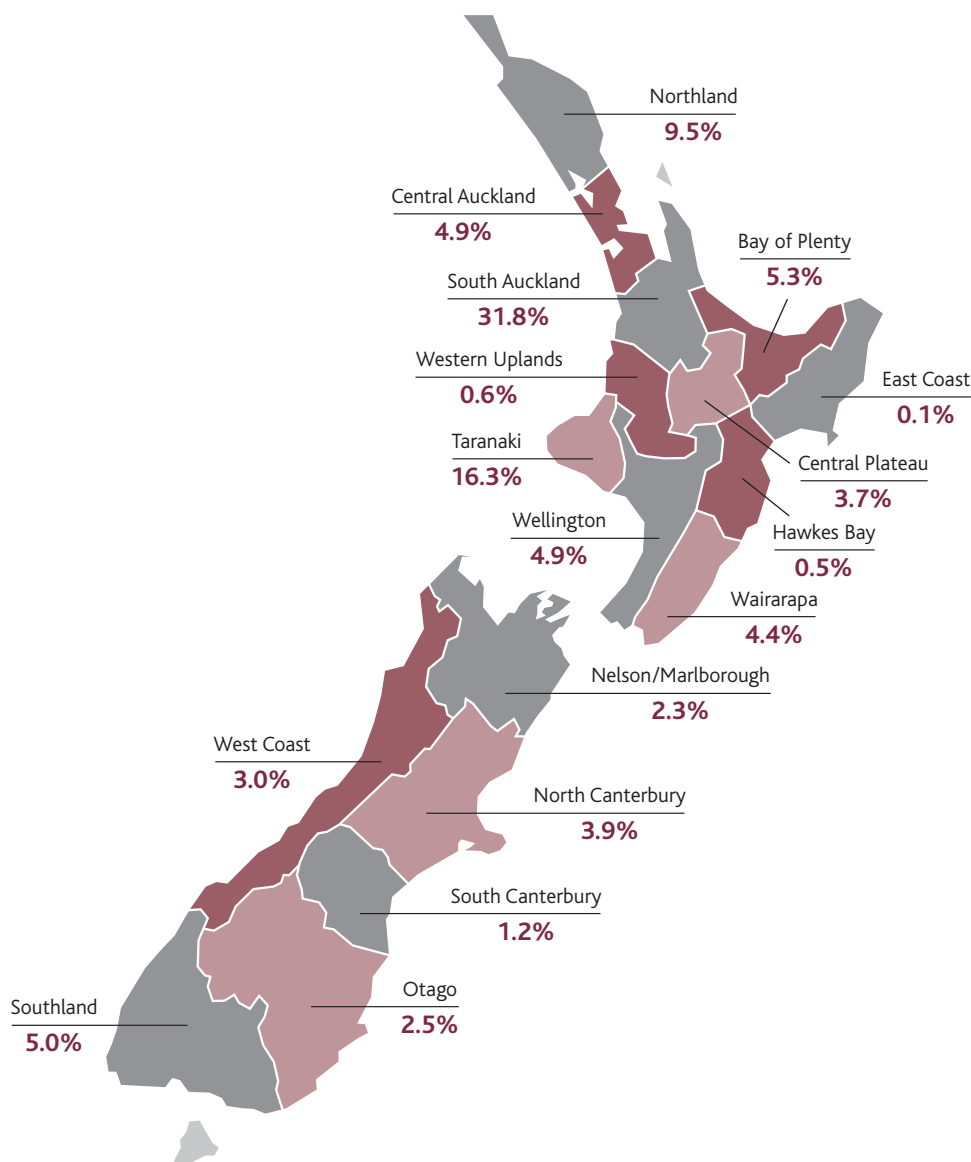


3. Regional dairy statistics

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

The vast majority of dairy herds (82%) 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 18% of the national total, but have 26.6% of the cows. The distribution of dairy herds within regions of each island in 2003/04 (Graph 3.1) has remained similar to previous seasons.

