

# WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT: Farm Advisors NZ Ltd & AgSafe NZ Ltd

Property & Farm Management Consultants & Safety Consultants

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Website: [www.farmconsulting.co.nz](http://www.farmconsulting.co.nz) <http://agsafe.nz> Follow AgSafe on Facebook.

**24 April 2021**

Daily grass growth rates:	Range 38 to 50 kg DM/ha/day.
Average pasture cover:	2200 kg DM/ha.
10 cm soil temperature:	16.2°C
Rainfall (Hamilton)– Month to date:	51 mm. April 10 year Av 90 mm.
Stock prices report:	Prime steers \$2.599/kg
	Prime bulls \$2.470/kg
	Boner Cows \$1.640/kg
	Store lambs \$98.03
	Feeder Calves \$123.64
	Weaner bulls to 151 to 250 kg \$3.481/kg av \$730.73/head

Monday is a statutory holiday and staff are either given the whole day off or they get paid time and half for the time worked plus they get another day off in-leu. Take time to remember those who fought for our freedom. We can honour them by ensuring that we keep the freedoms won for future generations.

Week commencing 26 April 2021

	This Week Nth Is	This Week Sth Is	Last Week Av	1 Year ago
18 kg YX Lamb (cents/kg)	\$6.85 ^	\$6.50 ^	\$6.55	\$6.10
21 kg Mutton (cents/kg)	\$5.37	\$5.30	\$5.34	\$4.00
P2 Steer (270 to 295 kg)	\$4.80	\$4.50	\$4.72	\$4.42
M Cow (160 to 195 kg)	\$3.45	\$3.05 ^	\$3.22	\$3.00
Bull (270 to 295 kg)	\$4.87	\$4.50	\$4.63	\$4.35
Venison (60 kg AP Stag)	\$5.20	\$5.35	\$5.27	\$6.90
		Previous Week	1 year ago	2 yrs ago
Fine Crossbred Indicator price	\$2.65	\$2.65	\$ 2.87	\$ 5.08
Mid Micron Indicator price	\$9.58	\$9.58	\$8.05	\$10.25
Butter (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 8075	\$ 8075	\$ 7050	\$8600
Skim Milk Powder (SMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 4775	\$ 4775	\$ 4150	\$3800
Whole Milk Powder (WMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 5725	\$ 5725	\$ 4575	\$4975
Cheddar Cheese (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 6150	\$6150	\$ 7500	\$6525
Casein (lactose casein NZ \$ per tonne)	\$11425	\$11425	\$ 15900	\$9775
Global Dairy Trade Index	1298	1295	901	1086
US currency	\$0.718	\$0.716	\$0.599	\$0.665
Euro	\$0.597	\$0.599	\$0.556	\$0.595
Australian dollar	\$0.928	\$0.926	\$0.943	\$0.950

**Finance:** The NZ dollar remained steady during the week. The new health system will require a lot more printed money to keep us all well!!

**Wool:** Wool prices are a disaster. There is no light at the end of tunnel or any movement in prices!!!

**Beef, Sheep & Venison schedules:** The lamb schedules are up for the coming week together with some minor inter-company changes across the other categories. Boner cow prices are steady and Venison prices remain low.

**Dairy Prices:** The g/DT fell 0.1% on Wednesdays auction. The auction index is at 1298. The WMP lifted 0.4% and is still over \$US4,000/tonne. The auction prices are for supply early in the 2021/22 season which has encouraged the milk processors to signal strong payment forecasts for the coming season.

Feed budgets can be done as maize and silage harvests are known and autumn pasture growths and pasture covers are becoming known. Part of the feed budget is the condition scoring of the cows. Securing meal and PKE is important as the meal/feed companies also need to plan their purchases. Good planning will save money.

**Quote:** *When you fear your struggles, your struggles consume you. When you face your struggles, you overcome them.*

**Need Help.** If at any time you just want to talk about being isolated on your farm and to have a chat, just call me – no charges!!  
027-2872886. Rural Support Trust 0800-787-245. Lifeline 0800-543354. Crisis TXT – HELP (4357)

You can hear us live on the radio on Monday morning at 7.35 am with Brian Kelly on Country Sport Breakfast – Radio NZ Gold AM.

