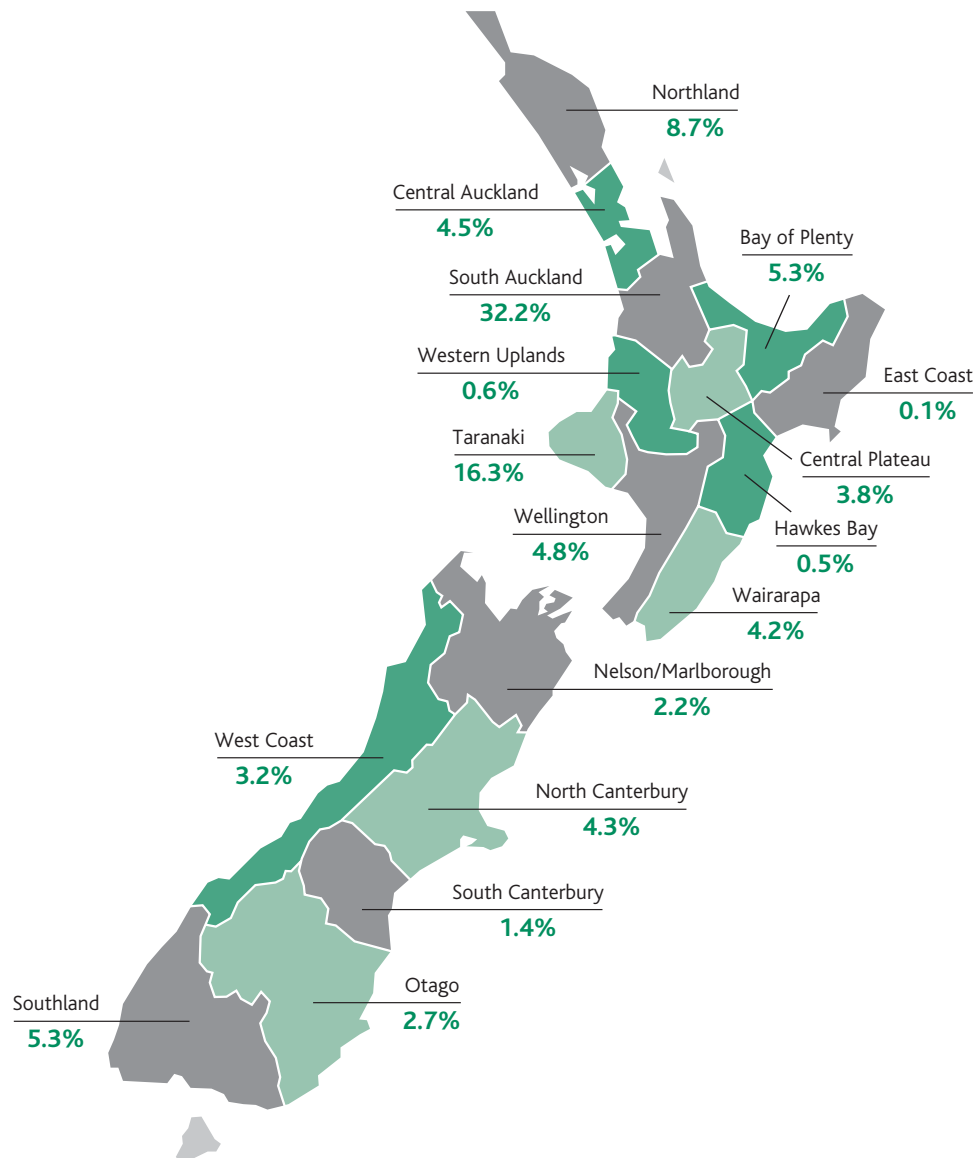


3. Regional dairy statistics

- *One third of all dairy herds are located in the South Auckland region*

The vast majority of dairy herds (81%) are located in the North Island, with the greatest concentration (32%) situated in the South Auckland region. Taranaki, with 16% of dairy herds, is the next most heavily populated region. South Island dairy herds account for 19% of the national total, but have 28.6% of the cows. The distribution of dairy herds within regions of each island in 2005/06 (Graph 3.1) has remained similar to previous seasons.