Graph 3.1 *Regional distribution of dairy herds in 2003/04*



- **Over one million cows in the South Island**
- **Largest average herd size (604) and average cows per hectare (3.08) in South Canterbury**
- **Average herd size in the South Island reaches 449**

Farms in the South Island are, on average, larger than those in the North Island, in terms of both geographical size and cow numbers. The overall number of herds in New Zealand (12,751) has dropped compared with the previous season, even though the number of herds in the South Island has increased slightly (Table 3.1). Seventy-three 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 with 604 cows; an increase from the previous season's figure of 591 cows. In the North Island, Hawkes Bay has the largest average herd size with 551 cows. The smallest herd averages are in Central Auckland, Taranaki and Northland, averaging 216, 237 and 240 cows respectively. South Canterbury has the highest average cows per hectare (3.08), followed by North Canterbury (2.96) and South Auckland (2.96). Herds with the lowest average cows per hectare are found in the West Coast (2.13) and Northland (2.19).

Table 3.1 **Herd analysis by region in 2003/04**

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	1,216	9.5	292,154	7.6	134,482	9.5	240	111	2.19
Central Auckland	624	4.9	134,750	3.5	56,846	4.0	216	91	2.39
South Auckland	4,061	31.8	1,092,841	28.4	372,587	26.2	269	92	2.96
Bay of Plenty	674	5.3	191,157	5.0	67,587	4.8	284	100	2.84
Central Plateau	469	3.7	203,608	5.3	76,973	5.4	434	164	2.72
Western Uplands	79	0.6	26,791	0.7	10,944	0.8	339	139	2.58
East Coast	16	0.1	4,218	0.1	1,718	0.1	264	107	2.72
Hawkes Bay	64	0.5	35,288	0.9	12,326	0.9	551	193	2.77
Taranaki	2,081	16.3	494,040	12.8	176,353	12.4	237	85	2.83
Wellington	627	4.9	189,218	4.9	71,630	5.0	302	114	2.67
Wairarapa	557	4.4	161,898	4.2	59,608	4.2	291	107	2.73
North Island	10,468	82.1	2,825,963	73.4	1,041,054	73.3	270	99	2.76
Nelson/Marlborough	299	2.3	85,505	2.2	32,703	2.3	286	109	2.67
West Coast	380	3.0	115,548	3.0	56,012	3.9	304	147	2.13
North Canterbury	492	3.9	284,949	7.4	94,639	6.7	579	192	2.96
South Canterbury	152	1.2	91,748	2.4	29,897	2.1	604	197	3.08
Otago	323	2.5	146,768	3.8	54,464	3.8	454	169	2.72
Southland	637	5.0	300,821	7.8	112,378	7.9	472	176	2.67
South Island	2,283	17.9	1,025,339	26.6	380,093	26.7	449	166	2.68
New Zealand	12,751		3,851,302		1,421,147		302	111	2.75



Regional dairy statistics

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

South Island farms have, on average, higher per herd production than herds in the North Island, with South Canterbury recording the highest average herd production at 220,595 kilograms of milksolids (Table 3.2). In the North Island, the Hawkes Bay region recorded the highest average herd production with 179,300 kilograms of milksolids.

In 2003/04, average production per effective hectare and per cow was higher in the South Island than the North Island. South Canterbury recorded the highest average milksolids per hectare in the South Island (1,130 kg), while South Auckland and Taranaki shared the highest average milksolid production in the North Island (950 kg each).

North Canterbury had the highest average milksolids per cow (373 kg). The lowest average milksolids per cow was recorded in Northland (247 kg).

