	13
	'Grasslands Ruanu	3	11	4	'Grasslands Ruanu	1	10	10
White Clover	'Grasslands Huia	273	2993	11	'Grasslands Huia	257	2838	11
Red Clover	'Grasslands Pawera	1	7	7	'Grasslands Pawera	0	0	0

The statistics relating to the Varietal Certification System in New Zealand have been established and is administered by AsureQuality Limited (AsureQuality).

To the fullest extent permitted by law AsureQuality exclude:

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 b) liability of any kind suffered by a user of the statistics that arises directly or indirectly from the use of the information contained in the statistics, whether such liability arises in contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise and for any loss or damage however caused (including direct, indirect, consequential or special loss or damage, or loss of profits, loss of data, loss of savings and loss of opportunity).