Graph 3.1 *Regional distribution of dairy herds in 2005/06*



- **Over one million cows in the South Island**
- **Largest average herd size (648) and average cows per hectare (3.2) in South Canterbury**
- **Average herd size in the South Island highest on record at 484**

Farms in the South Island are, on average, larger than those in the North Island, in terms of both farm area and cow numbers. The overall number of herds in New Zealand (11,883) has dropped compared with the previous season (Table 3.1). Seventy-one percent of the total cows are in the North Island, with 28% in the South Auckland region. The average herd size in both islands continues to increase. Within the South Island, South Canterbury has the largest average herd size of 648 cows, an increase from the previous season's figure of 636 cows. In the North Island, Hawkes Bay has the largest average herd size of 550 cows. The smallest herd averages are in Central Auckland, Taranaki and Northland, averaging 224, 249 and 260 cows respectively. South Canterbury has the highest average cows per hectare (3.20), followed by North Canterbury (3.14) and South Auckland (2.98). The regions with the lowest average cows per hectare are found in the West Coast (2.15) and Northland (2.18).

Table 3.1 **Herd analysis by region in 2005/06**

Farming region	Number of herds	Percentage of herds	Number of cows	Percentage of cows	Number of effective hectares	Percentage of effective hectares	Average herd size	Average effective hectares	Average cows per hectares
Northland	1,031	8.7	267,882	7.0	123,955	8.9	260	120	2.18
Central Auckland	531	4.5	119,090	3.1	50,381	3.6	224	95	2.41
South Auckland	3,823	32.2	1,074,874	28.0	365,535	26.1	281	96	2.98
Bay of Plenty	631	5.3	186,470	4.9	65,478	4.7	296	104	2.87
Central Plateau	446	3.8	201,222	5.3	75,888	5.4	451	170	2.72
Western Uplands	80	0.7	28,330	0.7	11,309	0.8	354	141	2.59
East Coast	16	0.1	5,766	0.2	2,276	0.2	360	142	2.85
Hawkes Bay	65	0.5	35,744	0.9	11,904	0.9	550	183	2.86
Taranaki	1,932	16.3	481,272	12.6	171,758	12.3	249	89	2.83
Wellington	568	4.8	179,901	4.7	67,598	4.8	317	119	2.69
Wairarapa	496	4.2	156,258	4.1	57,906	4.1	315	117	2.72
North Island	9,619	80.9	2,736,809	71.4	1,003,988	71.8	285	104	2.78
Nelson/Marlborough	262	2.2	83,743	2.2	31,572	2.3	320	121	2.70
West Coast	375	3.2	123,856	3.2	58,472	4.2	330	156	2.15
North Canterbury	507	4.3	325,079	8.5	103,549	7.4	641	204	3.14
South Canterbury	165	1.4	106,940	2.8	33,761	2.4	648	205	3.20
Otago	322	2.7	153,111	4.0	55,316	4.0	476	172	2.79
Southland	633	5.3	302,607	7.9	112,308	8.0	478	177	2.68
South Island	2,264	19.1	1,095,336	28.6	394,978	28.2	484	174	2.75
New Zealand	11,883		3,832,145		1,398,966		322	118	2.77

- **Highest average per herd and average per hectare production recorded in North Canterbury**
- **Highest average per cow production recorded in Southland**

South Island farms have, on average, higher per herd production than herds in the North Island, with North Canterbury recording the highest average herd production at 235,220 kilograms of milksolids (Table 3.2). In the North Island, the Hawkes Bay region recorded the highest average herd production of 173,751 kilograms of milksolids.

In 2005/06, average production per effective hectare and per cow was higher in the South Island than in the North Island. North Canterbury recorded the highest average milksolids per hectare in the South Island (1,168 kg), while South Auckland had the highest average milksolid production in the North Island (972 kg).

Southland had the highest average milksolids per cow (383 kg). The region with the lowest average milksolids per cow was recorded in Northland (276 kg).