### **Jim's Weekly Rant:**

*Something different this week. It about employment. This time last year it was difficult to interview and visit prospective employees in their surroundings due to Covid-19, so there was a greater reliance on the verbal references. I try and complete the verbal references diligently and having been in the industry for a long time (+40 years) I have gotten to know many of the farmers and their family connections. I rely a lot on my knowledge of the people giving the references to try and understand the specific circumstances and comments they make about an applicant. One contract milker I recommended to a client had a good CV and the main referee provided a good reference. We thought we had employed a capable and competent milker. However, the milker became the first milker in my career as a consultant that I have had to look to termination early as way to fix the problems that were growing on the farm. He did resign 1 hour before the remedy deadline expired. I have assisted in terminating employment agreements in the past and neither are nice or easy to do. The purpose of my rant is to encourage or at least ensure that when you provide a verbal reference that you are brutally honest and not giving a reference to get rid of an employee. If you are helping someone prepare a CV make sure it is accurate and check with the person that they can actually do the things they say they can. I believe we all take the applicants word that they can carry out the tasks they say they can do. Perhaps we should have a skills register that the prospective employee presents showing the actual skill level for the many tasks required on the farm that is verified by an independent assessor who has seen the tasks completed in practice and not just from a written theory paper. This particular guy didn't seem to know much about mastitis and the management of the mastitis, he failed to communicate issues and will end up being prosecuted for the mismanagement of the effluent, he was hopeless with staff and employed second trier employees that didn't help the situation. The references and his CV were all good in these areas. But then there is always the thought that drugs may have come into the system. I am, in the future, going to include a drug testing requirement in share farming and contract farming agreements. But the week did end on a better note with AgDrive who received a new business award in the Waipa business awards have ITO support and funding to operate a skills training course for ATV's, Motorbikes and SidexSides in an indoor all-weather arena, so some employees will be able to have certificates that record practical training!! Next we will need some animal management training schools that can be completed on day release in the regions!!!!*

**Contact AgSafe NZ Ltd - Phone 027-2872886. We can prepare your Work Safe manual and hazard management plan at a very competitive price. We can arrange drug tests and farm maps for your property.**

Calf rearing is important for your future production – Check out the Bell-Booth “**Queen of Calves**” rearing plan. There is research data from Massey University measuring the benefits. They are clearly documented and the long-term benefits are more production per cow and longevity of the animals!! Research has shown calves can be weaned approximately 22 days earlier when Queen of Calves is used. The early weaning saves milk and allows more milk to be sold!

**QLabs for your comprehensive farm soil & nutrient test. Qlabs are based in Waipawa.**

**Soils:** Full Soil Analysis, Soil Respiration Test, Home Garden Soil Testing

**Feeds:** Full Feed Analysis, Ruminant Nitrogen Utilisation Efficiency (RNUE), ME (Metabolizable Energy), Feed Single Element, DM (Dry Matter), Nitrate (Feeds)

**Waters & Effluents:** In Depth Water Test, Water - Bacterial, Water - Extras, Dairy Effluent (TKN), Dairy Effluent (Totals). Check out their services at [www.qlabs.co.nz](http://www qlabs.co.nz) Phone 0800-857733

**AgDrive offers courses to upskill yourselves and your staff. It is important to ensure staff are upskilled and offered skill training courses - When there is an accident or incident that is investigated one important question that is always asked relates to the ongoing training offered and undertaken. AgDrive is an independent training establishment. For course details and training information contact Gareth 022-5300251 or Vinette 027-2844219.**

<i>Spore Counts</i>	<i>The counts are the highest in the area noted</i>	<i>Date:</i>	<b>23/4/2021</b>	
		<i>No's Sites Monitored</i>	<i>Highest count</i>	<i>Risk assessed</i>
<b>Northland</b>	<b>Kaitaia</b>			
	<b>Kaikohe / BOI</b>			
	<b>Whangarei</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Low</b>
	<b>Dargaville / Ruawai</b>			
	<b>Mangawhai</b>			
	<b>Rodney</b>			
	<b>North Shore</b>			
<b>Bay of Plenty</b>	<b>Tauranga</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Low</b>
	<b>Te Puke</b>			
	<b>Whakatane</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>High</b>
	<b>Opotiki</b>			
<b>Auckland</b>	<b>Rotorua</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Low</b>
	<b>Franklin</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>Extreme</b>
	<b>Manurewa</b>			
<b>North Waikato</b>	<b>Whitianga</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>High</b>
	<b>Waihi</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>High</b>
	<b>Hauraki Plains</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>High</b>
	<b>Piako</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>Extreme</b>
	<b>Waikato</b>			
	<b>North Waikato</b>			
<b>Central Waikato</b>	<b>Hamilton</b>			
	<b>Morrinsville</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
	<b>Matamata</b>			
	<b>Raglan</b>			
	<b>Waipa</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>Extreme</b>
<b>South Waikato</b>	<b>Otorohanga</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>Extreme</b>
	<b>Waitomo</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>High</b>
	<b>Taupo</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
	<b>South Waikato</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Extreme</b>
<b>Taranaki</b>	<b>New Plymouth</b>			
	<b>Stratford</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Low</b>
	<b>South Taranaki</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
	<b>Wanganui</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>East Coast</b>	<b>Gisborne</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Low</b>
	<b>Hawkes Bay</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
	<b>Wairoa</b>			
<b>Lower North</b>	<b>Rangitikei/Ruapehu</b>			
	<b>Manawatu</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
	<b>Horowhenua</b>			
	<b>Tararua</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>South Island</b>	<b>Wairarapa</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>High</b>
	<b>Tasman</b>			
	<b>Grey</b>			

**The action threshold is 20. <30 = Low, 30 to 60 = Moderate, 60 to 100 = High Plus 100 = Extreme**