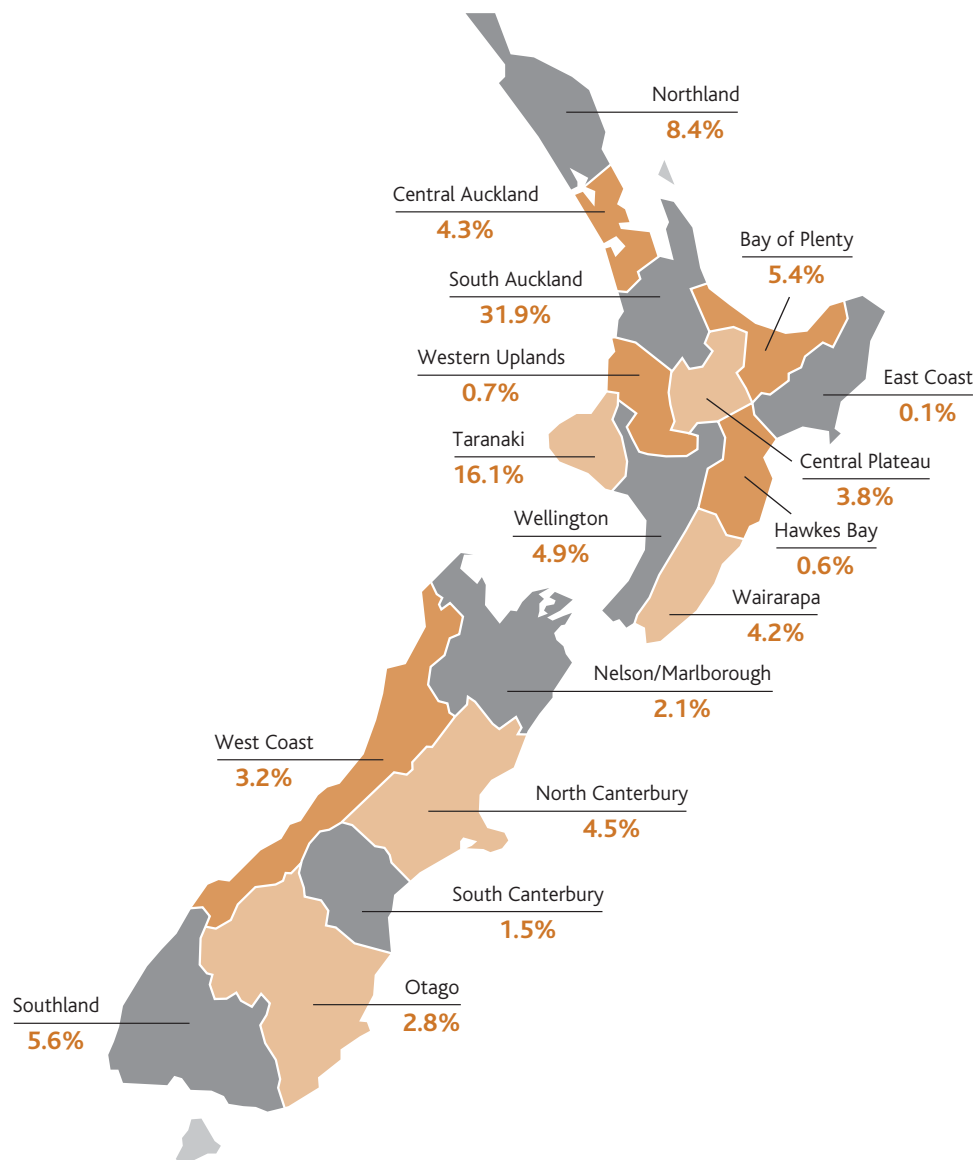


3. Regional dairy statistics

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

The vast majority of dairy herds (80%) 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 20% of the national total, but have 29.5% of the cows. The distribution of dairy herds within regions of each island in 2006/07 (Graph 3.1) has remained similar to previous seasons.

Graph 3.1 Regional distribution of dairy herds in 2006/07



- *Over one million cows in the South Island*
- *Largest average herd size (692) and average cows per hectare (3.27) in South Canterbury*
- *Average herd size in the South Island is the highest on record at 505*

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 (11,630) 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 692 cows, an increase from the previous season's figure of 648 cows. In the North Island, Hawkes Bay has the largest average herd size of 557 cows. The smallest herd averages are in Central Auckland, Taranaki and Northland, averaging 233, 256 and 272 cows respectively. South Canterbury has the highest average cows per hectare (3.27), followed by North Canterbury (3.20) and South Auckland (3.02). The regions with the lowest average cows per hectare are found in Northland (2.20) and the West Coast (2.22).

