

KVH 2015 Activity and Research and Development Reports

Wider Biosecurity

During 2015 there has been a significant focus on biosecurity for both the industry and Kiwifruit Vine Health. The industry has faced some major biosecurity challenges, in particular the discovery of a Queensland Fruit Fly population in Auckland in February this year.

The pressure at the border is an important focus for KVH as part of its wider biosecurity role. KVH has undertaken initiatives to understand where the key risks to our industry lie, and works with MPI and the horticulture sectors to support improvements that will better manage these pathways.

This is the first year we have been in GIA partnership and solid progress has been made which has resulted in some significant successes for the industry.

Key KVH activities for its wider biosecurity role and Key Performance Indicators are outlined below and include:

- **GIA partnership**
- **KiwiNet**
- **Queensland fruit fly response**
- **Fruit fly operational agreement**
- **Border clearance levy**
- **Biosecurity 2025**
- **Biosecurity excellence – Port of Tauranga initiative**
- **Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme**
- **Kiwifruit's Most Unwanted**
- **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug**

GIA partnership

It has been more than a year since KVH formally partnered with Government by signing the Government Industry Agreement (GIA) Deed. Under GIA, KVH has secured an engaged working relationship with the other signatories, including the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Pipfruit NZ. This has resulted in working closely together on several initiatives and events with the shared goal of achieving better biosecurity outcomes for horticulture sectors.

This GIA relationship is the foundation for the initiatives and events outlined below and their success.

Queensland fruit fly response

Following the discovery of a Queensland Fruit Fly in the Auckland suburb of Grey Lynn in April this year, KVH worked closely with MPI and Pipfruit NZ from day one and was actively involved throughout the response period.

The response continues in Auckland. While activity has reduced over the winter, New Zealand's fruit-fly free status will not be confirmed until MPI and our trading partners are confident all fruit flies have been successfully eradicated.

Key performance indicators:

- KVH had a place at the decision-making table with MPI and Pipfruit NZ.
- KVH had a greater understanding of what risks were involved throughout the response.

- KVH worked collectively with MPI and industry partners to agree best response activities to mitigate these risks.
- KVH was engaged in scenario planning and potential trade impacts.
- KVH led the industry communications throughout the response keeping industry updated with the response process and progress and any key developments through regular communications.
- More than 50 kiwifruit industry people were actively involved in the field operations as part of the wider response operations team. (Refer to KiwiNet below)
- KVH was able to communicate openly with industry resulting in greater engagement and a more informed industry.
- KVH participated in Auckland site visits to gain a better understanding of the operation
- KVH worked collaboratively with Pipfruit NZ and HortNZ to raise public awareness of the response including developing a one-page NZ Herald advert prior to the Cricket World Cup game promoting key industry message to not take fruit or vegetables into the stadium. *See Appendix One.*

KiwiNet

KiwiNet was established in December last year. KiwiNet is the team of people from right across the industry who champion biosecurity within their respective organisation and coordinate the deployment of kiwifruit industry capability into biosecurity readiness and response activities. The Queensland Fruit Fly response in February this year provided the first opportunity to immediately activate KiwiNet and deploy industry resource into a biosecurity response.

Key performance indicators

- Developed a mechanism for deployment of industry capability into a response.
- More than 50 kiwifruit industry staff were deployed into the field operations of the Queensland fruit fly response.
- National Biosecurity Capability Network (NBCN) used KiwiNet as the single point of contact to engage with kiwifruit industry, simplifying capability deployment and reimbursement.
- KiwiNet ensured industry resources deployed into the response were fit for purpose.
- KiwiNet coordinators were an effective channel for keeping industry informed and engaged throughout the response.

Fruit Fly Operational Agreement

To finalise the Fruit Fly Operational Agreement KVH is working together with industry and MPI to agree a fiscal cap for cost-sharing during a biosecurity response. We are also working with MPI on several initiatives to improve the current and future biosecurity system to raise industry confidence that every effort has been made to reduce post-border incidents. This will place us all in an agreed position to sign the agreement whereby cost-sharing is sustainable into the future.