Table 3.2 **Herd production analysis by region in 2003/04**

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	723,699	34,744	25,798	60,542	311	231	542	142	105	247
Central Auckland	776,396	36,953	27,844	64,796	408	307	715	170	128	298
South Auckland	1,003,873	49,461	36,614	86,075	547	403	950	184	136	320
Bay of Plenty	1,066,856	50,889	37,984	88,873	515	384	899	180	134	315
Central Plateau	1,608,905	77,233	57,490	134,723	497	369	866	184	136	320
Western Uplands	1,185,137	57,671	43,190	100,861	437	328	765	169	127	296
East Coast	1,094,442	45,967	38,087	84,053	481	398	879	180	149	330
Hawkes Bay	2,122,892	101,504	77,796	179,300	495	377	871	177	135	313
Taranaki	873,510	45,829	33,787	79,617	547	403	950	192	142	334
Wellington	1,216,553	57,883	44,348	102,231	513	393	905	192	147	340
Wairarapa	1,129,445	56,426	42,193	98,620	531	395	926	194	144	338
North Island	990,783	48,870	36,360	85,230	503	373	876	180	134	314
Nelson/Marlborough	1,068,061	53,597	39,613	93,210	512	379	891	191	142	333
West Coast	1,074,078	55,505	40,389	95,894	399	289	688	188	136	324
North Canterbury	2,506,530	119,801	92,458	212,259	624	482	1,107	210	163	373
South Canterbury	2,601,024	124,349	96,247	220,595	636	493	1,130	207	161	368
Otago	1,935,985	91,299	71,145	162,444	550	430	980	202	158	360
Southland	1,956,351	94,112	73,491	167,602	542	423	965	204	159	363
South Island	1,851,768	89,531	68,815	158,346	540	413	953	201	154	355
New Zealand	1,144,937	56,150	42,171	98,321	509	380	889	184	138	322

South Taranaki continues to be the district with the most herds (1,241) and cows (311,963), followed by Matamata-Piako (Table 3.3). Waimate in South Canterbury has the highest average herd size, with 742 cows and largest average effective hectares (240).



Regional dairy statistics

Table 3.3 *Herd analysis by district in 2003/04*

Region	District	Total herds	Total cows	Total effective hectares	Average herd size	Average effective hectares	Average cows per hectare
Northland	Far North	354	77,918	37,518	220	106	2.10
	Whangarei	393	102,722	45,586	261	116	2.26
	Kaipara	469	111,514	51,378	238	110	2.19
Central Auckland	Rodney	220	47,723	21,262	217	97	2.25
	Manukau City	23	5,126	2,041	223	89	2.53
	Papakura	10	1,982	754	198	75	2.54
	Franklin	371	79,919	32,789	215	88	2.46
South Auckland	Waikato	789	216,194	76,946	274	98	2.85
	Hamilton City	13	3,203	1,001	246	77	3.28
	Waipa	667	189,513	62,536	284	94	3.07
	Otorohanga	420	127,286	42,638	303	102	2.96
	Thames-Coromandel	107	25,510	10,073	238	94	2.55
	Hauraki	489	117,228	42,765	240	87	2.74
	Matamata-Piako	1,172	296,607	96,258	253	82	3.11
	South Waikato	404	117,300	40,370	290	100	2.95
Bay of Plenty	Western Bay of Plenty	225	69,944	23,828	311	106	2.95
	Tauranga	11	3,022	1,021	275	93	2.75
	Kawerau/Whakatane	344	93,284	33,976	271	99	2.78
	Opotiki	94	24,907	8,762	265	93	2.82
Central Plateau	Taupo	119	73,468	28,315	617	238	2.68
	Rotorua	350	130,140	48,658	372	139	2.74
Western Uplands	Waitomo	61	20,902	8,444	343	138	2.63
	Ruapehu	18	5,889	2,500	327	139	2.41
East Coast	Gisborne	6	1,900	785	317	131	3.09
	Wairoa	10	2,318	933	232	93	2.50
Hawkes Bay	Napier/Hastings	22	13,807	4,961	628	226	2.60
	Central Hawkes Bay	42	21,481	7,365	511	175	2.86
Taranaki	New Plymouth	524	115,669	43,787	221	84	2.68
	Stratford	316	66,408	25,518	210	81	2.61
	South Taranaki	1,241	311,963	107,048	251	86	2.96
Wellington	Wanganui	24	7,747	3,052	323	127	2.62
	Rangitikei	86	29,310	10,487	341	122	2.79
	Manawatu	297	87,172	33,090	294	111	2.67
	Palmerston North City	38	13,581	4,946	357	130	2.82
	Horowhenua	144	43,028	16,357	299	114	2.67
	Kapiti Coast	28	6,961	2,952	249	105	2.46
	Upper Hutt City	10	1,419	746	142	75	1.91
Wairarapa	Tararua	357	96,268	35,451	270	99	2.72
	Masterton	22	7,976	2,894	363	132	2.78
	Carterton	77	22,050	8,153	286	106	2.75
	South Wairarapa	101	35,604	13,110	353	130	2.75
North Island		10,468	2,825,963	1,041,054	256	100	2.76



