NEW ZEALAND MEAT WORKERS & RELATED TRADES UNION NEWSLETTER ***July- August 2024***

UNION ACTIVE

COLLECTIVE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS – UPDATE



- **Ovation, Gisborne, Feilding and Progressive Meats (Hastings)** As far as we are aware, settlements reached for those workers are the highest for many decades.
- **Bargaining initiated and interim updates- Taylor Preston Ltd** has been settled for a 2-year term; Bargaining has been initiated with **ANZCO Ashburton** and talks will commence late September; talks are under way with **SFF** with claims exchanged and more talks due in September; **AFFCO** commenced negotiations for all sites. **SPM** has been initiated but are yet to start talks. **Lean Meats Oamaru** – recently downsized the workforce, CEA negotiations continuing. **Auckland Meat Processors** settled and will recommence once the plant upgrade has been completed. This is just a sample of some of the activities ongoing within the CEA's.

Wairoa floods:

This week, NZ Meat Workers Union organisers Mike Paltridge from Feilding and Mike Mucalo from Hastings drove to Wairoa to personally deliver the news that the union members had donated $100,000 to support the town's recovery efforts.





The donation was collected from the entire NZ Meat Workers Union members in regions such as Otago, Southland, Canterbury and throughout the North Island.

The donation equated to around $7 per union member and was in recognition of the strong ties the union has to the Wairoa community, with a large number of members employed at the Affco Wairoa plant.

The National Executive of the union expressed sympathy for the situation Wairoa is facing and had watched in dismay at how the latest flooding tragedy unfolded. The donation is to help those who have the greatest need in the hope of alleviating the dire situation in Wairoa's hardest-hit areas. Wairoa Mayor Craig Little was thrilled with the contribution, which will be split to acknowledge those impacted by the Cyclone Gabrielle flooding and the June flooding. "*Thank you so much to the union and the members for this generous support. To know that union members throughout the country have been thinking about Wairoa and donated money to help us is quite overwhelming. We know there are union members in Wairoa who have been impacted by these flooding events. On behalf of our community, thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and your donation, which will be used to help our people recover*."

Daryl Carran (National Secretary) said that *"Members should be proud they were in a position to be able to offer this much needed assistance."*

Latest Livestock Numbers - 30 June 2023 – 30 June 2024 *(source: Farmers Weekly)*

The national ewe breeding numbers is estimated to be 14.37million, down 27% over the last decade. The largest fall in beef/cattle numbers occurred in Marlborough/Canterbury, down 10% and total sheep numbers in that region down 12.2%.

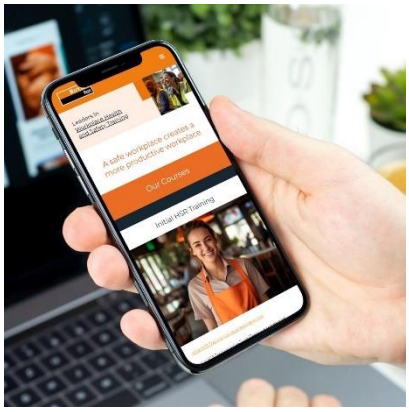
Sheep breeding numbers are estimated to have dropped 1 million in the June – June twelve month period. Surveys suggest this is the largest decline in decades.

The South Island cattle numbers were down 2.8% for the entire country and a significant drop of 7.1% in the South Island due to land use changes and droughts.

Estimated beef/cattle numbers on 30 June 2024 were 3.55 million, down from 3.65million.

Cattle numbers in the North Island have only dropped by 1%.

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WORKSAFE has also published some updated information around Asbestos. You can find that here by Ctrl+ click on this link https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/about-us/news-and-media/improved-asbestos-information-now-available/



Union Meeting dates

- **National Executive— TBA**
- **Conference November – 5-7 Nov 2024, Rotorua**
- **Annual Conference 2025 – dates TBA**