

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on NZ's food waste



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NEW ZEALAND

food waste
innovation

Food Waste Technical & Social Innovations Research Group

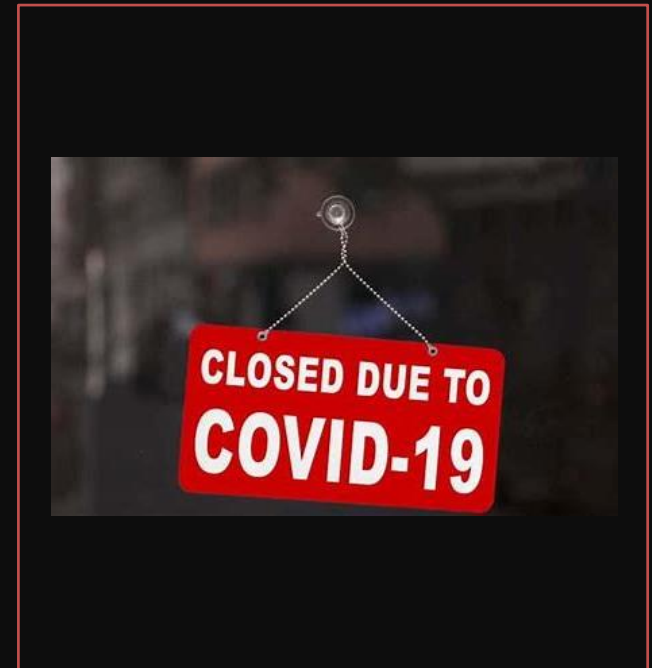
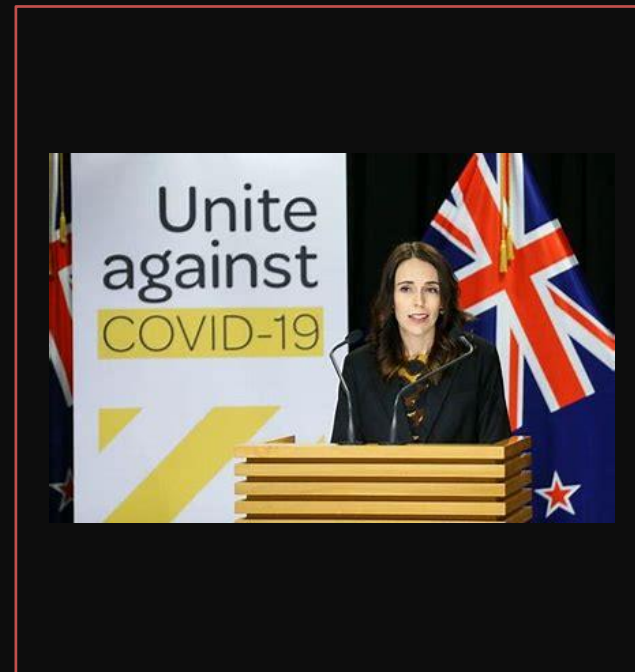
NZ production context: scene stetting

- 85 % of NZ's agricultural output is exported
- NZ feeds over 40 million people worldwide
- Almost one in five kids currently live in severely to moderately food-insecure households



Coronavirus: NZ situation

- Level 4 lockdown (from 25 March to 23 April 2020), lockdown was widely regarded as one of the strictest in the world
- Supermarkets remained open and well-stocked throughout
- Foodservice, hospitality, corner shops, butchers were closed



Agricultural / food producing sectors



- Ag and food processing activities were largely able to continue during quarantine periods
- Ag sectors withstood the impact of COVID-19 better than most sectors

Covid-19: Practical challenges & solutions

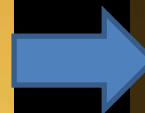
Challenge 1:

lockdowns caused a massive shift in our consumption channels



Solutions:

- company innovations and partnerships to be more agile
- redistribution of waste

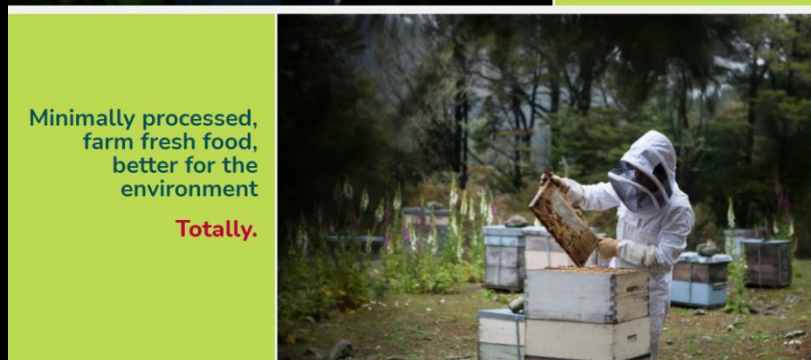


Challenge 2:

loss or disruption to export markets and short supply of inputs

Solution:

