



Media Release

Meat Industry Association of New Zealand (Inc)

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Meat plants doing their best to process drought-affected stock

Meat Industry Association Chief Executive, Tim Ritchie said today that “Meat companies are acutely aware of feed shortages caused by the drought and the stress that this has placed on their farmer suppliers. Everyone in the industry remains concerned at the on farm situation: the flow on effects for next year, the potential animal welfare worries, and most importantly, the impact on farm incomes and general supplier confidence”.

Plants throughout the country are running flat-out to ensure that, where necessary, drought affected farmers can get stock off the farm and processed as quickly as possible. Mr Ritchie noted, however, that in some plants, critical labour shortages have constrained processing operations.

The Meat Industry Association wishes to assure farmers that its member companies throughout the country continue to make every effort to process stock promptly. Cumulative mutton processing is ahead 15% compared with this time last year and companies are still processing higher than expected numbers of ewes. Lamb processing is slightly back on this time last year.

Mr Ritchie says, “Farmers are a tough and competent group. During adverse climatic events they have to make complicated business and animal husbandry decisions in trying personal circumstances. They do this very ably. Thankfully, processing capacity issues are expected to ease in most areas in the next few weeks.”

Contact for Enquiries

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Further information on the Meat Industry Association is available from www.mia.co.nz