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# Ministry of Agriculture

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## LIVESTOCK TRAINING WORKSHOP—PRISCO19

The Ministry of Agriculture, with the support of the Pacific Regional and Integrated Food and Security Initiative to Covid-19 (PRISCO-19), conducted a livestock training workshop with pig and goat owners from around Rarotonga, on the 01st to 3rd June 2021. An aim of the workshop was to provide an awareness on livestock management and address food and nutrition security within the Pacific.

Pacific nations rely on food imports and to mitigate problems caused by COVID fueled food chain disruptions, PRISCO-19 designed a program to assist in independent food production for Pacific Islands.

The Ministry also took this opportunity to consult the farmers on a proposed minimum welfare standards for livestock that is currently under development.

45 livestock owners, that included 7 women, from the three Vaka; Puaikura, Takitumu and Te Au O Tonga attended this workshop. The Ministry has plans to extend this training to the Pa Enua.



## FREE DEWORMING PROGRAM FOR PIGS & GOATS—PRISCO19

As a follow up to the Livestock Training Workshop conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture at the start of June 2021, the Ministry, with the support of the Pacific Regional and Integrated Food and Security Initiative to Covid-19 (PRISCO-19), conducted a free deworming program for pigs and goats around the island of Rarotonga from the 7th to 25th of June 2021.

The aim was to provide a service regularly requested by farmers, free of charge! The Ministry also took the opportunity to highlight in practical terms best management practices of pigs and goats which included hoof trimming, dehorning and providing guidance on shelter and prevention of diseases caused by parasites.

A total of 698 pigs were seen and 121 pigs dewormed. A total of 300 goats were visited and 221 goats dewormed.

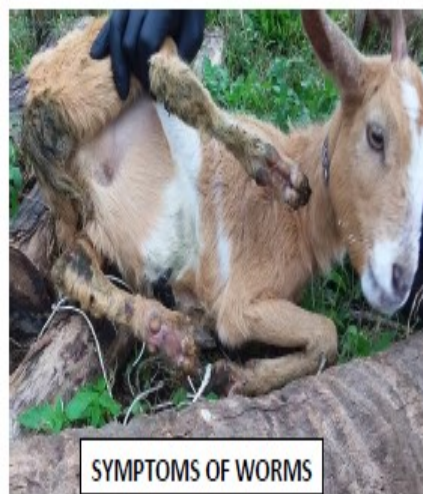
The Ministry plans to hold this similar program for Pa Enuu.



SYMPTOMS OF MANGE



TRIMMING GOAT HOOVES



SYMPTOMS OF WORMS



ROPE CUTTING INTO PIGS LEG



DEROPE



DEHORNING GOAT



DRENCH



# MINISTRY SIGNS M.O.U WITH TE ARE MANU

On Tuesday 15 June 2021, the Head of Ministry, Mrs Anguna-Kamana signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Te Are Manu Veterinary Clinic President, Ms Patricia (Trish) Barton.

The goals of the Memorandum are to:

- Recognize that the health and welfare of livestock and animals is a priority;
- Ensure the effective implementation of medical care and medication to all livestock and animals;
- Acknowledge that cooperation with each other will assist in minimising welfare risks of livestock and animals.



As part of the MOU, the Ministry will provide an annual grant of NZD\$5,000 to assist Te Are Manu with Veterinarian Services. The term of the MOU is 3 years.

The Ministry will liaise with Te Are Manu on any livestock or animal issues requiring medical attention and Te Are Manu will provide veterinarian services to assist livestock and animal medical care and treatment.

## CHERIMOYA (CUSTARD APPLE)

Custard Apple, which is better known by the locals as Sweetsop, Cherimoya or kata-raapa, is regarded to be one of the most neglected fruits on the island.

Although, this fruit has a lot of nutritional and medicinal values, it is disliked by many people due to its very short shelf life when ripe.

The Ministry had introduced different varieties of custard apple into the country (African Pride) over a decade ago, but unfortunately, only a few trees survived. These can be found on the island of Mauke only.

The Ministry continues to propagate and sell this fruit tree to interested households.



## CAREERS EXPO 2021

The 2021 Careers Expo was held on the 17 June 2021 at the National Auditorium domes. The Ministry took this opportunity to demonstrate the practicalities of various roles within the agriculture sector to the students.

The four divisions of the Ministry: Crop Research, Biosecurity, Advisory and Corporate Services each had a display to highlight each division's contribution to the Ministry as a whole.

The goal for this participation was for students to gain a better understanding on the various divisions within the Ministry and to inspire them to pursue a potential career path in Agriculture.

The event was an eye opener for many students who were trying to understand the relationship between plants, water and environment.

A big meitaki ranuinui to all staff who took part in the 2021 Careers Expo, and proudly stood as messengers for the Ministry of Agriculture.





## MIKE PERO VISITS MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

We were excited to host a meeting with Cook Islands multi-millionaire Mike Pero on Tuesday 04 May 2021. Mr Pero aims to reignite the country's pawpaw industry by providing affordable freight to New Zealand and his visit to the Ministry was to gather information on the sensibility of exporting pawpaw to New Zealand.

Fresh pawpaw needs to be heat treated before export to New Zealand and the country would need to invest into a heat treatment plant to see the export of fresh pawpaw commence.

We also joined Mr Pero inspect the Blue Pacific building as a possible site for the treatment and packaging of pawpaw for export.

We look forward to maintaining contact with Mr Pero on this new venture and how it will assist our growers and country with the export of pawpaw to NZ.



## UNVEILING—A'KATAPU'ANGA MAROKURA

On Tuesday 29 June, the Ministry unveiled its A'katapu'anga Makorua—Honour Board to acknowledge and list the previous Ministers of Agriculture and its Head of Ministry.

After months of research, the team was able to finalize the details for printing.

Together with the unveiling, a small lunch was organized for the staff as an appreciation for their hard work and service provided during the financial year.

A blessing of the staff's new sports uniform was also done during this occasion.





## FLORICULTURE TRAINING ON AITUTAKI

On 17 May 2021, the Ministry held a floriculture training for interested farmers on the island of Aitutaki. A two day training session was conducted by Ministry staff Edwin Apera and Patu Katu with the help of Aitutaki Agriculture staff, Victor Ioane.

The Ministry had received numerous requests for training from Aitutaki individuals and therefore decided to hold this training. Participants were taught the proper management of floriculture and pruning and marcotting skills. Thank you Victor for assisting with the training sessions.





## MOA'S DREAM TEAM

As part of team bonding, healthy living and exercise, the Ministry staff has been joining various sports activities.

1. Mixed volleyball competition
2. Business House Bowling competition
3. Mini Olympics sports event organized by CISNOC.

With determination, the Ministry's Bowling team was able to secure 4th placing in the competition.

Furthermore, to be recognized as a unit, each member of staff purchased their own sports attire for use during all social and sports activities that the Ministry will join.

It's not only about winning, but participation and having fun!! Tei Mua MOA!!

