Issues and responses during Covid-19 lockdown for Oceania

Liz Wedderburn AgResearch

Ruaraidh Petre GRSB

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Oceania livestock sectors

- Extensive systems
- Hybrid intensive/extensive
- Grazing dominant systems
- Export focus

### Stock type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock type</th>
<th>Numbers ('000) – 30 June 2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>26,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td>6,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>3,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>255</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### NZ Livelihoods

- 5.7% GDP (30 June 2018)
- 53% of total export revenue (30 June 2020)
- 350,000 employed

The Australian Grass-fed Beef industry

70% of our beef is **exported**
Challenges

- Maintaining key production, processing, auditing and distribution services
- Labour, health and safety of workers
- Social distancing constraints at abattoirs and saleyards closed.
- Transport – restricted movement of essential supplies
- Key import supply chains - stock feed and animal health materials
- Ensuring on-going access to export markets
- Closure of restaurants
- Panic purchases
- Food safety misinformation
- Coincidence with drought
Response

- Livestock sector supply chains and support systems, e.g. vets, deemed essential services
  - Comprehensive registration and verification processes for essential services
- Cooperation and coordination; Sector sharing messages and communication outlets
  - Communication with export markets and international supply chains
  - Development and regularly updating of guidelines and FAQs. Helpdesk established
- Use of hybrid systems (on-line) for stock sales.
- Resolve and protect access
- Get close to customers: on-line home, delivery
- Govt wage subsidies, tax support and small business cashflow loans
- Support systems for drought affected regions – human and animal welfare, water, feed
- Nationwide programme established (Opportunity Grows Here) - portal for newly unemployed New Zealanders to raise awareness about job opportunities across the sector
Lessons

- Highlighted the on-going importance of Oceania’s high-quality food safety system, the adaptability of farmers and growers and domestic and international relationships
- A competent response to COVID-19 is part of a broader story of credibility and underpins our assurances for sustainability.
- Our diverse export markets and a deep understanding and relationships across our supply chains bolstered our resilience during the COVID-19 crisis. In part this can be attributed to New Zealand’s network of trade agreements which enabled that flexibility.
- Revised retail product forms
- Focus on quality
- Ongoing communication: Important to ensure robust process to oversee information being provided, accept that things will change – and change quickly – and will need to respond – so version control on information provided very important
- Consider different scenarios and how the industry response would have been handled had there been a feed shortage, or market access had been an issue.
Thank you