



Stakeholder Newsletter

November 2016

This newsletter provides a monthly update of the group's activities to our stakeholders to keep you better informed about key work and initiatives in the pipeline.



Plant Exports

Arhopalus ferus monitoring 2016/17

Arhopalus ferus – commonly known as the burnt pine longhorn beetle – is a significant pest for timber trade with Australia. The monitoring for the 2016–17 *Arhopalus* flight season has begun at Ports of Tauranga, Northport and Nelson using visual inspections and light traps. The monitoring takes place from October and later from April.

Exporters of timber and wood products will be notified via the MPI website as soon as the threshold number is reached for them to observe the flight season requirements for exports to Australia.

Asparagus to Japan programme (DRAP)

After a number of years of negotiation and discussion with Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) to improve access requirements for New Zealand exports of fresh asparagus, MHLW has agreed to MPI's proposal to modify the asparagus Dichlorvos Residue Assurance Programme (DRAP). The programme requirements have been simplified to reduce the administrative burden for MPI and participating exporters and their supply chains.

An increased residue testing requirement has been implemented as the key verification component,



replacing the requirement for an annual audit by MPI. Other changes to the programme include Independent Verification Agencies collecting the residue samples and increased focus on training.

The asparagus industry estimates that it will reduce their operating costs for the programme by approximately 25% for this season. MPI is focused on continuing negotiations with Japan MHLW with the aim of gaining approval for the removal of the programme.

Plant Market Access Council (PMAC) field trip

Maria Lloyd and Henry Pak from Plant Exports, along with colleagues from Policy (Future Foods Project), Food & Beverage- Food Act implementation and Helen Gear (PMAC) recently attended a field trip organised by PMAC to gain some learnings around the current food safety assurance systems operating in the New Zealand fresh produce sector.

On day 1 in Hamilton, attendees visited an asparagus grower/packhouse/exporter for a brief overview of their food safety system, then travelled onto a blueberry grower to observe a Global Gap audit undertaken byASUREQuality. In the afternoon, a Nashi pear grower and nursery was visited to observe an NZGAP audit, again undertaken byASUREQuality. The group then travelled to Tauranga for a meeting with Pipfruit New Zealand Inc. for an overview of their food safety system.

On Day 2, attendees visited Zespri's head office where Zespri and Avocados NZ gave a presentation on their respective food safety systems, followed by a trip to a local kiwifruit and avocado orchard and packhouse.

The trip proved to be a valuable exercise for informing future discussions around requirements for food safety export assurances in the fresh produce sector.

Plant Imports

MPI is in the initial development stage of a new import health standard (IHS) for the importation of mushroom spawn.

Meeting with importers provides more understanding of the pathway and supports decisions around the identification and analysis of risks.



Container of imported mushroom spawn

MPI advisors from the Plant Germplasm Imports team and Plants & Pathways Risk Assessment team visited Hawkes Bay to view a consignment of imported mushroom spawn at Te Mata Mushroom Co. production site.

Te Mata is the 2nd largest producer in New Zealand of mushrooms for the domestic market; producing 20 to 22 tonnes of White Button, Swiss Brown and Portabello mushrooms per week.



From left: Abu Iqram, Kathryn Hurr, Mark Whattam (DAWR), Lisa Ward, Carol Elliot.

MPI discussed the operation of the facility, testing and diagnostic work, and the potential for further collaboration and sharing protocols.

Quarantine facilities for birds, cats and dogs, and horses are also included on the Mickleham site.

USDA visit to New Zealand

George Galasso, National Trade Director for Grain, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), visited MPI at the end of September to learn about New Zealand's grain imports, biosecurity approach and Grain Importation System (GIS).



Shipment of DDG destined for NZ being

The director's visit follows MPI's visit to the USA in April



Packaged spawn

Advisors were met by manager Martin Speeden and taken on a site tour of the facilities. MPI would like to thank Te Mata Mushrooms for hosting us.

MPI visit to Mickleham, Australia

Kathryn Hurr from the Plant Germplasm (Imports)

team recently accompanied staff from the Plant Health & Environment Lab (PHEL, Auckland) and PEQ Inspector, Abu Iqram, for a tour to the new Australian post-entry quarantine facility which has been built just outside of Melbourne. Mickleham is a purpose-built, state of the art facility, which included three Plexiglass wings (comprising 36 separate rooms) plus shade houses and laboratory facilities.

where MPI looked at their maize and wheat export pathways.