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	78	18,768	7,046	241	90	2.65
	Kaikoura	30	10,361	3,764	345	125	2.74
	Tasman / Nelson City	191	56,376	21,893	295	115	2.66
West Coast	Buller	139	42,354	19,304	305	139	2.27
	Grey	79	28,864	13,943	365	176	2.15
	Westland	162	44,330	22,765	274	141	1.99
North Canterbury	Hurunui	51	32,507	11,154	637	219	2.91
	Waimakariri	72	29,176	10,356	405	144	2.69
	Christchurch City	12	4,323	1,383	360	115	2.93
	Banks Peninsula	11	1,469	799	134	73	1.93
	Selwyn	162	92,065	31,261	568	193	2.96
	Ashburton	184	125,409	39,686	682	216	3.15
South Canterbury	Timaru/MacKenzie	103	55,375	18,155	538	176	3.06
	Waimate	49	36,373	11,742	742	240	3.11
Otago	Waitaki/Central Otago	92	52,761	19,071	573	207	2.88
	Dunedin City	80	22,309	8,767	279	110	2.51
	Clutha	151	71,698	26,626	475	176	2.73
Southland	Gore	101	48,184	17,379	477	172	2.74
	Invercargill	46	21,401	8,266	465	180	2.59
	Southland	490	231,236	86,733	472	177	2.66
South Island		2,283	1,025,339	380,093	449	166	2.68
New Zealand		12,751	3,851,302	1,421,147	302	111	2.75

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

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Waimate district has the highest average production per herd with 258,540 kilograms of milksolids (Table 3.4). Ashburton district recorded the highest average kilograms of milksolids per effective hectare (1,167), whereas the highest production per cow was recorded by Waimakariri (395 kg of milksolids). The North Island district with the highest production is Napier/Hastings, with an average of 206,225 kilograms of milksolids per herd.

Table 3.4 Herd production analysis by district in 2003/04

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	670,974	31,559	23,651	55,210	291	217	508	138	103	241
	Whangarei	771,006	37,861	27,785	65,646	325	238	563	143	105	248
	Kaipara	723,854	34,536	25,753	60,289	315	235	550	143	107	250
Central Auckland	Rodney	710,454	35,344	25,907	61,252	360	263	622	159	116	275
	Manukau City	842,754	38,082	29,423	67,504	445	343	788	174	134	309
	Papakura	735,629	33,911	26,163	60,074	427	328	755	167	129	296
South Auckland	Franklin	812,484	37,918	28,940	66,858	434	331	765	176	134	311
	Waikato	1,035,034	50,059	37,435	87,494	524	390	914	183	136	319
	Hamilton City	879,616	44,062	32,207	76,269	593	432	1,024	182	132	314
	Waipa	1,078,325	53,015	39,352	92,367	570	421	991	186	138	323
	Otorahanga	1,105,904	54,237	40,325	94,562	536	397	933	181	134	315
	Thames-Coromandel	788,192	37,974	28,282	66,256	411	305	715	159	118	277
	Hauraki	855,990	42,043	31,053	73,096	484	357	841	176	130	307
	Matamata-Piako	942,439	47,512	34,757	82,269	585	427	1,012	188	138	326
	South Waikato	1,132,364	55,307	41,099	96,406	565	418	983	191	142	333
Bay of Plenty	Western Bay of Plenty	1,106,131	53,914	39,829	93,742	514	379	893	174	128	302
	Tauranga	981,875	47,066	35,101	82,167	452	337	788	160	120	280
	Kawerau/Whakatane	1,065,650	50,023	37,634	87,657	522	392	914	186	140	326
	Opotiki	987,208	47,267	35,187	82,454	499	370	869	176	131	307



