

NOVEMBER 2016

Hawke's Bay Trends

THE STATE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

RIVER FLOW

GROUNDWATER & SOIL

RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

HAWKE'S BAY | Environmental Science
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November 2016

It's fitting we're kicking off our recreational water quality report because there's a fair chance you were looking for somewhere to cool your cuddly bits. November brought us the first day post winter we cracked the 30°C mark. A spring-fest of westerlies fired up the month's temperatures and sucked humidity from the air. We had ample rain to start spring, middling amounts during the middle of spring and then we whimpered our way to its end. November rain was well below normal, apart from the far north-western reaches of the region. We now have a good smattering of below normal levels in our river flows report and the same can be said for groundwater levels. Soil moisture is still around normal in most places but it certainly practised it's dive moves during the month. For the most part it was safe to swim – tsunami threats aside, which curtailed some of the team's sampling. Fingers crossed there's no such excuses for them to twiddle thumbs in the months to come.

Kathleen Kozyniak
Principal Scientist Climate and Air



The short summary

Spring arrived! Hot and dry

This is a summary of the regions rainfall, river flows, ground water, air quality and soil moisture levels. Data and images provided by HBRC.

December to February Forecast

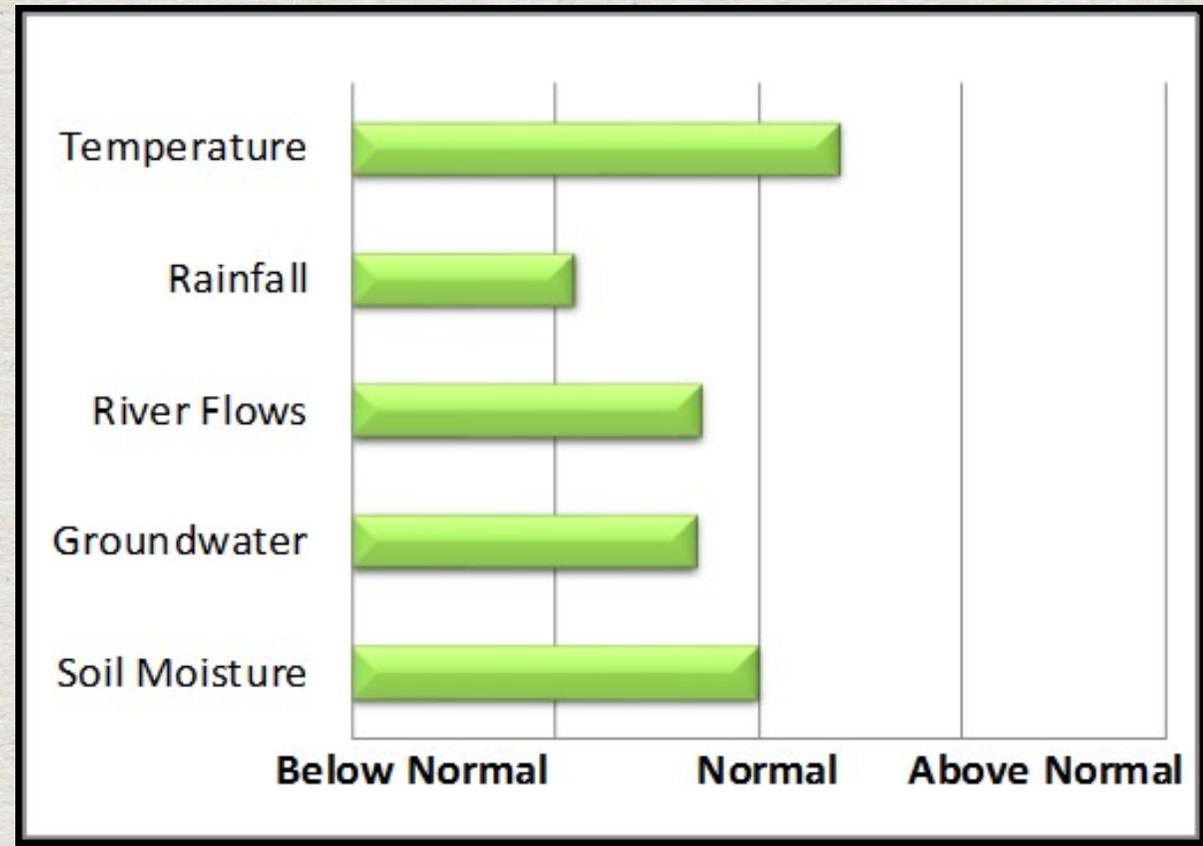
Temperature	Near or above average
Rain	Near normal
River flows	Near normal
Soil moisture	Near normal

