



Newsletter

New Zealand Grain & Seed Trade Association Inc.

NZGSTA Newsletter January/February 2019

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Past President:	Barry McCarter 09 307 0000
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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
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Seed exports forecast to fall to \$230million

June Year	2018	2019 ^F	2020 ^F	2021 ^F	2022 ^F	2023 ^F
Vegetable seed	92	90	95	95	100	100
Ryegrass seed	55	50	50	55	50	50
Clover/legume seed	28	25	30	30	30	30
Other grains & seeds	67	65	70	70	70	70
Seed Exports \$million	243	230	245	250	250	255

According to [MPI's latest Situation outlook report](#)- seed export revenue for the year ending June 2019 is forecast to fall 5.2 percent to \$230 million as the impact of the poor 2018 harvest filters through to export receipts over the remainder of the year.

Elsewhere, the report notes that, regulatory changes have been approved to allow the sale of hulled, non-viable, hemp seeds as a food product. This regulatory change will improve the range of cropping options for arable farmers as well as provide a further avenue for export earnings growth.

CPT field day



Rob Craigie (FAR) introducing CPT 2018

Last month the annual cereal performance trials (CPT) Canterbury field day visited sites across the Methven/Highbank districts.

NZGSTA:

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

Phone 03 349 8430

There were over 50 participants and they assessed new cereal varieties and their performance across a different range of soil and irrigation/non-irrigated sites.

Participants also heard from speakers including Prof. David Hole, Senior Lecturer Crop breeding, Genetics and agronomy from Utah State University and Dr Soonie Chng spoke on Ramularia in barley.

The CPT has been running for over thirty years and covers both autumn and spring sown cultivars.

CPT results summaries are made available through the [FAR website](#) and are published in convenient handbook form twice a year.



AIMI Maize survey

Arable Industry Marketing Initiative (AIMI) survey results of maize areas and volumes was reported late last year. Key figures were:

Maize survey	Maize Grain	Maize Silage
2017 harvest		
Total ha	17,500	41,268
Total tonnes	175,600	765,897
2018 harvest		
Total ha	21,099	41,836
Total tonnes	269,348	863,031
%chg in ha 2017 to 2018	20.6	1.40
%chg in tonnes 2017 to 2018	53.4	12.7
% chg yield 2017 harvest	10.0	18.6
% chg yield 2018 harvest	12.8	20.6

United Wheatgrowers Levy – 2019 Harvested Grain

United Wheatgrowers Wheat Insurance Levy for 2019 harvested grain, will be \$3.75 plus GST per tonne for a sum insured to \$225 per tonne, commencing 1st February 2019.

The levy has been decreased from the previous year but the sum insured has remained the same at \$225 per tonne.

SGRR GIA



Late last year the Seed and Grain Readiness and Response (SGRR) completed application documents with MPI to sign the Government Industry Agreement Deed.

SGRR will be the signatory on behalf of its arable industry members comprising representatives from the: Arable Industry Group of Federated Farmers of NZ Incorporated; Foundation for Arable Research Incorporated; NZ Flour Millers Association; NZ Grain and Seed Trade Association; and United Wheatgrowers Limited.

SGRR represents the growers, processors, marketers and distributors of the following crops harvested for grain, seed and silage: small grain cereals, large grain cereals, pulses, legumes, herbage seeds, oil seeds, hybrid and open pollinated vegetable crops.

SGRR means the arable industry will be part of the decision making process in any readiness or response activities undertaken on behalf of our industry and (the) Government has an obligation to consult with or work with our sector.

Reassessment of paraquat herbicides – from Feb 2019



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will open public submissions on the herbicide paraquat in early February. This builds on a previous assessment of paraquat and its effects from the use of the product.

Submissions will close mid-March all information received will be considered, and their report and recommendations will be presented to the Decision-making Committee.

EPA is working towards a tentative date of May 2019 for decision making consideration. Industry members who may have any questions, please contact reassessments@epa.govt.nz

Methyl bromide availability post October 2020

Late last year the Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment and Trade advised the forestry industry that by 28th October 2020 Industry must be able to recapture 99.9% of the methyl bromide that is applied or else methyl bromide will not be able to be used in New Zealand. The Association suspects the same will apply to the seed trade.

Please advise the Association if the removal of methyl bromide as an onshore fumigant is of concern.

New biosecurity fines for TFs



From 1 March 2019 MPI will impose new infringement offences for poor biosecurity

practices that expose New Zealand to risk from harmful diseases and pests.

Of interest to the Association are those premises operating transitional and containment facilities. Any infringement will be deemed if facilities do not have an approved operator, or don't comply with operating standards.