Table 3.2 **Herd production analysis by region in 2005/06**

Farming region	Average litres per herd	Average kg milkfat per herd	Average kg protein per herd	Average kg milksolids per herd	Average kg milkfat per effective hectare	Average kg protein per effective hectare	Average kg milksolids per effective hectare	Average kg milkfat per cow	Average kg protein per cow	Average kg milksolids per cow
Northland	874,231	42,110	31,623	73,733	346	259	605	158	118	276
Central Auckland	798,180	37,972	28,864	66,836	403	307	710	167	127	293
South Auckland	1,064,861	52,641	39,096	91,738	559	414	972	187	138	325
Bay of Plenty	1,112,649	53,387	40,030	93,417	524	392	916	182	136	318
Central Plateau	1,714,026	83,297	62,061	145,358	514	383	897	189	141	331
Western Uplands	1,170,538	57,554	42,893	100,447	420	314	734	161	121	282
East Coast	1,247,094	52,203	43,602	95,805	447	371	818	160	133	292
Hawkes Bay	2,061,491	98,814	74,937	173,751	504	380	884	173	131	303
Taranaki	873,822	46,070	33,570	79,640	522	380	902	184	134	318
Wellington	1,240,183	59,853	45,253	105,106	504	380	884	186	141	327
Wairarapa	1,221,188	61,421	45,390	106,811	527	388	915	193	142	336
North Island	1,050,901	52,084	38,716	90,800	509	377	886	182	135	316
Nelson/Marlborough	1,161,972	58,515	43,178	101,693	511	377	887	189	139	328
West Coast	1,204,278	61,682	45,195	106,877	406	295	702	189	138	327
North Canterbury	2,759,702	133,194	102,026	235,220	661	507	1,168	211	162	373
South Canterbury	2,725,212	131,418	100,925	232,343	658	505	1,163	204	157	361
Otago	2,051,511	97,602	75,455	173,057	578	447	1,025	207	160	367
Southland	2,097,791	101,469	78,620	180,088	576	446	1,021	216	167	383
South Island	2,028,868	98,645	75,399	174,044	566	431	997	205	156	361
New Zealand	1,237,228	60,955	45,705	106,660	520	387	907	186	139	325

South Taranaki continues to be the district with the most herds (1,162) and cows (307,262), followed by Matamata-Piako (Table 3.3). Waimate in South Canterbury has the highest average herd size, with 761 cows and largest average effective hectares (245).

Table 3.3 *Herd analysis by district in 2005/06*

Region	District	Total herds	Total cows	Total effective hectares	Average herd size	Average effective hectares	Average cows per hectare
Northland	Far North	295	72,507	34,832	246	118	2.11
	Whangarei	334	93,215	41,204	279	123	2.27
	Kaipara	402	102,160	47,919	254	119	2.16
Central Auckland	Rodney	190	43,250	19,281	228	101	2.24
	Manukau City	20	4,326	1,569	216	78	2.83
	Papakura	7	1,049	475	150	68	2.25
South Auckland	Franklin	314	70,465	29,056	224	93	2.48
	Waikato	735	210,888	74,434	287	101	2.88
	Hamilton City	12	2,942	1,031	245	86	2.98
	Waipa	609	183,727	60,362	302	99	3.08
	Otorohanga	404	126,250	43,198	313	107	2.95
	Thames-Coromandel	99	24,258	9,795	245	99	2.57
	Hauraki	461	115,934	42,250	251	92	2.75
	Matamata-Piako	1,119	294,334	94,545	263	84	3.14
	South Waikato	384	116,541	39,920	303	104	2.95
Bay of Plenty	Western Bay of Plenty	210	65,990	22,028	314	105	2.98
	Tauranga	11	3,033	1,035	276	94	2.80
	Kawerau/Whakatane	324	93,116	33,582	287	104	2.83
	Opotiki	86	24,331	8,833	283	103	2.77
	Taupo	117	74,916	28,557	640	244	2.74
	Rotorua	329	126,306	47,331	384	144	2.71
Western Uplands	Waitomo	57	21,458	8,207	376	144	2.71
	Ruapehu	23	6,872	3,102	299	135	2.30
	Gisborne	7	3,239	1,244	463	178	3.17
East Coast	Wairoa	9	2,527	1,032	281	115	2.60
	Napier/Hastings	26	15,681	5,310	603	204	2.80
	Central Hawkes Bay	39	20,063	6,594	514	169	2.90
Taranaki	New Plymouth	485	111,146	42,084	229	87	2.68
	Stratford	285	62,864	24,212	221	85	2.60
	South Taranaki	1,162	307,262	105,462	264	91	2.95
Wellington	Wanganui	21	7,780	2,913	370	139	2.76
	Rangitikei	82	27,398	9,596	334	117	2.81
	Manawatu	275	83,282	31,860	303	116	2.67
	Palmerston North City	37	12,746	4,727	344	128	2.73
	Horowhenua	126	41,927	15,593	333	124	2.73
	Kapiti Coast	21	5,911	2,478	281	118	2.45
	Upper Hutt City	6	857	431	143	72	2.03
	Tararua	321	92,948	34,508	290	108	2.71
Wairarapa	Masterton	19	7,515	2,545	396	134	3.06
	Carterton	66	20,879	7,824	316	119	2.68
	South Wairarapa	90	34,916	13,029	388	145	2.73
North Island		9,619	2,736,809	1,003,988	285	104	2.78

Regional dairy statistics

(table 3.3 continued)