(source : NIWA)

For more information

www.hbrc.govt.nz

P: 06 835 9200



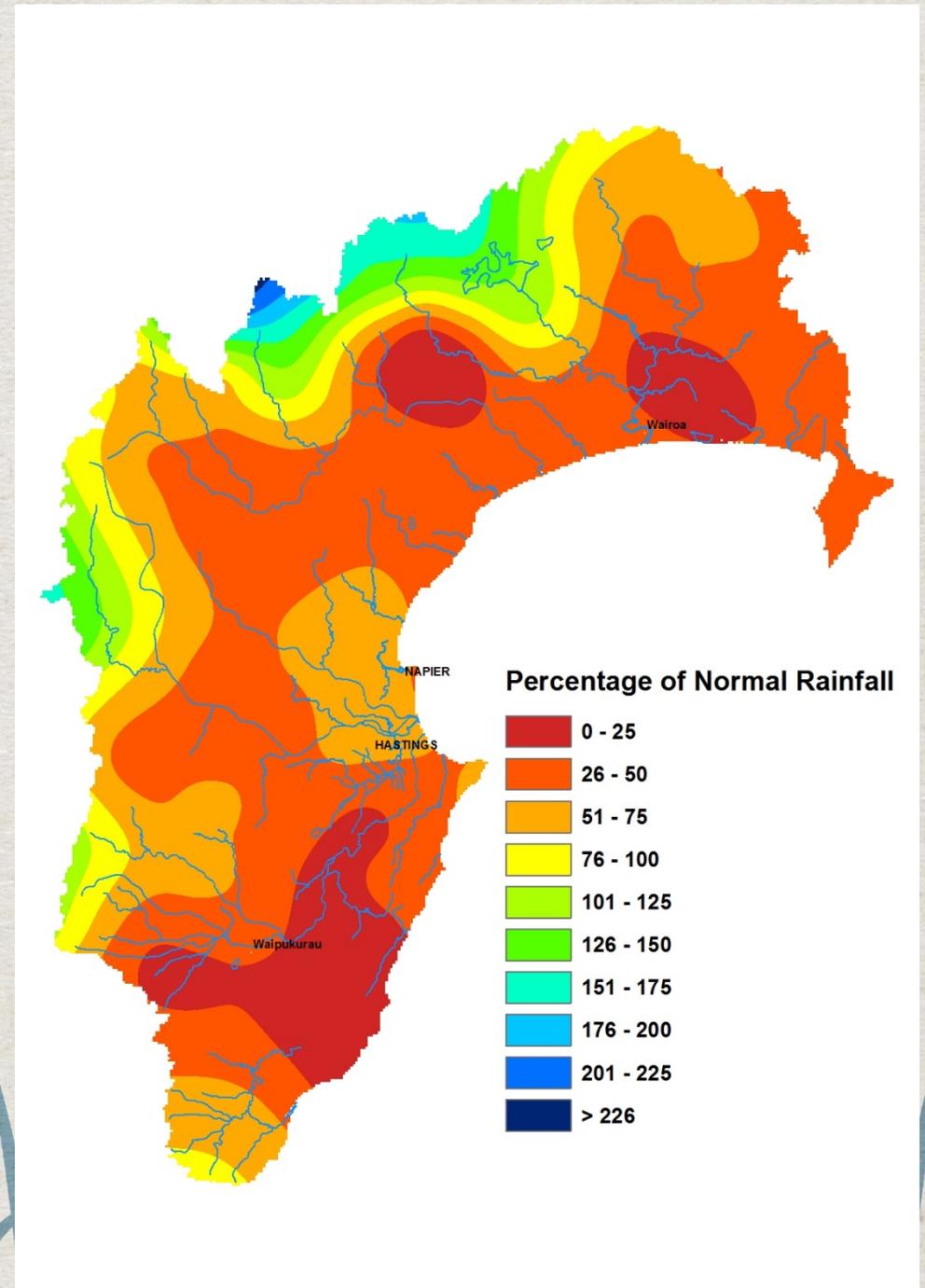
RAINFALL

The rain shadow effect – below normal

Percentage of normal November rainfall
(30 year average)

For areas in the region:

Waikaremoana	91%
Northern HB	34%
Tangoio	46%
Kaweka	77%
Ruahine	76%
Heretaunga Plains	44%
Ruataniwha Plains	34%
Southern HB	40%
Hawke's Bay Region	55%



TEMPERATURES

Hot!