The Government has recently injected an immediate \$27m funding boost, which will enable the immediate necessary objectives to be met to further secure the border, and will bridge the gap until the border levy comes into effect.

Key performance indicators

- Industry and MPI has agreed, in principal, a fiscal cap for cost sharing.
- KVH is working with MPI on several initiatives to improve the current and future biosecurity system.
- Details including the specifics of the Operational Agreement are being finalised.
- The future work programme to improve readiness and response is being finalised.

Border clearance levy

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) recently announced a new border levy to be implemented as part of the budget announcement - a move fully supported by KVH. This levy, in the form of a passenger

surcharge, will provide sustainable funding for New Zealand's biosecurity system and increased protection at the border.

Key performance indicators

- As a GIA partner, KVH had the opportunity to provide input on behalf of the kiwifruit industry and extended its support to the Minister for this initiative.

Biosecurity 2025

In April the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) launched 'Biosecurity 2025' – a project to review and future-proof New Zealand's biosecurity system and replace the current 2003 New Zealand Biosecurity Strategy. MPI is seeking feedback from biosecurity stakeholders, including the kiwifruit industry through a consultation process. KVH will be actively involved in this project with MPI and engage with industry to ensure the best possible outcome for the kiwifruit industry is achieved.

Key performance indicators

- KVH has raised issues for review with the MPI project team and senior leaders of MPI.
- Participation in working groups.
- Facilitate industry workshops.

Biosecurity excellence – Port of Tauranga initiative

A new partnership has been formed between KVH, Port of Tauranga, Government agencies and local industry to pursue 'biosecurity excellence' at the Port of Tauranga. Through collaboration, this working group will coordinate its biosecurity efforts and lift biosecurity protection at the Port.

Key performance indicators

- KVH initiated this project and the partnership.
- KVH chairs the working group and coordinates the partnership.
- Initiatives have progressed such as port user education, web-based information, increased detector dog use for cruise ship visits, site signage and anything else that supports the current screening and inspection programmes of MPI.

Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme

It has been a year since the Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme (KPCS) was introduced. During this time the Scheme has gained momentum with nurseries and growers and certified plants are available for purchase.

Engagement with the industry has been an important part of the development process and feedback from extensive consultation is being incorporated to better improve the KPCS for nurseries and growers.

Key performance indicators

- Five nurseries have met the Standard and are now selling certified plants.
- KVH is working with other nurseries who intend to meet the requirements of the Standard and join the scheme.
- Consultation with nurseries and growers has taken place this year, including a workshop with members of the nursery, grower and science communities.
- The Scheme has been simplified to one Standard only – the 'KPCS Standard'.
- All kiwifruit nurseries have been notified of these changes and updated with the current status and future direction of the scheme.

Kiwifruit's Most Unwanted

There are more than fifty pests and pathogens identified as potential threats to the kiwifruit industry and KVH has identified a short list of 'Kiwifruit's Most Unwanted'. These organisms are considered the

greatest threats to the kiwifruit industry. This is based on the likelihood of them entering and establishing in New Zealand; and their potential production and market access impacts should this occur.

However the next post-border incident may not necessarily be on the short list and industry should be on alert for any unusual pests or plant symptoms.

Key performance indicators

- KVH has developed a risk matrix to provide a structured and objective method of prioritising these organisms into a shorter list of *Kiwifruit's Most Unwanted* for the purpose of readiness and response planning.
- KVH has raised industry awareness of *Kiwifruit's Most Unwanted* through awareness campaigns, media pickup and industry articles, e.g. KVH Bulletin, Kiwiflier and Kiwifruit Journal.
- KVH has developed collateral for growers to help them identify *Kiwifruit's Most Unwanted*, including a pictorial, concertina-style pocket guide, visual banners for use at industry events and fridge magnets. *See Appendix Three.*
- KVH is creating readiness plans for *Kiwifruit's Most Unwanted*, and also readiness plans for each organism type so we are better prepared for whatever the next big incursion might be.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug – public awareness campaign

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) is second on KVH's 'Most Unwanted' list of biosecurity pests and pathogens. This is due to its high-risk of entry (it is able to hitchhike on inanimate objects like shipping containers and luggage), its ability to easily establish in New Zealand and its impact on horticulture crops. Five post-border detections of BMSB occurred between October and December 2014.

