

January 2025

Oriental Fruit Fly update

The MPI response to the Oriental Fruit Fly has been a significant challenge to growers and packhouses within the Zone A region (Papatoetoe/Clover Park, Mangere, Auckland Airport, Otahuhu, Flatbush, Manurewa). The fly discovered was male and there seems to be no further detections in surveillance traps and importantly, no adverse reactions from NZ's trading partners- they are satisfied with the MPI response. Restrictions remain in place at the time of publishing this newsletter - see more details [here](#).

Early response and really good compliance from impacted growers has been essential to this effort, and SGNZ acknowledge all fruit and vegetable growers who have contributed. And kudos to MPI - their proactive response has protected our future exports.

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Grant Bryan, 027 4201 003. grant.b@waimea.group
Kate Marshall, 027 4201 033. kate.m@waimea.group



New Restricted Entry Intervals (REIs) for Pesticides - this impacts growers

Worksafe has finalised New Restricted Entry Intervals (REIs) for 101 substances, and it has been signed off as of 13 Dec 2024. This will come into **effect on 10 June 2025**, so the industry will have six months to implement it.

The list of new REIs is attached. The guidance materials are available on the WorkSafe website: [Restricted entry intervals for pesticides – quick guide | WorkSafe](#).

Can you supply 100 MT (or part thereof) of Camarosa Berries?

SGNZ is asked by Customs annually for a concessions for very specific IQF berries- so that FSL can avoid a tariff for importing frozen berries from other countries - some that do not have the same standards as NZ growers.

Last year, it was organic berries FSL specified. This year it's small (22-24mm) Camarosa. If Industry can supply, the amount of the concession application will be reduced by that amount available locally before it is advertised for objections to concessions.

It would be great to evidence to Customs that we have local supply - Please advise if you will have berries asap to Sally at info@strawbsnz.co.nz

What has our mate Marc been up to now?

Remember our guest speaker Marc Gasgoine from the conference, talking on mental wellbeing? Well, turns out he has a sideline in music curation.

It's no surprise that sometimes people feel fatigued simply from being "mentally busy". The head is so full of plans, worries and what-ifs that the brain starts to feel overloaded.

The answer is to carve out a little time each day and do things that distract from that mental chatter and give the mind a chance to recharge. He reckons music is a great way to boost your mood and maintain a good headspace. So he and some Farmers/Growers have put together a [playlist](#). I'll leave you to decide his future as a DJ 😊.

BerryQuest Meetup

[BerryQuest International](#) is in Tasmania this year at the Wrest Point Casino, 24-27 February. One of our suppliers is Agovor, is considering a meet-up for Kiwis attending before it all kicks off.

It's a casual New Zealand meetup in Hobart the afternoon before BerryQuest International kicks off - a relaxed, pay-your-own-way catch-up at a local pub—an ideal chance to meet and connect with other Kiwi attendees before the conference gets underway.

If you're keen to join or know someone who might be, drop a note to kev.oreilly@agovor.com and he will keep you up to speed with the details! Or call +64 21 088 23709.



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2024 – 2025 Strawberry Mystery Shopping

Round 3 Summary (10-12 December 2024)



Microbial test results

- 6 samples tested
- 1 sample was a Round 2 follow-up
- Tested for E.coli, Faecal coliforms, Listeria, Salmonella, Staphylococcus.
- 1 sample followed-up from Round 3



Residue test results

- 6 residue samples tested
- 1 sample was a follow-up from Round 2
- 1 sample was followed up from Round 3



Strawberries were generally sold

- 63% Centre Display (5)
- 25% Side Chiller (2)
- 12% Other (1)



7 Stores visited, 8 samples collected:

- 5 Supermarket samples
- 2 Specialist retailer samples
- 1 Independent retailer sample

Comments:

- Sampling was undertaken in Christchurch on 10th December and Central Auckland on 12th December. The Christchurch sample was from Nelson; no other South Island product was found.
- Microbial test follow-up from November Round 2 was negative. December Round 3 had low levels of E. coli detected. This is a hygiene indicator.
- Residue test follow-up from November Round 2 continued to test positive. Residue test for December Round 3 was followed-up.
- We purchased larger punnets in some cases but reported the price as 250 gm equivalent.
- Unlabelled punnets were observed but not purchased.

Where possible we will endeavour not to resample the same growers and unlabelled product will be commented on but not purchased due to traceability constraints.



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2024 – 2025 Strawberry Mystery Shopping

Round 3 Summary (10-12 December 2024)

Strawberry Colour Scale Used

- 1 = Good red colour
- 2 = 1-2 fruit with white/green shoulder
- 3 = 3 or more fruit with white/green shoulder
- 4 = Most fruit with white/green colour

Strawberry Appearance Scale Used

- 1 = Almost perfect
- 2 = 1 - 2 fruit with bruise/blemish
- 3 = 3 or more fruit with bruise/blemish
- 4 = Rots



Colour score av. 1.00

- Good red colour

Appearance score av. 2.13

- Rots & Moulds found in 1 sample
- Bruising also noted



Brix

- Av. 7.78 (ranged from 6.2– 13.3)
- 37% of berries had brix below 7
- 63% of berries had brix of 7 or above



Weights and Measures

- 100% samples with declared weight (8)
- 2 samples had packed on date.
- Berry Count av. 10.9 (ranged from 9 – 14)



Sample Traceability

- 100% of samples traceable (8)
- 8 different growers.
- 100% displayed Product of NZ (8)



Average Price \$4.24

(equivalent to 250g)

- (Price Range \$2.98 – \$9.99) for 250g
- 4 samples had multi-buy deals.



Packaging

- 88% clam shell punnets (7)
- 12% separate lid punnets (1)
- 100% of labelled punnets had barcodes (8)
- All samples were 250g punnets.



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