The new offences will see fines of \$400 for individuals and \$800 for body corporates.

VEGETABLE SEED BUSINESS GROUP

January 2019

Charlotte Connoley – Chairperson

Brassica Seed to China

- A meeting was held with John Randall (MPI), NZGSTA personnel and interested members on the 21st of November 2018. There was some good discussion and small edits made to the Official Assurance Protocol (OAP). The revised version is now back with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in China and once signed out John Randall will notify the NZGSTA.

Seed Importation

- A meeting was held on the 4th of December 2018 as part of the quarterly meetings between the NZGSTA Exec and MPI. Points relevant for the vegetable business group were:
 - Advised there has been more resourcing put into border clearance but it will take some time to develop individual knowledge (as a note: a standard BACC for goods takes 12 minutes to process, for seed this is often 2-3 hours!)
 - Vege group to review current chemistry detailed within the IHS and advise on any new chemistry that needs to be considered for adoption into the standards
 - MPI queried whether NZGSTA had concerns surrounding Fusarium race 3 in lettuce – we clarified that we did not as there was insufficient evidence to note seed as a pathway for transmission and

the outbreak in the UK had been linked to the importation of lettuce transplants from Ireland where the disease was known to be present. According to MPI the NZPPI had raised concerns regarding this issue.

- Apiaceae – Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) is being completed, further detail on public consultation will be advised in due course
- Pelleted Seed – will be reviewed during 2019 with discussions occurring with the arable (fodder beet) sector first. Vegetable members will be advised when we have an opportunity to contribute
- Cucumis – the 1st draft of the PRA has been completed, further detail on public consultation will be advised in due course
- Small Seed Lots – still on the work program but other projects as detailed above to take priority

Training & Development

- Request was made for expressions of interest for a Seed Technology course to be held at Massey University in 2019. Proposed course would be tailored to participant requirements and would be over two days one night to minimise disruption to businesses. More detail can be found within this newsletter.

Code of Practice

- South Pacific Seed Sales (NZ) Ltd. underwent the first audit conducted byASURE Quality for the NZGSTA Code of Practice – Seeds for Sowing. Accreditation was awarded with no non-compliance issues.
- The Code of Practice committee will meet early 2019 to forge on with getting more members on board and looking at the next step of developing a “Quality Mark” for accredited companies use.

Member Survey

- A survey was sent out to members of the Vegetable Seed Business Group via email in December. The survey requested responses

relating to importation issues, export issues, training requirements and interest in the Code of Practice. A response has not been received from all members so a follow up will be done. This information will be used to assist with providing direction for the Vegetable Seed Business Group in relation to providing member value.

ACTIONS

- A reminder to members importing seed to ensure documentation provides the appropriate detail prior to seed arriving at the border. Delays at the border are often as a result of missing or incorrect information which delays the clearance of your shipment further as it is relegated to the bottom of the pile again. Common issues from the MPI side are:
 - GMO certificates or test results missing
 - Pelleted seed declarations not completed
 - Incorrect units used for detailing chemical treatment
- We will be looking to make a review of the “Treatments Register” for vegetable seed importation so will contact members for a meeting date for those that wish to provide input
- Follow up of the Vegetable Seed Business Group survey for the NZGSTA
 - if you did not receive this can you please contact Charlotte Connoley at charlotte@spsnz.com
 - if you did receive this but have not completed can you please do so as soon as possible
Your feedback is crucial to ensuring the organisation provides value to you as a member in representing your interests.
- If you have interest in a Vegetable Seed Quality course please email charlotte@spsnz.com

Professional Development Course Vegetable Seed Quality

We are currently looking for interested parties to gain sufficient numbers to hold a Vegetable Seed Quality Course at Massey University during 2019. If you are interested can you please contact Charlotte Connoley at charlotte@spsnz.com or on 021 301 677

The course would be based on a previous course coordinated by the NZGSTA held in 2016 – the details of which follow.

Cost: Course fee in 2016 was \$595 exc. GST

Accommodation: Accommodation was previously available in the hostels and could include meals if required – availability will depend on time of year for course.

(2016 - accommodation only \$60, plus breakfast & dinner \$84)

Course Content: The course is a professional development course in vegetable seed quality. This course is a 'not for credit course', but it will have a simple testing and assessment component, which will result in the participants receiving a Certificate of Completion (subject to passing the evaluation), or a Certificate of Participation.

The course will be two days and include a combination of lectures, group and individual exercises. Electronic copies of the course material will be supplied in the week preceding the course. Hard copies will be available at the course.