The BMSB is a major nuisance pest and eradication would be difficult. Due to the lack of effective traps and lures in place, early detection of this organism is essential, and this is best achieved through a well-informed public.

From September 2014 to April 2015 the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) launched a public awareness campaign which both KVH and Pipfruit NZ contributed to. The campaign included digital and print advertising through a number of channels targeting potential pathway entries for BMSB. *See Appendix Two.*

In addition to this campaign, KVH also released communications to boost the profile of this organism and encourage people to report any suspicious sightings to the MPI Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline (0800 80 99 66).

Key performance indicators

- An internal report released by MPI show the campaign has improved the country's passive surveillance for BMSB and as a result, the MPI Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline received a significant increase in BMSB notifications.
- The number of notifications relating to suspect BMSBs increased steadily though out the season, with a significant spike during February and March.
- Two of the five post-border finds were a direct result of the public awareness campaign.
- There was a significant decrease in notifications after March in all regions except the Bay of Plenty. The Bay of Plenty is a clear outlier to this trend which MPI attribute to KVH communications during the first week of April.

Psa-V Operations

This year's national crop is indicative of the industry's remarkable recovery from Psa-V. Growers have been managing the disease for almost five years now so they have good processes in place and have largely transitioned from the vulnerable Hort16A variety.

Orchard and canopy management strategies have changed to reduce risk, this includes better hygiene practices, removing infection as it is found, improving shelter and keeping up their protective spray programmes. Spring trunk girdling for bud rot control is proving to be a useful tool.

Progression of PsA-V has been pleasingly low in most regions this season which is likely linked to good weather patterns (warm and dry). Disease progression has continued in the Kerikeri region with most growers now looking to exit Hort16A in favour of more tolerant varieties.

However we acknowledge there are some growers who continue to struggle with managing PsA-V, particularly those in challenged locations. We are also aware that spring is a high-risk time for PsA-V progression. Therefore, growers must not get complacent with their PsA-V management plans and activities.

Grower education of PsA-V best practice management and industry compliance with the NPMP remains an important part of the overall KVH function.

This is achieved through regular industry meetings, technical forums and distribution of the latest research and development information through a number of mediums including the KVH website, the weekly KVH Bulletin and KVH publications such as the Seasonal Management Guides.

Key Activities and Key Performance Indicators:

- No new regions have become PsA-V positive in 2015.
- Whangarei and the South Island remain 'Exclusion' regions.
- KVH recommended product list is updated regularly identifying products effective against PsA-V available through KVH Bulletin, Seasonal Management Guides and website
- Technical information shared with industry people and chemical merchants through regular PsA technical forums—four meetings were held this year with minutes also circulated to KVH regional coordinators and supplier technical reps in the regions.
- Worked with Zespri OPC team to communicate PsA-V best practice at FON field days.
- Research and development reports available on KVH website.
- 100% of KPINs have PsA-V Orchard Management Plans in place.
- Follow up of 54 orchards identified through the Zespri Spray Diaries that did not apply any PsA-V protectant sprays during the growing season.
- KVH, together with funding support from Regional Councils and landowners, has facilitated removal of 14 abandoned orchards in 2015. (In total 108 orchards have, or are being, managed or removed).
- KVH has provided technical advice and assistance arranging contractors to complete the work.
- KVH has followed up 15 complaints of unmanaged orchards, ensuring that National PsA-V Pest Management Plan requirements have been met for these properties.
- 39 plant/machinery movement permissions issued during 2015.
- BOP Regional Council has facilitated the control of wild kiwifruit on 35 properties in the Bay of Plenty region. Contractors have controlled more than 4118 wild vines. Landowners, regional council and KVH (representing the kiwifruit industry) fund the wild kiwifruit control programme.
- Registration and the requirement to complete and implement Risk Management Plans for post-harvest operators, processors, pollen providers, budwood distributors and nurseries.
- Audit process in place to check compliance annually for the above Risk Management Plans.
- Auditing of more than 12,000 harvest bins to Containment and Exclusion regions to ensure orchards in these regions are not placed at risk from possibility of plant material from Recovery regions entering their orchards.
- Independent orchard monitoring facilitated and paid for (subsidised in the case of South Island) by KVH across Exclusion regions to ensure susceptible orchards in these regions are still free of PsA-V during high-risk spring period.
- Meetings and training sessions with growers and post-harvest in the regions to ensure readiness and provide support.

