

WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT:

Farm Advisors NZ Ltd & AgSafeNZ Ltd

Property & Farm Management Consultants & Safety Consultants

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

7 December 2019

Daily grass growth rates: Range 65 to 74 kg DM/ha/day.
 Average pasture cover: 2500 kg DM/ha.
 10 cm soil temperature: 22.2°C
 Rainfall (Hamilton)– Month to date: 45mm. December 10 year Av 104 mm . **Very low Oct & Nov rainfall**
 Stock prices report:
 Prime steers \$3.233/kg
 Prime bulls \$2.888/kg
 Boner Cows \$2.437/kg
 Store lambs \$109.83
 Feeder Calves \$312.86
 Weaner bulls to 100 to 120 kg \$4.758/kg av \$530.25/head

The PCBU's (employers) have a responsibility to employees under the Health & Safety Act to provide safe work places, and that includes providing sun screen and making sure staff protect themselves from the sun during work hours. Most road workers are required to wear long sleeved shirts and brimmed hats with sun flaps as per their companies policy!!!!

Week commencing 9 December 2019

	This Week Nth Is	This Week Sth Is	Last Week Av	1 Year ago
18 kg YX Lamb (cents/kg)	\$8.52	\$8.65	\$8.67	\$7.47
21 kg Mutton (cents/kg)	\$6.10	\$6.00	\$6.05	\$4.70
P2 Steer (270 to 295 kg)	\$5.92	\$5.70	\$6.00	\$5.10
M Cow (160 to 195 kg)	\$4.75	\$4.50	\$4.71	\$3.67
Bull (270 to 295 kg)	\$6.10	\$5.85	\$6.00	\$4.60
Venison (60 kg AP Stag)	\$8.80	\$8.82	\$8.81	\$10.85
		Previous Week		1 year ago 2 yrs ago
Fine Crossbred Indicator price	\$4.17	\$4.60	\$ 3.90	\$ 4.10
Mid Micron Indicator price	\$10.67	\$11.90	\$16.40	\$14.60
Butter (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 6300	\$ 6550	\$ 5775	\$7050
Skim Milk Powder (SMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 4700	\$ 4600	\$ 2925	\$2550
Whole Milk Powder (WMP NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 5150	\$ 5150	\$ 3900	\$4150
Cheddar Cheese (NZ \$ per tonne)	\$ 6100	\$5600	\$ 4900	\$5450
Casein (lactose casein NZ \$ per tonne)	\$12300	\$11400	\$ 8050	\$7050
US currency	\$0.656	\$0.642	\$0.705	\$0.695
Euro	\$0.590	\$0.583	\$0.608	\$0.598
Australian dollar	\$0.959	\$0.948	\$0.955	\$0.917

Finance: The NZ dollar firmed again this week against all major trading currencies, and up significantly against the US and Australian dollars. The currency is underpinned by strong commodity prices.

Wool: Coarse wool prices are still weak while there is reasonable demand for the finer wools. Wool prices are steady but weak.

Sheep & Venison meats: Lamb schedules have eased for the coming week against a stronger NZ dollar. Venison prices remain lower than the same time last year.

Beef Schedules: Beef prices are steady to easier with strong demand for prime animals. Check with your buyers for premium. The swine fever in China is pushing the prices of meat proteins up around the world.

Dairy Prices: The g/DT fell slightly at the auction this week, but Fonterra has seen fit to lift the farm-gate forecast to a mid-point of \$7.30 with some expected up-side. WMP & SMP prices are still very good with an easing in butter prices.

With a very dry October & November summer management plans may have to be changed. Reassess your options and redo your feed budget again. And just another reminder about holidays and in particular the Statutory days, know what the law requires.

Have you read the recommendations for winter grazing yet – Even the minister of Ag thought they are a bit over the top!!!

Quote: *A nation of sheep will reap a government of wolves!!* Something to think about as enter an election year????!!

Jim's Weekly Rant:

We have been advised of the details of the cannabis referendum to be held with the 2020 general election. It will be a YES/NO vote on the proposed Bill. The Bill will include an age limit of 20, allow limited private cultivation, no advertising, sale through licensed retailers and a maximum amount that can be purchased daily. The reports are suggesting that the daily amount available would make 20 to 40 joints a day – what a joke as someone smoking that amount would be perpetually stoned!! The Cabinet Paper says that 10% to 12% of all adults smoke cannabis at least once a year, yet we are lead to believe that nearly everyone smokes it regularly. If it is to be an Act for 10% to 12% of the population, then it is a joke. The Cabinet Document acknowledges the potency of the THC's have increased, but interviews of Andrew Little indicated that they know little about how to manage that part of the Bill.

- *It is difficult to understand how the government wants a smoke free NZ then brings in legislation to allow more smoking.*
- *It is difficult to understand how the authorities are concerned about worker welfare, yet introduce legislation that allow psychoactive drugs to be normalized.*
- *It is difficult to understand how the government wants a zero road toll, yet introduces legislation that will allow drug affected driver to see how good they are at driving.*

It is hard enough getting good staff on farms, and other businesses have similar problems, so why make it worse.

Contact AgsafeNZ 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.

Quad safe helmets – contact Pacific Helmets NZ. www.pacifichelmets.co.nz/shop

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

On Climate Change. *The notion that complex climate “catastrophes” are simply a matter of the response ... to a single forcing, CO2 (or solar forcing for that matter), represents a gigantic leap backwards in the science of climate. Many disasters associated with warming are simply normal occurrences whose existence is falsely claimed to be evidence of warming. And all these examples involve phenomena that are dependent on the confluence of many factors.* Dr Richard Lindzen, Nov 30, 2009.

Check out our Facebook site **Citizens Reject Atmospheric Policies – CRAP**. We will keep you up-dated with access to properly researched and peer reviewed scientific papers from eminent astrophysicists and climate scientists. We are not interested in political papers from the hysterical masses!!!