

**PRESS RELEASE - 5pm - 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

## **UNION WELCOMES EMPLOYMENT COURT DECISION**

The New Zealand Meat Workers & Related Trades Union Inc welcomes the decision of the Employment Court issued yesterday.

In the decision, Judge A.D. Ford found that AFFCO New Zealand Limited (AFFCO) was required to employ and layoff seasonal workers in accordance with their initial start date. This followed AFFCO changing its practice, and employing non-union workers ahead of those in the Union. Evidence was called in the Employment Court of this practice taking place at AFFCO works at Imlay in Wanganui; Rangiora outside Te Puke; Horotiu north of Hamilton; and Moerewa north of Whangarei.

The National Secretary of the Union Dave Eastlake said today: *"AFFCO had been favouring workers not in the Union, and we believe encouraging workers to leave the Union. This decision will put an end to this discriminatory practice. This recognises long practice in the meat industry, with long serving workers being entitled to work ahead of new starters."*

The implications of the decision are being worked through by the Union. The decision will impact on hundreds of meat workers employed by AFFCO. Wages will now be sought for the workers who were wrongly laid off.

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