- KVH continues to pay for testing in Containment and Exclusion regions; and provides support in sampling/symptom identification and sample collection.

Research and Development

The industry continues to make significant advances in the management of PsA-V, with growers adopting a range of chemical and cultural management tools.

Significant efforts from KVH, Zespri, researchers, technical staff and growers continue to explore the best tools for managing PsA, whilst maintaining productivity.

KVH and Zespri's Innovation team continue to work on the PsA-V Research and Development (R&D) programme, which was established in 2011.

Key Performance Indicators:

- The PsA R&D programme continues and was recently reviewed to conduct a gap analysis to ensure that upcoming projects are targeted at filling knowledge gaps.
- 23 research and development projects have been set-up.
- A budget of \$2 million dollars has been established for the year, and of this \$1.08 million has already been committed to R&D projects.
- Total PsA R&D investment to date exceeds \$12.5 million
- Key research themes include exploring and optimising agrichemical and cultural control options and understanding plant and bacterial interactions.
- Please refer to Appendix 4 for a full Research & Development programme update.

Communications

- **Website**
 - Around 19,200 visits to the KVH website by more than 8,250 individual users during 2015.
 - Users have viewed more than 64,500 website pages
 - Almost 1,550 registered users for the restricted area of the website
- **Grower Communications**
 - Eighteen *KVH Bulletins* have been released in 2015 to more than 2000 subscribers
 - On average 45% of users open the *KVH Bulletin* each fortnight
 - Regular articles about KVH activity contributed in 2015 to the industry publications including the *Kiwiflier*, *Kiwifruit Journal* and *The Orchardist*.

Governance and administration

- Monthly average number of phone calls to KVH 0800 number is 140 (Jan – May)
- Responded to more 30 queries through the website in 2015
- 11 KVH Board meetings scheduled for 2015

Number of Employees

Full Time - Permanent	Contractors
7	3

KVH Board meeting attendance by Director

Name	Attendance
Peter Ombler	5/5
Mike Chapman	5/5
Jarred Mair	3/5
Peter Silcock	4/5
Craig Thompson	5/5
Nathan Flowerday	5/5

Lorry Leydon	4/5
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Other KVH Meetings Jan – May 2015

With whom	Number of meetings
Banks	0
Regional Councils	9
Government and officials	33
Postharvest CE and/or postharvest grower	7
Regional grower meeting rounds (incl FON & Roadshows)	11
Tech rep meetings	10
Wider biosecurity (exc Government and officials)	9
Industry Meetings (NZKGI, IAC, ISG)	4
On orchard visits	42
Nursery Visits	8

Appendix 1

Queensland fruit fly response – joint advertisement in NZ Herald for Cricket World Cup game



