## [IMI] Brits bad

nb gives

## Nigel Stirling nigel.g.stirling@gmail.com

National Farmers Union has disputed claims his organisation will not challenge New Zealand's privileged position in the European and United Kingdom sheep meat markets in the wake of Brexit. A LEADING figure in Britain's

At the end of his trip to the UK and Europe Beef + Lamb NZ chairman James Parsons last week said he detected no appetite from British farming leaders to use the UK's departure from the European Union to try to chop back quota rights first negotiated in the 1970s. Tariff-free access for 228,000

"We thought some of the valuable market and has all but shut competitors out of the UK where it accounts for 70% of tonnes of sheep meat underpins the EU 28 as NZ's single most

opportunity to game things and look at renegotiating quota access," Parsons said. farming leaders up here might have seen it (Brexit) as an

When pressed on why UK farming leaders would take a view almost certainly contrary to their own rank-and-file members Parsons said those leaders had



increasing amounts
of chilled rather than
frozen meat concern
British farmers,
National Farmers
Union livestock
chairman Charles
Sercombe says.
Photo: NFU ON OUR TERMS:
New Zealand
lamb is okay when
domestic supply is
low but unrestrained
access and

accepted they could not ask their own politicians to push for free-trade deals to open up new markets for them in the wake of Brexit while trying to shut out imports from NZ.
"They are very aware that if they

take a very protectionist stance and want to put up borders then that could come back to bite them on the backside."

The pressure from British farmers to cut NZ out of the action causes the most angst among UK

vote in June that World Trade Organisation rules meant the existing quota was legally Sercombe said while the claim

building in the wake of the vote. Rival producers from Australia

locally produced lamb than was originally envisaged.
"I have no problem with NZ

product at certain times of the year but will push for seasonality in any future arrangements, a fact James is more than aware of as it

would only increase if they lost access to the single market.

"If we are shut out of Europe and are going to have to pay massive tariffs then we are not

tariff-free.

could be argued over by lawyers it displayed a tin ear to the shifts in international trade relationships

to Latin America were eyeing NZ's privileged position in the European and the UK sheep meat markets and they would inevitably come under threat as nations entered a phase of horse-

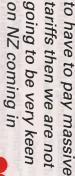
of Europe and are going

66 If we are shut out

going to be very keen on NZ coming in tariff-free."
In last week's interview Parsons again reiterated claims by the industry since the Brexit

trading as new trade deals were negotiated.

"NZ will have to give a bit because there will be others that will be trying to take what you are



## Charles Sercombe National Farmers Union

Asked about market share being snatched from under the nose of NZ exporters Parsons played

down the threat.

"There is a possibility of that but at the same time there are a hundred other scenarios that stability and we have not got any hint at all of opportunism in terms of trying to squeeze NZ out." we haven't even thought of yet .. all of the sheep farming leaders that we have talked to want could be way worse than that that



Friday 04/11/2016 – Saturday 05/11/2016

Mariborough A & P Show
Venue: Blenheim A & P Park, Maxwell Street,
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Website: www.mariboroughshow.co.nz

dnesday 09/11/2016 — 11/11/2016

nterbury A & P Show

Tue: ASB Agricultural Park, Christchurch
mact: 0800 800 970 or info@theshow.co.nz
bsite: www.theshow.co.nz

Friday 25/11/2016 - Saturday 26/11/2016 .
South Otago 150th A&P Show
Venue: Balclutha Showgrounds – Clutha Park, Glasgow
Street, Balclutha
Comfact: Heather Dudfield soap@unifone.net.nz or 03 418 ite: www.showdayonline.com

than 200 countries.

The United Kingdom had long been a key outlet for New Zealand companies and would remain so despite Britain's

That was a key message to emerge from the SIAL Paris, a big international food fair attracting buyers from more

points of domestic production a avoided periods of over-supply.

production and

BRITAIN will always have room for New Zealand lamb.

And exporters could expect a relatively easy time provided they focused on meeting the seasonal low

uncertain trading future.

It faced short-term doubts because

of sterling and longer-

rday 03/12/16

mgarei A&P Show – One Epic Show Day
ie: Barge Showgrounds, Maunu Road, Whangarei
i: 9.30am start
ste: www.whangareishow.co.nz

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Waipara School Centennial
Registration: www.waiparaschoolcentennial.com
Phone: 03 314 7147 or 03 314 6822

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Room for low season NZ exports was to "respect" traditional trading relationships he argued the change in the composition of NZ's trade from entirely frozen to largely chilled since the quota was first negotiated 40 years ago meant imports from NZ were Charles Sercombe, who was among the farming leaders Parsons met in the UK earlier this month, said while his preference competing more directly with



WHO KNOWS: It took seven years of talks to get Britain into the European Community an getting it out of the European Union could take even longer, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board exports head Jean-Pierre Garnier says.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary Andrea Leadsom, a leading Brexit campaigner, used SIAL to deliver a similar upbeat message, launching a government-backed action designed to grow British food and drink exports by £3 billion over the next five years.

The plan, which identified nine best potential markets across 18 countries, included the promise of new access opportunities for British lamb and beef in the United States and the same for

beef and poultry in Japan and for pork

exports for beef, lamb and pork at the UK's Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, Garnier said he believed UK farmers should

Preaching a resolute business-as-sual message in his role as head of

as head of

concentrate on the present, adding

in China.

Back on the question of NZ and its place in the EU market, the most enlightening comment of the week

British lamb producers should be looking to expand output by about 4% a year, growth he was confident could be absorbed through export increases.

came from Quality Meat Scotland marketing head Laurent Vernet who said "What we're seeing currently within the EU, including the UK, is a growing degree of nationalism in relation to meat generally but especially as regards lamb.

"While the farming unions in the UK are saying we need home-sourced lamb during the domestic season, therefore, we see exactly the same happening in France and other parts of

Europe. "I'm sure NZ lamb exporters understand that, however, and I'm also sure they'll find a way to operate effectively around these factors in the future."