Region	District	Total herds	Total cows	Total effective hectares	Average herd size	Average effective hectares	Average cows per hectare
Nelson/Marlborough	Marlborough	65	17,540	6,403	270	99	2.72
	Kaikoura	28	9,412	3,463	336	124	2.72
	Tasman / Nelson City	169	56,791	21,706	336	128	2.69
West Coast	Buller	132	43,721	18,867	331	143	2.33
	Grey	89	35,533	16,347	399	184	2.19
	Westland	154	44,602	23,258	290	151	1.96
North Canterbury	Hurunui	51	34,389	12,124	674	238	2.94
	Waimakariri	69	31,433	10,522	456	152	2.87
	Christchurch City	9	4,290	1,332	477	148	3.31
	Banks Peninsula	11	1,469	834	134	76	1.86
	Selwyn	162	102,357	33,673	632	208	3.16
	Ashburton	205	151,141	45,064	737	220	3.32
South Canterbury	Timaru/MacKenzie	107	62,831	19,533	587	183	3.24
	Waimate	58	44,109	14,228	761	245	3.14
Otago	Waitaki/Central Otago	98	57,840	19,986	590	204	2.98
	Dunedin City	69	20,598	7,871	299	114	2.61
	Clutha	155	74,673	27,459	482	177	2.74
Southland	Gore	100	46,362	17,166	464	172	2.70
	Invercargill	45	20,785	7,908	462	176	2.57
	Southland	488	235,460	87,234	483	179	2.69
South Island		2,264	1,095,336	394,978	484	174	2.75
New Zealand		11,883	3,832,145	1,398,966	322	118	2.77

Note: Districts with fewer than five herds have been added to a neighbouring district to preserve anonymity

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Ashburton district has the highest average production per herd with 267,571 kilograms of milksolids (Table 3.4), as well as the highest average kilograms of milksolids per effective hectare (1,219). Waimakariri recorded the highest production per cow (395 kg of milksolids). The North Island district with the highest milksolids production per herd is Taupo with an average of 200,359 kilograms of milksolids.

Table 3.4 **Herd production analysis by district in 2005/06**

Region	District	Average litres per herd	Average kg milkfat per herd	Average kg protein per herd	Average kg milksolids per herd	Average kg milkfat per effective hectare	Average kg protein per effective hectare	Average kg milksolids per effective hectare	Average kg milkfat per cow	Average kg protein per cow	Average kg milksolids per cow
Northland	Far North	811,314	38,470	29,145	67,615	317	240	557	150	114	264
	Whangarei	956,470	47,102	34,982	82,084	376	279	655	165	122	287
	Kaipara	852,074	40,634	30,650	71,284	342	258	600	158	119	277
Central Auckland	Rodney	795,099	39,367	29,289	68,656	376	279	655	166	124	290
	Manukau City	808,283	36,740	28,445	65,185	486	377	863	168	131	299
	Papakura	551,376	24,602	19,290	43,892	355	279	633	160	126	285
	Franklin	804,904	37,505	28,847	66,351	416	319	735	167	128	295
South Auckland	Waikato	1,083,999	52,403	39,407	91,809	526	394	920	181	136	317
	Hamilton City	879,038	44,956	32,756	77,712	544	394	938	182	132	314
	Waipa	1,155,147	57,111	42,453	99,563	582	431	1013	189	140	329
	Otorahanga	1,145,777	56,764	42,050	98,814	540	399	940	182	135	317
	Thames-Coromandel	882,823	42,732	32,030	74,762	449	336	785	173	130	303
	Hauraki	918,172	45,090	33,644	78,734	499	372	872	181	135	316
	Matamata-Piako	1,002,837	50,632	37,185	87,817	603	442	1044	191	141	332
Bay of Plenty	South Waikato	1,209,495	59,387	44,210	103,596	576	427	1003	194	144	338
	Western Bay of Plenty	1,105,744	54,156	40,127	94,284	515	381	896	171	127	298
	Tauranga	958,957	46,563	34,868	81,431	458	344	802	158	119	277
	Kawerau/Whakatane	1,137,503	53,761	40,652	94,413	538	406	945	190	143	333
	Opotiki	1,055,534	50,971	38,112	89,084	498	371	869	178	133	312

Regional dairy statistics

(table 3.4 continued)