Mean Difference from Normal

Maximum Temperature: 1.5°C

Minimum Temperature: 0.9°C

Mean Daily Maximum: 20°C

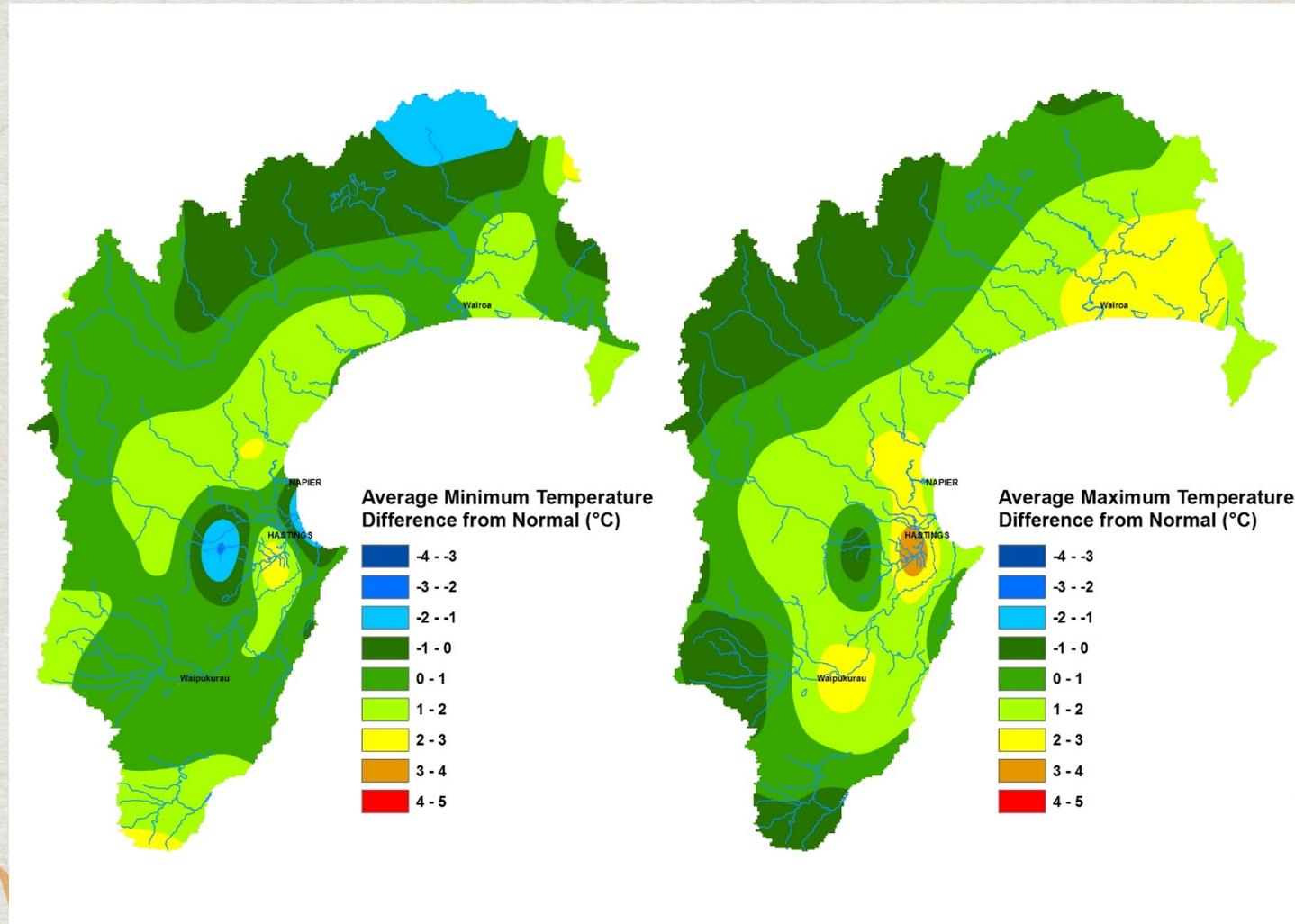
Mean Daily Minimum: 10°C

Highest Daily: 34.1°C

Location: Wairoa North Clyde EWS

Lowest Daily: 0.8°C

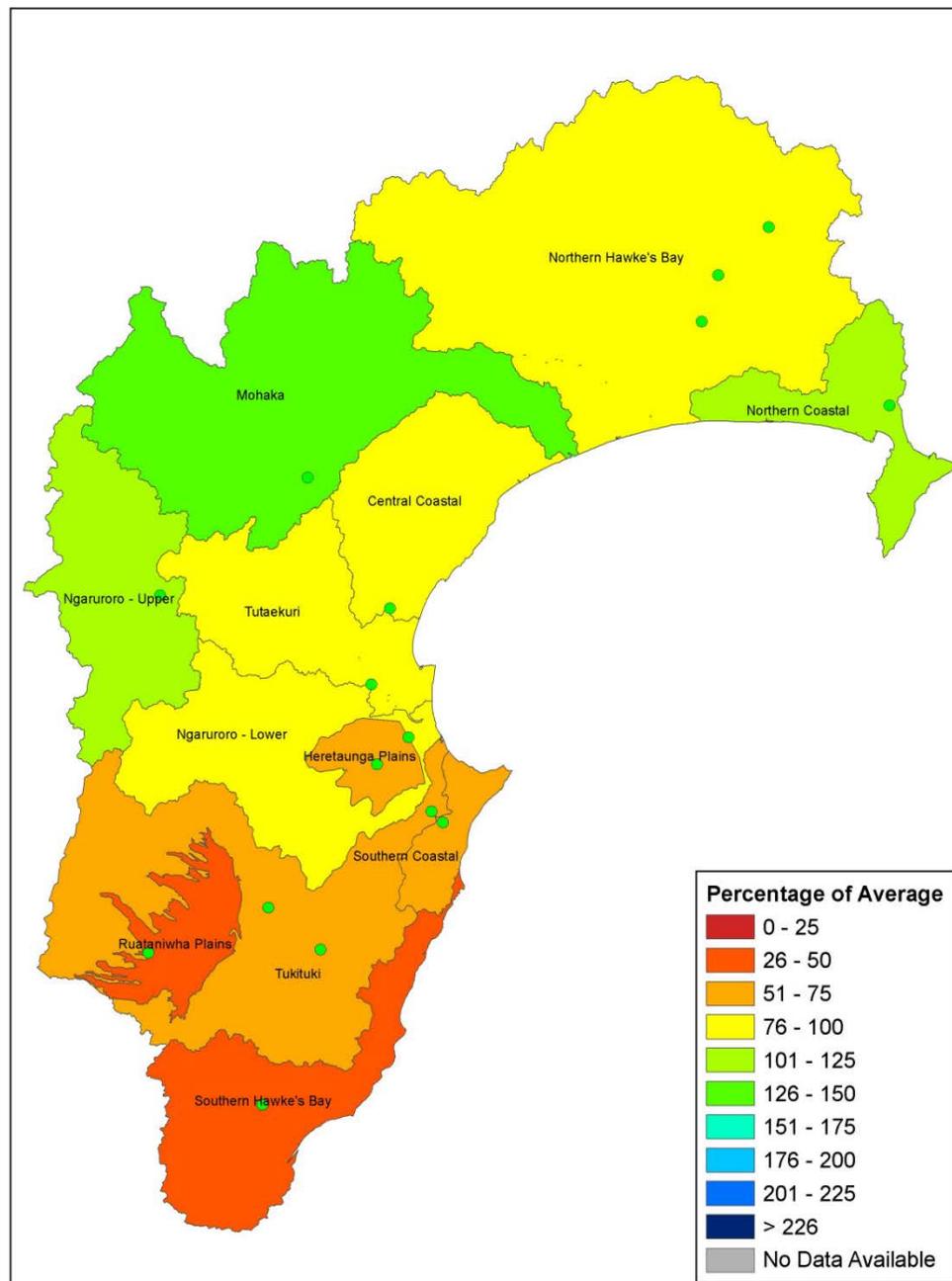
Location: Taharua



RIVER FLOW

Percentage of average October flows for areas in the region:

Northern Coastal	121%
Northern HB – Hangaroa River	106%
Northern HB – Wairoa River	94%
Northern HB – Waiau River	112%
Mohaka	136%
Central Coastal	98%
Tūtaekuri	79%
Heretaunga Plains	59%
Ngaruroro - Upper	118%
Ngaruroro - Lower	92%
Southern Coastal	62%
Ruataniwha Plains	42%
Tukituki	51%
Southern HB	36%
Hawke's Bay Region	86%