- govt provided financial support for international air-freight carriers
- diversifying markets



Challenge 3:

- backlog in meat processing plants

Solutions:

- import substitution
- encouraging surplus supply to be cut and frozen
- govt purchases
- better communication

Newshub.
21 June 2021

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CORONAVIRUS •

Coronavirus: Pork bonanza for food banks during lockdown, documents reveal

01/08/2020 RNZ

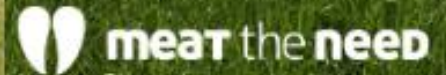


Due to the nature of intensive pig farming and rapid growth, pigs quickly outgrow their pens. Photo credit: Getty

The image shows a screenshot of a news article from Newshub. The article is titled "Coronavirus: Pork bonanza for food banks during lockdown, documents reveal" and is dated 01/08/2020. The article is categorized under "CORONAVIRUS". The main image is a photograph of several pink pigs in a field. The article text at the bottom states: "Due to the nature of intensive pig farming and rapid growth, pigs quickly outgrow their pens. Photo credit: Getty".

New Zealand Farmers Feeding New Zealand Families

WWW.MEATTHENEED.ORG



www.meattheneed.org

"Thanks so much to all the farmers who have donated beasts. We can lift up, provide assistance and instill hope to others because of what you do"

-South Otago Salvation Army



meat the need



Challenge 4:

labour shortages

Solutions:

- extension of SSE and Working Holiday visas
- increase the flow of workers from the Pacific (Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme)
- NZ Work Scheme
- pushing technologies and automation

AGRI BUSINESS

Apple growers panicking as major labour shortage threatens picking season

20/02/2021  Alexa Cook   



Apple growers in Hawkes Bay are in a panic. Picking season is here and they're still facing a huge labour shortage. Credits: Video - Newshub; Image - Getty

'This just cannot happen': \$9.5 billion at risk as horticulture sector struggles to fill \$25-an-hour jobs

Bonnie Flaws · 13:47, Sep 12 2020



Challenge 5: household waste

Solution: - education



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People involved in the collective to date: 32,754

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BOKASHI

Bokashi was developed in Japan. It is a fermentation process that helps break down food waste more quickly.



WORM FARMING

Worm farming uses tiger worms or red worms to produce fantastic worm



DIY

Make your own composting system like hot compost pile, compost bin

Sign up for all the latest tips and tricks on how to reduce your food waste!



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Read more

26 March 2021

Keeping food waste low with lockdowns



How to shop "better than normal" during lockdown



Let's hope it doesn't come to this but that's the reality of lockdowns and may change shopping and routines for meals, what you can do with organic waste!

Make not wasting food your new normal!



Challenge 6:

short-term critical need to address increased amounts of both food waste, and foodbank demand

Solutions:

- govt funding to redirect food from the primary sector

CORONAVIRUS •

Coronavirus: Foodbank demand soars during COVID-19 pandemic

06/04/2020

Hannah Kronast



Food parcel demand at the Wellington City Mission has gone up 400 percent. Photo credit: Facebook/Wellington City Mission

New Zealand foodbanks are being put under pressure as demand for parcels soars during the COVID-19 lockdown.



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Outcomes of the Community Food Transition Grant Fund



Through MSD's Food Secure Communities programme, **135 foodbanks, food rescue and other community food services** received a total of **\$2 million in funding** from the Community Food Transition Grant Fund (Transition Grant) to cover the period June – August 2020.

Challenge 7:

long-term solutions needed to help address food insecurity and food waste

Solutions:

- MSD funding 3 national partner organisations to build sector capacity and capability
- MPI funding for FLW innovations and new technologies



Challenge 8:

to make better use of biological byproducts

Solution:
- upcycling



Upcycled Food Lab selected projects



Upcycling Persimmoms



Getting Upcycled Food onto Supermarket Shelves



Upcycling Surplus Bread into Beer



Upcycling Flaxseed Meal



Upcycling Surplus Products from Supermarkets: Will Consumers Accept?

Conclusion: Searching for silver linings - surviving and thriving

- 'shock' to the system, serves as an awakener
- advocates' work on FLW accelerate in many instances
- unprecedented amounts of innovation emerging
- growth following adversity





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