

Proposed changes to the levy Order

Summerfruit NZ does not propose any major changes.

Minor changes proposed include:

- Broadening the definition of processing and adding biosecurity to the list of levy-funded Summerfruit NZ activities to reflect industry developments.
- Giving Summerfruit NZ the ability to add collection expenses to overdue levy payments.
- Specifying timelines for providing information required by Summerfruit NZ.
- Potentially introducing separate levy rates for processing.

Summerfruit NZ is also listening to what the industry has to say about the levy Order, and other suggested changes can be considered at consultation meetings planned for August, September and October.

One suggestion already received is that other levy calculation methods should be considered. The levy calculation options are:

% of selling price at first point of sale <small>(current method)</small>	By kilogram at first point of sale	By hectare	By tree numbers
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A discussion document is being prepared and the options will be explored with growers during the first consultation round. Further information will be made available on the levy renewal section of the Summerfruit NZ website.

If growers decide to keep the current first point of sale method for calculating the levy, then Summerfruit NZ is not proposing to change the maximum rate of the levy.

The ballot on the commodity levy will be held in October-November. The ballot is a simple yes/no weighted vote based on grower returns for the previous year. All growers who pay the levy are eligible to vote.

Where to from here?

The first priority is to renew the commodity levy Order.

The future of the organisation and its representation of growers hinges on achieving a new levy Order.

Summerfruit NZ is now 25 years old. There have been many changes in the industry during that time, as well as changes in the environment we operate in.

A successful ballot outcome will be followed by an independent industry review.

Equipped with the outcomes of that review, the Board can then make decisions on the future of Summerfruit NZ and also the future of the *Sensational Summerfruit* project.

Summerfruit NZ's vision is a vibrant, profitable and sustainable summerfruit industry, focused on New Zealand and export markets. Your Board will be guided by this vision in all its decisions.