Table 3.1 *Herd analysis by region in 2006/07*

<i>Farming region</i>	<i>Number of herds</i>	<i>Percentage of herds</i>	<i>Number of cows</i>	<i>Percentage of cows</i>	<i>Number of effective hectares</i>	<i>Percentage of effective hectares</i>	<i>Average herd size</i>	<i>Average effective hectares</i>	<i>Average cows per hectares</i>
Northland	976	8.4	265,776	6.8	120,926	8.6	272	124	2.20
Central Auckland	500	4.3	116,379	3.0	48,358	3.4	233	97	2.43
South Auckland	3,713	31.9	1,082,244	27.6	364,101	25.8	291	98	3.02
Bay of Plenty	623	5.4	190,523	4.9	66,480	4.7	306	107	2.90
Central Plateau	444	3.8	207,157	5.3	79,056	5.6	467	178	2.72
Western Uplands	77	0.7	30,435	0.8	11,707	0.8	395	152	2.66
East Coast	14	0.1	4,221	0.1	1,768	0.1	302	126	2.52
Hawkes Bay	67	0.6	37,298	1.0	12,582	0.9	557	188	2.82
Taranaki	1,870	16.1	479,238	12.2	170,058	12.0	256	91	2.85
Wellington	571	4.9	189,392	4.8	69,675	4.9	332	122	2.74
Wairarapa	488	4.2	158,832	4.1	57,795	4.1	325	118	2.75
North Island	9,343	80.3	2,761,495	70.5	1,002,506	71.0	296	107	2.81
Nelson/Marlborough	250	2.1	81,309	2.1	30,355	2.1	325	121	2.76
West Coast	369	3.2	127,581	3.3	59,127	4.2	346	160	2.22
North Canterbury	518	4.5	348,659	8.9	109,053	7.7	673	211	3.20
South Canterbury	171	1.5	118,402	3.0	36,558	2.6	692	214	3.27
Otago	322	2.8	160,884	4.1	57,181	4.0	500	178	2.85
Southland	657	5.6	318,482	8.1	118,145	8.4	485	180	2.70
South Island	2,287	19.7	1,155,317	29.5	410,419	29.0	505	179	2.80
New Zealand	11,630		3,916,812		1,412,925		337	121	2.81

- **Highest average per herd and average per hectare production recorded in South 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 South Canterbury recording the highest average herd production at 251,661 kilograms of milksolids (Table 3.2). In the North Island, the Hawkes Bay region recorded the highest average herd production of 176,537 kilograms of milksolids.

In 2006/07, average production per effective hectare and per cow was higher in the South Island than in the North Island. South Canterbury recorded the highest average milksolids per hectare in the South Island (1,232 kg), while South Auckland had the highest average milksolid production in the North Island (1,002 kg).

Southland had the highest average milksolids per cow (389 kg). The region with the lowest average milksolids per cow was recorded in the East Coast (266 kg).

Table 3.2 Herd production analysis by region in 2006/07

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	928,145	45,358	33,903	79,261	358	267	625	161	120	281
Central Auckland	821,716	39,443	30,056	69,498	406	310	716	165	126	292
South Auckland	1,118,007	55,693	41,641	97,334	574	428	1,002	189	142	331
Bay of Plenty	1,160,882	55,995	42,279	98,275	534	403	936	183	138	321
Central Plateau	1,814,472	88,261	66,351	154,612	525	395	920	194	146	339
Western Uplands	1,333,601	65,844	49,447	115,291	447	336	783	167	125	292
East Coast	991,947	41,662	34,520	76,182	364	302	665	145	120	266
Hawkes Bay	2,080,755	100,302	76,235	176,537	500	379	879	173	131	305
Taranaki	912,743	48,114	35,305	83,418	534	391	925	186	137	323
Wellington	1,280,314	62,130	47,129	109,259	511	386	897	185	140	326
Wairarapa	1,173,034	59,201	43,969	103,169	496	367	863	180	133	313
North Island	1,098,475	54,754	40,920	95,674	520	387	907	183	137	320
Nelson/Marlborough	1,207,037	61,241	45,296	106,537	526	389	915	190	141	331
West Coast	1,235,795	64,319	47,377	111,696	440	323	763	197	145	342
North Canterbury	2,901,927	140,571	109,268	249,838	684	531	1,215	215	168	383
South Canterbury	2,922,000	141,519	110,143	251,661	693	539	1,232	213	166	379
Otago	2,175,173	104,087	81,102	185,189	616	481	1,096	217	170	387
Southland	2,146,307	104,926	81,512	186,438	590	458	1,049	219	170	389
South Island	2,129,933	104,290	80,415	184,705	591	455	1,046	211	162	373
New Zealand	1,301,308	64,495	48,687	113,182	534	400	934	189	142	330