Region	District	Average litres per herd	Average kg milkfat per herd	Average kg protein per herd	Average kg milk solids per herd	Average kg milkfat per effective hectare	Average kg protein per effective hectare	Average kg milk solids per effective hectare	Average kg milkfat per cow	Average kg protein per cow	Average kg milk solids per cow
Central Plateau	Taupo	2,347,184	114,800	85,559	200,359	505	376	881	185	138	322
	Rotorua	1,488,860	72,093	53,705	125,798	518	385	903	191	142	333
Western Uplands	Waitomo	1,217,081	60,362	44,796	105,158	444	330	774	163	121	285
	Ruapehu	1,055,190	50,594	38,178	88,773	360	273	633	157	119	275
East Coast	Gisborne	1,352,336	56,398	47,526	103,925	392	326	718	115	96	211
	Wairoa	1,165,239	48,940	40,550	89,490	490	406	896	195	161	356
Hawkes Bay	Napier/Hastings	2,233,971	107,047	80,378	187,425	495	372	867	172	129	301
	Central Hawkes Bay	1,946,505	93,325	71,310	164,635	509	385	895	174	132	305
Taranaki	New Plymouth	808,101	42,330	30,747	73,077	490	355	845	183	133	316
	Stratford	781,511	40,333	29,712	70,045	476	350	826	183	135	318
	South Taranaki	923,894	49,038	35,695	84,732	547	397	945	184	134	319
Wellington	Wanganui	1,426,242	65,932	50,308	116,240	507	385	892	184	140	324
	Rangitikei	1,282,386	63,438	47,514	110,952	528	393	921	186	139	325
	Manawatu	1,187,931	57,746	43,482	101,228	499	375	874	186	140	326
	Palmerston North City	1,396,013	68,582	51,529	120,111	530	396	926	192	143	335
	Horowhenua	1,304,813	61,620	47,183	108,803	510	388	898	186	142	328
	Kapiti Coast	1,093,329	50,355	38,653	89,008	433	333	766	178	137	314
	Upper Hutt City	602,853	28,460	21,721	50,182	378	289	666	190	145	335
Wairarapa	Tararua	1,097,795	56,166	41,073	97,239	521	380	902	192	140	333
	Masterton	1,664,696	79,569	60,220	139,789	591	446	1036	197	148	345
	Carterton	1,263,715	62,020	46,259	108,279	522	389	911	195	145	340
	South Wairarapa	1,536,475	75,896	57,020	132,915	538	403	941	196	146	342
North Island		1,050,901	52,084	38,716	90,800	509	377	886	182	135	316
Nelson/Marlborough	Marlborough	1,022,174	50,387	37,575	87,962	512	381	893	187	139	326
	Kaikoura	1,351,794	67,222	49,712	116,934	544	406	950	207	154	361
	Tasman/Nelson City	1,184,290	60,198	44,251	104,449	505	370	875	187	137	324
West Coast	Buller	1,219,898	61,838	45,471	107,309	441	321	762	187	137	324
	Grey	1,473,224	74,032	55,010	129,043	409	302	711	188	139	326
	Westland	1,035,459	54,410	39,287	93,697	374	270	644	192	138	330
North Canterbury	Hurunui	3,035,292	145,690	111,541	257,232	652	499	1151	222	170	392
	Waimakariri	2,204,396	102,666	80,109	182,774	637	497	1134	222	173	395
	Christchurch City	2,096,431	98,213	75,796	174,009	683	527	1210	207	161	368
	Banks Peninsula	504,006	23,120	17,730	40,850	319	245	564	173	133	306
	Selwyn	2,668,756	128,005	98,283	226,288	657	506	1163	210	162	372
	Ashburton	3,100,074	151,904	115,668	267,571	693	526	1219	207	158	365
South Canterbury	Timaru/MacKenzie	2,587,142	124,041	95,418	219,459	685	525	1211	210	162	371
	Waimate	2,979,927	145,026	111,086	256,112	609	466	1075	193	148	341
Otago	Waitaki/Central Otago	2,493,058	119,381	91,489	210,870	607	464	1072	201	154	356
	Dunedin City	1,364,303	63,379	49,396	112,775	552	432	984	211	165	377
	Clutha	2,078,258	99,066	76,918	175,984	570	443	1013	208	162	369
Southland	Gore	2,084,784	99,887	77,407	177,294	589	456	1044	219	170	388
	Invercargill	2,089,411	100,419	78,057	178,476	557	434	991	217	169	386
	Southland	2,101,228	101,889	78,920	180,810	575	445	1019	215	167	382
South Island		2,028,868	98,645	75,399	174,044	566	431	997	205	156	361
New Zealand		1,237,228	60,955	45,705	106,660	520	387	907	186	139	325

Note: Districts with fewer than five herds have been added to a neighbouring district to preserve anonymity