**LET'S HIT AN
UNWELCOME AUSSIE
VISITOR FOR SIX!**

**New Zealand growers appeal to cricket fans -
PLEASE DON'T TAKE ANY FRUIT
TO THE BIG GAME TOMORROW!**

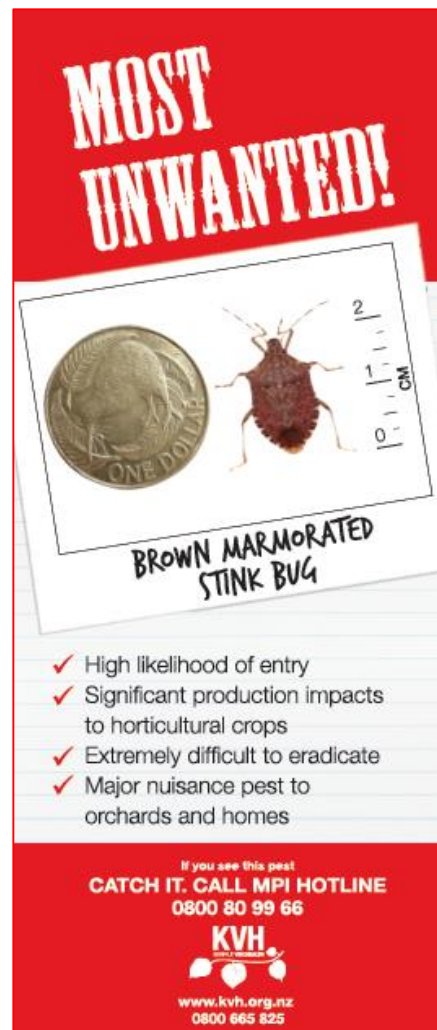
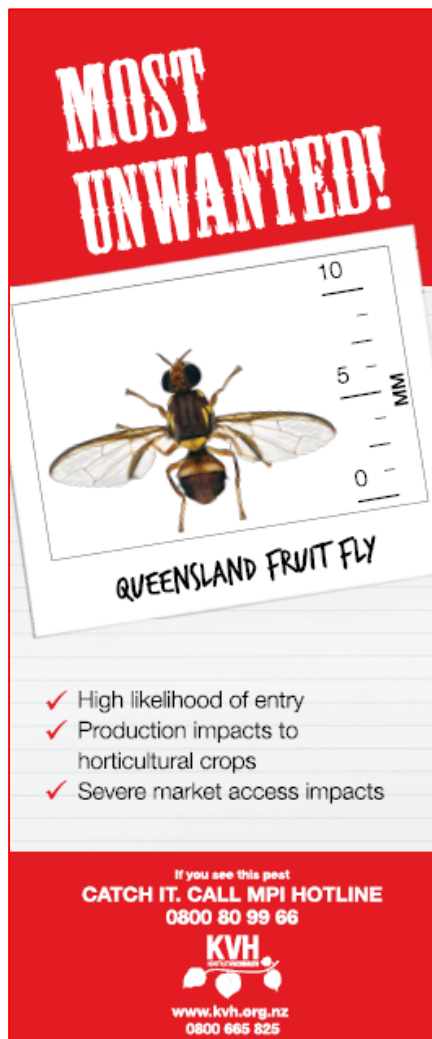
**This is the only time we
will ask you not to eat fruit!**

And can we please say an enormous thank you to all the residents in the controlled area, the inspectors and staff who have been working tirelessly on the Queensland fruit fly response and to the organisers and participants of Pasifika and the cricket – thank you very much for your tolerance and support.



Appendix 2

Kiwifruit's Most Unwanted collateral includes banners for industry events and fridge magnets



Appendix 3

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug advertisement – joint public awareness campaign with MPI and Pipfruit NZ


**IF YOU FIND ONE
OF THESE
IN YOUR ORCHARD:**



**CATCH IT.
CALL US.**

EXOTIC PEST & DISEASE HOTLINE
0800 80 99 66

The brown marmorated stink bug can ruin your orchard and infest your home. They're also a major threat to our primary industries and environment. If you find one: Catch it. Call us.



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

