



UNION NEWS

Why join a Union?

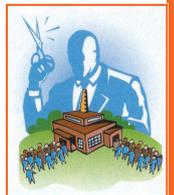
Anyone of us can be picked on, and pushed around if we are on our own. However, if we stick together and support each other our employers can't intimidate or pressure us. Together we're safe.....and together we're strong!

Total Livestock Slaughtering (000 Head)

	Lambs	Sheep	Cattle	Calves	Deer
1960	19,279	7,324	956	-	-
1970	27,539	9,844	1,836	1,199	-
1980	28,692	7,460	2,015	865	-
1990	25,149	7,675	1,945	725	114
1995	26,684	6,951	2,423	1,226	425
2000	26,050	4,583	2,179	1,099	404
2005	25,053	4,307	2,426	1,339	763
2006	25,644	4,250	2,341	1,347	694
2007est.	26,733	5,181	2,353	1,427	667

WHY DO WE GET NEWSPAPER HEADLINES? "Falling beef & sheep counts threaten meat processors"

It is disappointing that rural reporters listen first to the meat companies without doing research with the union or other stakeholders in Agriculture. The newspaper article originated from the Otago Daily Times in January '08 and went on to say "with the loss of thousands of jobs, as falling sheep and beef numbers force the industry into another round of restructuring". Yet if you look at the table from the MAF, the number of lambs & sheep slaughtered



have remained pretty constant, cattle numbers have increased, as have calves & deer since the 90's. The Dairy herd has increased 69% from 3,111,000 in 1960 to 5,265,000 in 2007-08p. Slaughtering of calves gives meat workers good off season work (July - Sept).

WHY DO WE GET CLOSURES? Meat workers find shortcuts & finish well ahead of normal finishing time (compression of time), agree to do a few extra at the end of the day, work with less workers, increase their physical working day on the chain & extra shiftwork. Unfortunately, some sub-branch union officials get sucked into "The Boss" propaganda to increase throughput & your job will be safe. The Boss says "let the other sub-branches have higher wages, more men, shorter working days & lower throughputs....we will put them out of a job" or "reducing the body cost of processing increases our ability to pay more to farmers". Those sub-branch officials contribute to the ongoing spiral downwards for all meat workers wages & conditions of employment.

MEAT WORKER PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES! The volume of meat exported per person employed has risen from 23 tonnes in 1980 to 37.2 tonnes today - a productivity gain of 61.7%. (source MAF)

With the increased productivity gains, meat companies end up with too much capacity (more chains than stock) so closures follow.

NATIONAL SECRETARY Dave Eastlake, has been re-elected unopposed for a further 3 years. Congratulations Dave !



Alliance has settled Core Collective Agreement for 7% over 2 years plus others. PPCS Pacific beef workers face cuts if they agree, as the company strives to set lowest unit costs to kill beef with its other plants & competitors - "downward spiral". Appears Meat Industry has set a \$25 per body cost as "best practice". Affco negotiations are now proceeding after a protracted 'tiff' with the owners of Affco. Affco Wairoa has a new boning room & our sub-branch official there has been threatened with violence by local management on 3 occasions - wow....."Good Faith Bargaining" Affco style.

A POLITICAL STRATEGY FOR UNIONS

Speech by Helen Kelly the new Council of Trade Unions President - Unions represent the views of working people in political debate - our message provides a vision of a fair society where amongst other things work pays, social services like health & education are available to all regardless of income, and NZ is a peaceful society where all are treated with respect & are treated equally. With more than 350,000 union members & growing steadily it's a powerful mandate, we are the largest democratic movement in NZ. This political strategy is also about more than the next election. Our message is for the long term & it builds on our previous political activity. The CTU is not affiliated to any political party & we will work with any political party

that supports our goals, we know the difference a government can make to the lives of working people. We know the stark difference between the current government and the government of the 1990s. We know in the 1990s wages decreased, rights were removed, penal rates were cut, state houses were sold, tax cuts were implemented for the wealthy at the expense of public services, unemployment was high and benefits were cut, ACC was privatized, health & safety law was toothless. In the last 8 years we have working for families, Kiwisaver, \$12.00 per hour minimum wage 1 April 08, 4 weeks annual leave, relevant daily pay, 14 weeks paid parental leave, ACC, apprenticeships, cheaper doctor visits, 3 days before medical certificate required, motorways upgraded, Interest free student loans, free doctor visits under 6, Health & Safety committees...