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	2,190,354	105,502	78,862	184,363	469	348	817	175	130	305
	Rotorua	1,411,212	67,621	50,224	117,845	507	376	883	186	138	325
Western Uplands	Waitomo	1,165,718	57,436	42,748	100,184	440	327	766	166	123	289
	Ruapehu	1,250,949	58,469	44,685	103,154	429	331	760	180	139	318
East Coast	Gisborne	1,160,486	48,740	40,385	89,125	471	390	862	147	122	270
	Wairoa	1,054,817	44,302	36,708	81,010	486	403	889	200	166	366
Hawkes Bay	Napier/Hastings	2,471,271	116,736	89,490	206,225	458	351	809	171	131	302
	Central Hawkes Bay	1,940,408	93,526	71,671	165,197	514	390	904	181	137	318
Taranaki	New Plymouth	784,456	40,905	29,962	70,867	492	360	851	183	134	317
	Stratford	784,195	40,031	29,932	69,963	499	373	871	190	143	333
	South Taranaki	933,855	49,385	36,384	85,769	583	428	1,011	196	145	341
Wellington	Wanganui	1,378,446	63,111	48,988	112,099	512	396	908	195	151	346
	Rangitikei	1,297,734	63,389	48,041	111,430	521	394	916	188	142	330
	Manawatu	1,195,923	57,209	43,760	100,969	516	395	911	193	148	341
	Palmerston North City	1,475,138	71,183	53,945	125,128	556	420	977	199	151	350
	Horowhenua	1,193,011	55,754	43,097	98,851	510	393	902	191	147	338
	Kapiti Coast	1,040,347	47,337	36,904	84,241	466	364	831	188	147	335
	Upper Hutt City	592,326	27,654	21,291	48,945	360	277	637	192	147	339
Wairarapa	Tararua	1,043,342	52,941	39,215	92,156	537	397	934	197	146	342
	Masterton	1,516,557	72,397	55,506	127,903	558	426	984	201	153	354
	Carterton	1,124,064	54,574	41,368	95,942	515	390	905	188	142	330
	South Wairarapa	1,353,571	66,679	50,448	117,128	514	387	901	185	140	325
North Island		990,783	48,870	36,360	85,230	503	373	876	180	134	314
Nelson/Marlborough	Marlborough	917,244	45,365	33,836	79,201	504	374	878	188	140	329
	Kaikoura	1,300,521	64,125	47,566	111,691	526	393	920	193	144	338
	Tasman/Nelson City	1,093,139	55,305	40,723	96,028	513	378	891	192	142	333
West Coast	Buller	1,115,554	57,065	41,642	98,707	440	318	758	194	140	334
	Grey	1,295,439	65,937	48,629	114,567	399	293	692	187	137	323
	Westland	930,544	49,080	35,295	84,375	364	261	625	184	132	316
North Canterbury	Hurunui	2,710,058	130,636	99,568	230,204	607	462	1,069	209	159	368
	Waimakariri	1,937,631	89,468	69,978	159,446	593	465	1,058	221	174	395
	Christchurch City	1,607,322	74,908	57,755	132,663	573	445	1,018	192	149	340
	Banks Peninsula	489,095	22,493	17,198	39,690	325	249	574	169	129	298
	Selwyn	2,433,367	114,863	89,191	204,053	626	488	1,114	212	165	377
	Ashburton	2,916,396	141,759	108,924	250,683	660	507	1,167	209	160	370
South Canterbury	Timaru/MacKenzie	2,395,123	114,087	88,457	202,544	645	500	1,145	210	164	374
	Waimate	3,033,837	145,919	112,621	258,540	619	479	1,097	201	156	357
Otago	Waitaki/Central Otago	2,488,985	118,044	91,590	209,634	599	465	1,064	207	160	367
	Dunedin City	1,221,939	56,075	43,851	99,925	507	397	904	202	158	360
	Clutha	1,977,361	93,666	73,149	166,814	544	425	969	200	157	357
Southland	Gore	1,904,085	90,814	70,795	161,609	531	414	945	194	152	346
	Invercargill	2,021,587	95,496	75,414	170,909	535	422	956	210	166	376
	Southland	1,961,000	94,662	73,866	168,527	545	425	970	205	160	365
South Island		1,851,768	89,531	68,815	158,346	540	413	953	201	154	355
New Zealand		1,144,937	56,150	42,171	98,321	509	380	889	184	138	322

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