South Taranaki continues to be the district with the most herds (1,132) and cows (308,388), followed by Matamata-Piako (Table 3.3). Waimate in South Canterbury has the highest average herd size with 793 cows.

Table 3.3 *Herd analysis by district in 2006/07*

Region	District	Total herds	Total cows	Total effective hectares	Average herd size	Average effective hectares	Average cows per hectare
Northland	Far North	274	69,928	33,428	255	122	2.11
	Whangarei	328	94,159	40,795	287	124	2.30
	Kaipara	374	101,689	46,703	272	125	2.19
Central Auckland	Rodney	174	41,929	18,213	241	105	2.30
	Manukau City	19	3,966	1,489	209	78	2.69
	Papakura	9	1,286	555	143	62	2.30
South Auckland	Franklin	298	69,198	28,101	232	94	2.49
	Waikato	717	213,764	74,132	298	103	2.93
	Hamilton City	12	2,974	983	248	82	3.05
	Waipa	596	186,258	60,542	313	102	3.10
	Otorohanga	391	124,372	43,109	318	110	2.94
	Thames-Coromandel	92	22,740	8,577	247	93	2.65
	Hauraki	446	115,001	42,123	258	94	2.79
	Matamata-Piako	1,082	295,757	93,324	273	86	3.19
	South Waikato	377	121,378	41,311	322	110	2.99
Bay of Plenty	Western Bay of Plenty	207	66,838	22,520	323	109	2.99
	Tauranga	12	3,232	1,136	269	95	2.72
	Kawerau/Whakatane	321	96,357	34,272	300	107	2.86
	Opotiki	83	24,096	8,552	290	103	2.82
	Taupo	120	77,002	30,844	642	257	2.67
	Rotorua	324	130,155	48,212	402	149	2.73
Western Uplands	Waitomo	57	22,588	8,673	396	152	2.68
	Ruapehu	20	7,847	3,034	392	152	2.59
East Coast	Gisborne	5	1,696	720	339	144	2.51
	Wairoa	9	2,525	1,048	281	116	2.52
Hawkes Bay	Napier/Hastings	26	16,330	5,350	628	206	2.83
	Central Hawkes Bay	41	20,968	7,232	511	176	2.81
Taranaki	New Plymouth	468	109,510	41,519	234	89	2.69
	Stratford	270	61,340	23,406	227	87	2.63
	South Taranaki	1,132	308,388	105,133	272	93	2.97
Wellington	Wanganui	20	7,312	2,788	366	139	2.69
	Rangitikei	86	31,082	10,403	361	121	2.93
	Manawatu	274	87,245	32,341	318	118	2.74
	Palmerston North City	38	14,859	5,452	391	143	2.72
	Horowhenua	127	42,525	15,828	335	125	2.70
	Kapiti Coast	20	5,521	2,438	276	122	2.39
	Upper Hutt City	6	848	425	141	71	2.02
	Tararua	317	95,775	34,880	302	110	2.75
	Masterton	18	6,875	2,329	382	129	2.90
	Carterton	64	20,760	7,665	324	120	2.72
	South Wairarapa	89	35,422	12,921	398	145	2.75
North Island		9,343	2,761,495	1,002,506	296	107	2.81