Shipment of DDG destined for NZ being loaded on a floating rig in New Orleans, USA

The visit included a trip to Christchurch to observe a GIS facility in operation.

Tegel, manufacturer of chicken products, imports a large volume of grain, such as wheat and maize, for the development of grain-based chicken feed products. MPI and USDA were presented with a lot of valuable and helpful information regarding grain imports from an industry perspective and the role New Zealand plays in international trade of grain.

Better Border Biosecurity (B3) Partnership Forum

Shane Olsen, Manager of the Plant & Forestry team attended the B3 Partnership Forum at Plant & Food Research in Lincoln on 19 October. The forum was a chance to update progress on research activities to end users across the five B3 themes of Risk Assessment, Pathway Risk Management, Diagnostics, Surveillance, and Eradication & Response.

The afternoon session was spent discussing specific research to prevent the potential entry and establishment of Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) in New Zealand.



B3 meeting in Lincoln

B3 is currently undergoing a refresh process with the aim of revised research priorities and projects being in place from July 2017.

For further information on the B3 research programme, please refer to the B3 website at www.b3nz.org/

Register now for Protecting to Grow New Zealand: Biosecurity Forum 2016



PROTECTING TO GROW NEW ZEALAND

Biosecurity Forum • 2016

Whether you're a home gardener, a farmer, a fisherman, a grower, an avid internet bargain hunter or international globetrotter, protecting to grow New Zealand is everyone's business.

Join us at 'Protecting to Grow New Zealand: Biosecurity Forum 2016' to launch the Biosecurity 2025 Direction Statement and hear from national and international experts about the future of biosecurity in New Zealand.

At the two-day forum we'll focus on the important role of our global biosecurity system to protect and grow New Zealand's unique environment, economy and people.

The forum will be held in Auckland at the Pullman Hotel on Tuesday 22 (Forum) and Wednesday (Workshops) 23 November 2016.

Find out more on MPI's website

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Visit to New Zealand Agriseeds

Rose Souza-Richards, Senior Adviser for Seeds for sowing and Amie Parker, Adviser for the Plant Germplasm team are travelling to Ashburton to spend a day at New Zealand Agriseeds Ltd to discuss plant breeding and seed production.

Two members of staff from Agriseeds will also visit MPI where they will spend the day with the Plant Imports and Plant Export teams to learn more about New Zealand's seed regulatory system.

IHS Review

Cucurbitaceae Seeds for Sowing

The review of submissions for the proposed amendment to the *Cucurbitaceae* seeds for sowing requirements is underway and expected to be released on the web site in November/December.

Pelleted Seed and Seed Tape Measures

Rose Souza-Richards is currently reviewing the Seeds for Sowing IHS for permanent measures to be applied to all pelleted seeds and seed tapes imported into New Zealand.

IHS Consultation

MPI invites comment from interested parties via the MPI website consultation page on:

Document	Date
IHS 152.02: Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, <i>Review of the Importation of Fresh Rambutan for Consumption</i>	30 September – 11 November

Upcoming Meetings and Travel

Stakeholder	Date & Location
GERMAC	1 November, Wellington
PMAC	2 November, Wellington
Vegetable Seed Sector meeting	9 November, Pukekohe
IPPC Standards Committee	14–18 November, Rome
Agriseeds reciprocal visit	22–23 November, Wellington and Ashburton

MPI Office Closure

The MPI Plant Imports office will be closed from Friday 23 December 2016 until Wednesday 4 January 2017. Consequently, we will not be able to process permits during this time.

Any permit applications received after the close of business on Monday 12 December 2016 will not be processed until the New Year. It is requested any permit that is due for renewal prior to Monday 16 January 2017 are submitted to the permits office by Monday 12 December 2016.

Previous Newsletters

All previous newsletter issues can be found on MPI's website using the following link: [News & Resources > Publications](#) and then filtering by title: [Plants Imports](#) and by document type: [Newsletter](#).

MPI manages a subscription list for this newsletter. If you'd like to receive issues in the future, please [subscribe here](#).