GROUNDWATER & SOIL MOISTURE

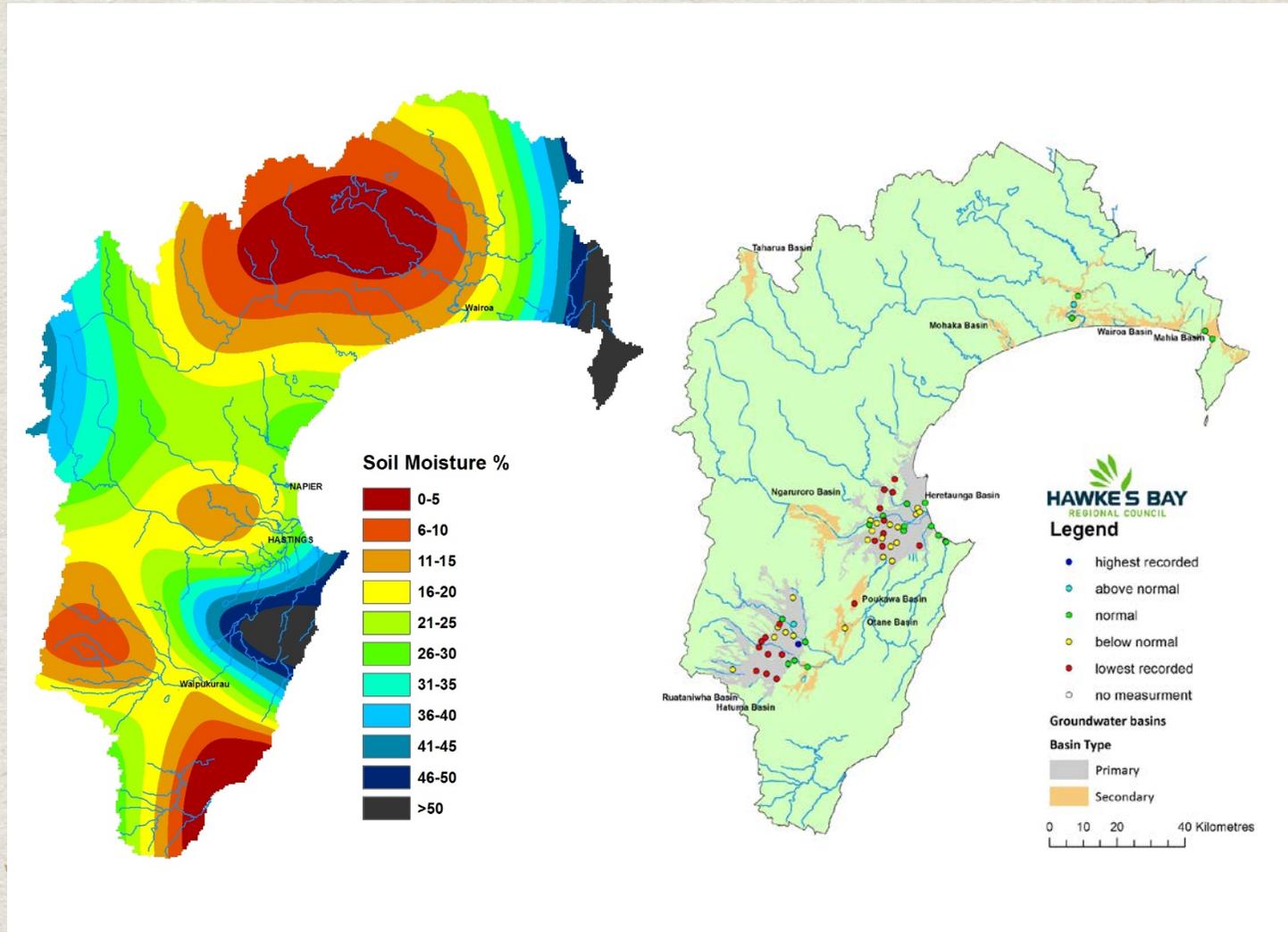
Groundwater:

Heretaunga basin – A mix of normal and below normal water levels

Ruataniwha basin – Mainly below normal and lowest ever water levels.

Secondary basin – Mostly normal water levels

Soil Moisture
Near normal



RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY

The month of November was a shaky one with the coastal warning in force post the large earthquake so sampling occurred only 3 weeks out of the 4.

Samples were all better than guideline levels except for 2 sites:

Wairoa River and Harding Rd Beach.

The 2 sites failed after an episode of heavy rain fall, which increases the opportunity for contaminated runoff to enter water bodies.



NOVEMBER 2016

Warmer weather improved clover production early in November and lamb growth rates responded. Dairy farms made good levels of silage but the prior spring conditions meant that while the harvests were heavy, the quality was only average.

Warm, windy and dry conditions over the second half of November reduced pasture growth rates and store lamb prices fell. On farms with lower stock numbers than usual, pasture quality dropped off resulting in a predominance of cattle feed. Store cattle prices continue to be strong, including for weaned dairy calves.

The windy weather made completion of farm tasks like weaning somewhat arduous. Thunderstorms made for some patchy rainfalls that helped fodder crops establish.

Beef and lamb schedules have held up better than expected, while wool prices have disappointed. Dairy farmers' confidence has been boosted by the improved forecast milk payout.