

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Union News

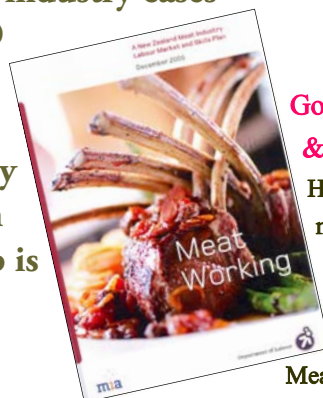
Visit your web page on the Internet
<http://www.nzmeatworkersunion.co.nz/>

Are you a casual meat worker?

A "casual" meat worker sits at home waiting for a telephone call from the Boss to tell you to come to work for the day, then the next day you sit at home waiting for the call and then the next day etc. If you come to work every day then you are entitled to all the benefits of the Collective Employment Agreement (CEA) of that meat plant you work at. You can join the Union & join the CEA the same day you start - ask to see the plant Union Delegate. If a boss tells you that you are a casual meat worker, they are wrong. You can tell them about a recent Employment Court case between Ocean Gold (NZ) Ltd v Tracey Jinkinson.

Lack of XMAS spirit

The meat industry continues to exhibit bad behaviour from some of its employers. Due to the current Government policy and the effects of the recession, unemployment is rising. Those companies that treat their employees "shamefully" find employing replacement workers slightly easier. However, as NZ comes out of the recession it is expected that replacement workers will be most difficult to find, we witnessed this towards the end of 2007. AFFCO is one of the employers that shows little regard to their Employment Agreements and the Union that negotiates these on your behalf. The Union has had to take numerous personal grievances to the Authority and the Employment Court, with a high degree of success. In fact the notable "Employment Law Bulletin" has been commenting on a number of meat industry cases recently, not just AFFCO. AFFCO is largely owned by the Talley family who own Open Country Cheese involved in the recent Dairy Workers Dispute, fishing & frozen food interests. Union membership is low at many of those other companies owned by the Talley's.



LIVESTOCK WAR "BLEEDS" AFFCO PROFIT MARGIN

It is a well known fact that meat workers in all meat plants throughout NZ don't benefit from a battle at the farm gate. Meat workers end up with smaller pay packets, shorter working weeks & lower manning's so that each company can pay more to farmers....

AFFCO After tax profit of \$25.3 million for the year ending September 30, '09, last year \$60.1 million.

Alliance Group Ltd after tax profit \$34 million for the year 09, last year \$54 million

Silver Fern Farms Ltd after tax profit \$43.8 million for the year, last year \$52.1 million - (PGG Wrightson settlement \$37 million)

ANZCO Foods Ltd Joint owners Itoham Foods Inc. & Nippon Suisan Kaisha Ltd report increased returns from ANZCO. Farmers have received transport, pool rebates in excess of the above figures. We are informed other meat companies have had a good year.

Government, Meat Industry Association & NZ Meat Workers Union (Tripartite)

Have worked together to produce a plan that may reduce the 'uncertainty of seasonal employment', a career pathway & other employment related issues - the publication is called "A New Zealand Meat Industry Labour Market & Skills Plan."

