

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Union News



NZ Meat industry will celebrate 125 years of refrigerated exports in early 2007. It is of little surprise that those that do the hard miles in the "blood & guts" have not warranted consideration or representation at the celebrations. In the past 6 years beef and lamb returns at the farm gate have been among the highest ever recorded during the 125-year history. Meat company profits are high, taking into account premiums paid to farmer suppliers & dividends paid to

Your Union successfully negotiated good settlements in this 2006 collective employment Agreement Round

There are reasons why we were able to achieve good settlements:-

1. Low unemployment
2. The volume of meat exported per person employed has risen from 23 tonnes in 1980 to 37 tonnes today - a productivity gain of 61%
3. High productivity by meat workers
 - ✓ Heavier animals
 - ✓ More stock slaughtered with less workers
 - ✓ Longer hours of work
4. High overseas prices and a lower \$NZ dollar for most of year



**Workplace Injury
Advocacy Service**

From February 2007 all North Island Meat Workers union members will be able to ring

0800 486 466

The telephone-based service offers you an opportunity to work with a skilled advocate who will talk through your ACC problem.

Cost is Free and only to union members.

☎ Help with entitlements & processes under ACC law and to prepare for meetings with an accredited employer

☎ By Union referral only. Talk to your organiser

☎ Available to members of NZCTU - affiliated Unions

NEWSFLASH - At this time, the Affco plant at Manawatu is closed. The workers have been told that they can return to work if they sign a new Plant Agreement to process more cattle for less pay. The Union believes that this is a lockout, and we are about to file urgent proceedings in relation to that issue.

WORKING 4 FAMILIES

See if you qualify for extra money. Family assistance tax credits are for families with children aged 18 or under & help with the cost of raising a family.

Working for Families is a package that is designed to make it easier to work and raise a family. It pays extra money to many thousands of New Zealand families. Greater financial support is available for:

- * almost all families with children, earning under \$70,000 a year
- * many families with children, earning up to \$100,000 a year
- * some larger families earning more.

www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz
or 0800 257 477

THANKS TO THIS LABOUR-LED GOVERNMENT - '07 LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER GOOD YEAR FOR MOST MEAT WORKERS.

- ➔ All workers will receive 4 weeks Holiday per year from April.
- ➔ The minimum adult wage, which applies to people 18 years and over, will increase from \$10.25 to \$11.25 an hour (\$450 for a 40 hour week) from 1 April 2007.
- ➔ The minimum youth rate - for workers aged 16 and 17 years - will increase from \$8.20 an hour to \$9.00 an hour, to stay at 80% of the adult minimum wage.
- ➔ An increase to \$11.25/\$9.00 will benefit around 110,000 adult workers, most of whom are women, and around 9,200 youth workers.
- ➔ ACC is likely to add 25 new occupational diseases and conditions to an ACC "presumptive schedule" These include Brucellosis, Orf, Streptococcus suis (animals), Dermatitis & Noise-induced hearing loss diagnosed as caused by employment-related exposure to noise.
- ➔ More legal support for Collective Bargaining
- ➔ KiwiSaver - Begins from 1st July 2007
- ➔ Doing more for low paid workers in NZ

DELEGATE RESOURCES

If you want to become a Delegate for the NZ Meat Workers Union, then we have made it far easier for you. To be a good Delegate we need to provide you with information, resources, legal & industrial advice. The Delegate Handbook and now the Health & Safety Handbook will be the first step in that path. This Union recognizes the importance of the Delegate's role in building a strong, active and united workplace and Union Movement.

