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Kind regards and thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]
Collection Manager

/ PHONE [REDACTED]
/ POSTAL PO Box 301775, Albany, NSMC 0752, New Zealand
/ WEBSITE www.tcil.co.nz

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Thompson+Clark SitRep

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Situation Report

Animal Rights & GMO Activism



Thompson+Clark Fusion Centre

Date: 08 July 2015

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

SAFE Aims For the Youth 'Vote'

08 July

In its latest action against the Egg Industry, the national animal rights group SAFE has launched a school holiday colouring competition for children, offering total prizes of \$1200. Promotion for the competition says, "It's very sad to think that most of New Zealand's hens live in squalid, overcrowded, sunless cages, just so that some people can eat cheap eggs. This competition celebrates hens who live as our companions instead".

The entry form includes ways that children can "help caged hens" by suggesting (for example) that children get their family to "promise not to bug cage and colony eggs" and getting them to talk to their "friends about caged hens". The competition also encourages children aged 8-14 years to join SAFE's youth arm.

SAFE is offering a total of six prizes, each worth \$200 to children who enter. The

competition closes on 31 July.

See: www.safe.org.nz/articles/230615/i-love-my-hens-kids-colouring-competition



GE Free Protests Coming Up?

07 July

A coalition of Auckland groups held an "emergency meeting" this week to discuss their reaction to what they see as Government plans to take a more assertive approach to research into genetically modified trees. Probably the most concerning aspect of this meeting was that it while was advertised as being organised by the Auckland GE Free coalition, the organiser was in fact a member of the militant group Socialist Aotearoa and it was held at the Unite Trade Union headquarters, a union which is effectively controlled and run by this militant left wing group.

The debate over genetic engineering is not something Socialist Aotearoa has previously bothered itself with too much, but in accordance with its socialist principles it looks for grass roots issues that it can align itself with in order to expand its support base. It appears about 20 people attended this meeting.

Tuesday's meeting was held in response to a growing cry amongst many anti-GE groups that the Government's decision to seek public feedback on its new National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry is a precursor to the liberalisation of development of new strains of genetically modified trees. Opponents believe the new standards will remove the authority local bodies currently have over the control over genetically modified organisms in their region (a position the Environment Court has recently upheld but which Federated Farmers is appealing).

Other anti-GE groups, such as GE-Free New Zealand, have continued to respond negatively to the announcement by the Ministry of Primary Industries that it will be hosting a series of hui around the country to explain the background to the new standard for plantation forestry and seek public feedback. On Monday, GE-Free New Zealand urged as many of its members as possible to attend these hui and voice their opposition to the proposed standards. At least two other groups, Stop GE Trees NZ and the Awareness Party, have launched petitions opposing the standards. Both petitions demand that a moratorium is placed on any further development, field trialling or release of GE trees in New Zealand.



Militant Group Reactivates

07 July

After a hiatus lasting almost a year, one of the country's most militant animal rights groups has suddenly reactivated its dormant Facebook page. Animal Freedom

Aotearoa (AFA) has been dormant since August 2014, but this week suddenly again began making posts on its Facebook page.

Launched in Auckland in February 2010, AFA claimed to have active cells in Otaki, Wellington, and Auckland who were committed to campaigns against the use of fur in the fashion industry; foie gras in restaurants; the use of animals in testing; and against the operations of the New Zealand Egg Industry. Its greatest success was perhaps forcing a French restaurant in Wellington to stop serving foie gras after repeated protests outside the restaurant drove customers away. It also conducted such actions as organising a protest against the Egg Producers' Federation.

It is noted however the group while it has reactivated its Facebook has not yet reactivated either its website or Twitter page.



Funding Sought for Film

06 July

Animal rights groups in New Zealand are being solicited to help fund a film advocating the 'end of meat'. The German makers of the film say it sets out to explore the idea of a post-meat world. The documentary will include interviews with philosophers, scientists, artists and activists who offer their insight and ideas about the role of animals in society.

The project is being backed by two Dunedin animal rights groups - the Otago Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Dunedin Animal Rights Collective - which are asking their supporters to help crowdfund the project. Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by raising monetary contributions from many people via the internet.



Animal Rights Protest

07 August: Whangarei

The animal rights group calling itself 'Stop Craddocks Farm' has organised an hour-long protest vigil on 07 August in Whangarei targeting a major shareholder and director of commercial egg producers Craddock's Family Farms. The protesters are hoping to convince the shareholder to withdraw his investment in the company and halt the company's proposed plans to extend its commercial egg laying operations, and which are currently subject of an appeal to the Environment Court.

The group says it will hold a vigil outside the shareholder's Whangarei business premises and is asking those who plan to support this protest to dress in black for the occasion.

'Stop Craddock Farms' is an Auckland-based animal rights group established by one of the founders of the animal rights group 'Farmwatch' and says it has organised car pooling to transport the protesters to Whangarei for this protest. It has organised a number of protests outside the shareholder's office in Whangarei previously.



Christchurch Event

15-16 August

The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society says it will be holding an information and recruitment stall at the Christchurch Green Expo at the Wigram Air Force Museum. The society says its stall will have petitions, free goodies, merchandise for sale, and information to share with people.



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Thompson & Clark
PO Box 301775
NSMC, Albany
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