



# What's up on work in agriculture?

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Realized by Priscila Malanski at 03/06/2021

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## **DairyNZ says the decision not to approve 500 skilled dairy workers to come into the country will put farmers under intense pressure, as they head into the new dairy season in June**

DairyNZ chief executive Dr Tim Mackle says having the government application declined is disappointing and essentially lets farmers down, right as the sector heads into its peak period.

“We have real concerns for this season, including animal welfare, farmers working longer hours, increased stress and mental wellbeing issues,” says Dr Mackle.

“DairyNZ continues to work hard to resolve long-term workforce issues. However, we have an immediate workforce crisis this season, due to Covid border closures. This decision is a blow to the sector.

“Right now, there are also staff on farms who need residency applications processed. So in the interim, we urge the Government to urgently fast-track applications for those migrant workers on dairy farms who want to become New Zealanders, and already qualify to meet residency criteria.

“Our migrant staff are extremely valued by the sector. We are concerned that the delays are forcing them to look to other countries who can offer a more certain future.”

Links : <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/news/dairy-farmers-hung-out-to-dry-as-season-peak-hits/>

Tags : Hired work, Migration

## **A Government announcement yesterday enabling the formation of a Workforce Development Council for people, food and fibre is a positive step for the dairy sector, says DairyNZ**

Education Minister Hon Chris Hipkins announced that the legislation enabling the formation of six workforce development councils has been passed and they can now be established. They will work towards ensuring people graduate with the right skills at the right time to address skill shortages.

“This is a positive step - we all need to work together to resolve long-term workforce issues to support our sector’s ongoing success,” said DairyNZ Responsible Dairy general manager Jenny Cameron.

“We look forward to working with the council responsible for the dairy sector, Muka Tangata - People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council, to identify capability and training needs across the entire sector.”

A management team will now be employed by the council to get on with the important task of working with industry, employers and providers to develop the workforce needed for the future.

“We have real concerns for the current situation where many dairy farmers are struggling to employ the staff they need on farms.

“Finding solutions will be crucial to support the sector to meet the challenges ahead, including having the right talent and number of people to address climate change, water quality, people and animal care,” Ms Cameron said.

“As a sector, we strive to offer competitive employment packages and value the importance of having a positive workplace culture.

“We want to attract more Kiwi workers to the dairy sector, where we offer great jobs and lifestyles. We also need our valued migrant workers,” Ms Cameron said.

Links : <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/news/workforce-development-council-gets-dairynz-thumbs-up/>

## **LSU AgCenter is hosting farm stress and wellness webinars - Fruit Growers News**

The Louisiana State University AgCenter will present three webinars in the series, Inspired by Annie’s: Farm Stress and Wellness. The discussions will address stress resiliency of farmers and ranchers in Louisiana, according to Maria Bampasidou, LSU AgCenter Annie’s Project state coordinator and assistant professor of agricultural economics.

Annie’s Project is a national initiative dedicated to providing educational programs designed to strengthen women’s role in their farming operations.

“Understanding stress and its nature, factors influencing stress on the farm and the consequences of farm stress is key for handling stress,” Bampasidou said.

The webinars will cover a variety of topics, from identifying behavioral health, to how to incorporate stress-reducing techniques into your day and nutrition and wellness. These efforts are supported by the Louisiana Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Links : <https://fruitgrowersnews.com/news/lsu-agcenter-is-hosting-farm-stress-and-wellness-webinars/>

Tags : Health and decent work

## **DairyNZ’s Farm Gauge consistently identifies three areas of opportunity for dairy farmers: finance, environment, and people management**

At FarmRight, Craig’s goals are to do the right thing as an employer, keep staff health, safety and wellbeing on track, get the right people on board, and support them to grow their skills and dairying careers.

“My motto now is ‘communication is the key to all success’. I make sure I’m around for my staff as much as possible and I listen to them and help them sort out what training they need.

“We have weekly staff meetings and daily management system meetings. I retain staff by recognising what they do - we have a board where we write up who’s done something outstanding. For anything that needs attention, we write up a ‘counter-measures sheet’: what the problem is, how we’ll fix it and what date will it be fixed by. I’m also open with my team about my own failings, so they can be open about theirs. Every mistake’s an opportunity.

Links : <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/news/a-focus-on-people-management/>

Tags : HRM

## **Dealing with Stress in Farming - Teagasc**

Stress is normal and part and parcel of our daily lives. A certain amount of stress is a positive thing - it can help to make us more focused and more productive in our work and in caring for our families. Ciara O'Shea, Teagasc advisor Macroom, has good advice on Dealing with Stress in Farming here

Links : <https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/daily/other/dealing-with-stress-in-farming.php>

Tags : Health and decent work

## Vidéo : Le temps de l'entraide

Mathieu, éleveur laitier en Creuse, a dû mettre sa ferme en redressement judiciaire. Il est à peu près tiré d'affaire maintenant, mais se considère comme un survivant. Après avoir touché le fond, il a pu s'en tirer en transformant profondément le modèle agricole que l'école lui avait inculqué.

Ses voisins se seraient satisfaits de récupérer ses terres et de s'agrandir. Dans ce contexte, le soutien gratuit de Solidarité paysans a fait toute la différence. À son tour, il donne de son temps à un jeune éleveur en difficulté.

Links : <https://solidaritepaysans.org/limousin/actualite-limousin/video-le-temps-de-l-entraide>

Tags : Work organisation

## Les “permittants” à la lumière de la crise



Nicolas Roux travaille depuis de nombreuses années sur les travailleurs précaires. Son constat : l'importance numérique et la diversité des salariés précaires, ces travailleurs qui sont installés sur le long terme dans l'emploi discontinu, ont été mis en lumière par la crise CoVid. Un des effets positifs attendus de cette crise pourrait donc être de favoriser une prise en compte adaptée de ces travailleurs, jusqu'ici souvent invisibles et oubliés des politiques publiques.

Links : <https://recherche.cnam.fr/les-permittants-a-la-lumiere-de-la-crise--1255888.kjsp>