DAY ONE

8.45 am	Introductions
9.00 am	Assessing seed quality/International Seed Testing Association – lecture
10.00 am	Morning tea
10.30 am	Sampling and purity – lecture and exercise
Noon	Lunch
1.00 pm	Germination and Vigour Testing (AA, CD and Conductivity) – lecture and practical
2.30 pm	Seed Drying - lecture
3.30 pm	Afternoon tea
4.00 pm	Seed moisture – lecture (including water activity) & moisture meter calibration exercise
5.00 pm	Seed Treatments - lecture
6.00 pm	Brief review period
6.15 pm	End of day one

DAY TWO

8.00 am	Complete moisture calibration exercise and vigour practical
8.45 am	Seed Priming – lecture and practical exercise
10.00 am	Morning tea
10.30 am	Seed Health - lecture
Noon	Lunch
1.00 pm	Principles of Seed Storage - lecture
2.00 pm	Discussion on vegetable seed issues
3.00 pm	Afternoon tea/revision time
4.00 pm	30 min Test
4.30 pm	Short Course Concludes

Plant Variety Rights Act consultation – closed



Submissions on MBIE's Issues Paper on the review of the Plant Variety Rights Act 1987 closed on 21 December 2018.

The Association's sister organisation the NZ Plant Breeding and Research Association (NZPBRA) filed a lengthy response.

Their paper focused

on three key areas. The first, was that there needs to be a comprehensive update of the 30-year-old law and for it to be in alignment with our main trading partners who are all operating on the globally agreed standard known as International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV 91). Second there was a need for updated legislation to allow breeders to recoup investment on breeding projects through royalties on farm saved seed. Royalties would encourage investment in variety development, which will produce better varieties for farmers. And the third critical area was the importance on defending intellectual property rights with dissuasive penalties and robust enforcement processes for breaches of the Plant Variety Rights Act.

MBIE will analyse submissions and prepare an *Options Paper* for release by mid-2019. Amending legislation is expected in 2020.

Grains & Pulses forum 2019 – save the date



The Association will be hosting a Grains and Pulses Forum at the Fitzgerald Room, Plant & Food, Lincoln on 13 June 2019.

We will have a range of Informative sessions which will discuss a range of critical issues for the NZ grains and pulses sector.

More details in our next newsletter.

New member

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 and is pleased to announce the following company has applied to join the NZGSTA.



Enza Zaden (Australia) Pty Limited

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

NZGSTA Annual Conference 2019 – Rotorua



The 2019 NZGSTA Annual conference will be held at the Novotel Hotel in Rotorua from 23 to 24 October.

The Annual Conference Committee is putting together a program full of speakers, information, business, and business group meetings. We will also have our ever popular field trips to two exciting and innovative business enterprises.

Check our next newsletter for more details.

NZGSTA Centennial book- available for purchase



“Seeds of success” – a history of the Association written by Dave McKinnon is available for purchase from the Association.

You can place orders on the [NZGSTA site](#) . The book is very reasonably priced at \$45.95 + delivery (Optional).

Cartons (13 books) can be purchased for \$592.25 + delivery (Optional)

The book is ideal as a gift to domestic and overseas customers, and for anyone interested in the history of the trade.

Non-Proprietary and Uncertified Seeds levy rates 2019

The Herbage Seedgrowers Subsection of Federated Farmers collects a levy on Non-Proprietary and Uncertified Seeds, otherwise known as the commons. The levy funds the continued maintenance and availability of the commons. For the 2019 levy year the rates below will be applied on the first purity and germination test of each cultivar. So if you are a submitting a line of seed to the testing station and it is the first purity and germination test please ask them to deduct this levy and pay to Federated Farmers. If you are unfamiliar with this requirement or seek further clarification please contact Philippa Rawlinson (prawlinson@fedfarm.org.nz or 021512971) for more information.

Cultivar	Grower Price	NPC %	Levy \$/kg
Red Clover			
Pawera	\$5.50	1.60%	0.088
u/cert red	\$4.80	0.30%	0.014
White Clover			
Huia	\$5.50	0.50%	0.028
u/cert white	\$4.70	0.30%	0.014
Ryegrass			
Tama	\$1.60	1.60%	0.026
Moata	\$1.60	1.60%	0.026
Manawa	\$1.70	1.60%	0.027
Nui	\$1.90	0.50%	0.010
Ruanui	\$1.90	1.60%	0.030
Uncertified ryegrass	\$1.50	0.30%	0.005

At the November meeting of the Herbage Seedgrowers Subsection, North Canterbury farmer Jim Macartney retired by rotation from the Subsection and did not seek re-election. Southbridge farmer Matt McEvedy was elected in his place. Hamish Marr and Doug Simpson also retired by rotation and were re-elected. Hugh Wigley was re-elected as the Chairperson.

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

- 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.