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	62	17,115	6,173	276	100	2.74
	Kaikoura	26	9,017	3,392	347	130	2.69
	Tasman / Nelson City	162	55,177	20,790	341	128	2.77
West Coast	Buller	129	45,013	19,536	349	151	2.38
	Grey	88	36,367	16,108	413	183	2.31
	Westland	152	46,201	23,483	304	154	2.04
North Canterbury	Hurunui	52	37,396	12,605	719	242	3.05
	Waimakariri	67	32,209	10,409	481	155	2.95
	Christchurch City	9	4,482	1,513	498	168	3.27
	Banks Peninsula	10	1,377	717	138	72	1.98
	Selwyn	165	105,651	33,441	640	203	3.20
	Ashburton	215	167,544	50,368	779	234	3.36
South Canterbury	Timaru/MacKenzie	109	69,229	21,484	635	197	3.28
	Waimate	62	49,173	15,074	793	243	3.25
Otago	Waitaki/Central Otago	104	64,810	21,989	623	211	3.10
	Dunedin City	63	20,430	7,772	324	123	2.64
	Clutha	155	75,644	27,420	488	177	2.76
Southland	Gore	103	48,914	18,183	475	177	2.70
	Invercargill	49	23,233	8,751	474	179	2.61
	Southland	505	246,335	91,211	488	181	2.70
South Island		2,287	1,155,317	410,419	505	179	2.80
New Zealand		11,630	3,916,812	1,412,925	337	121	2.81

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 282,463 kilograms of milksolids (Table 3.4), as well as the highest average kilograms of milksolids per effective hectare (1,263). Dunedin City district recorded the highest production per cow (423 kg of milksolids). The North Island district with the highest milksolids production per herd is Taupo with an average of 210,495 kilograms of milksolids.

Table 3.4 **Herd production analysis by district in 2006/07**

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	895,749	43,125	32,499	75,624	339	254	593	159	120	279
	Whangarei	973,853	48,595	35,868	84,464	376	277	654	161	119	280
	Kaipara	911,792	44,155	33,208	77,363	357	267	624	161	121	283
Central Auckland	Rodney	801,912	39,918	29,796	69,714	370	276	646	160	119	279
	Manukau City	792,221	36,350	28,194	64,544	458	355	813	164	127	291
	Papakura	463,544	20,973	16,603	37,576	318	252	571	137	109	245
	Franklin	845,977	39,920	30,732	70,653	427	328	755	170	131	300
South Auckland	Waikato	1,136,446	55,713	42,035	97,748	546	411	957	185	139	324
	Hamilton City	927,711	47,306	34,853	82,159	581	426	1,007	189	139	328
	Waipa	1,212,471	60,416	45,273	105,689	596	445	1,041	191	143	335
	Otorahanga	1,202,563	60,069	44,883	104,952	558	417	975	188	141	329
	Thames-Coromandel	858,049	41,937	31,360	73,297	448	335	782	168	125	293
	Hauraki	978,950	48,458	36,272	84,730	523	392	915	187	141	328
	Matamata-Piako	1,044,281	53,032	39,283	92,314	611	452	1,063	191	142	333
	South Waikato	1,291,499	63,468	47,638	111,106	592	444	1,036	197	148	346
	Bay of Plenty	1,161,561	57,417	42,794	100,211	534	397	931	177	132	308
	Tauranga	975,297	47,321	35,810	83,131	464	352	817	168	127	295
	Kawerau/Whakatane	1,189,596	56,448	42,976	99,424	548	417	964	190	145	335
	Opotiki	1,074,970	51,952	39,238	91,191	491	369	860	172	130	302

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	2,449,097	120,206	90,289	210,495	516	386	902	194	145	339
	Rotorua	1,579,426	76,430	57,485	133,915	529	398	926	194	146	339
Western Uplands	Waitomo	1,327,751	66,388	49,609	115,997	453	338	791	167	125	292
	Ruapehu	1,350,272	64,291	48,986	113,277	431	330	760	166	127	293
East Coast	Gisborne	993,400	41,723	34,570	76,293	290	241	531	110	91	201
	Wairoa	991,140	41,628	34,492	76,120	405	335	740	165	137	302
Hawkes Bay	Napier/Hastings	2,251,566	107,584	81,231	188,815	489	369	858	169	128	297
	Central Hawkes Bay	1,972,436	95,684	73,067	168,752	508	385	892	176	134	310
Taranaki	New Plymouth	838,816	44,039	32,077	76,116	501	365	865	186	135	321
	Stratford	826,163	42,716	31,569	74,286	491	363	853	186	138	323
	South Taranaki	963,957	51,086	37,530	88,616	558	409	966	187	137	324
Wellington	Wanganui	1,414,706	65,097	50,377	115,475	495	380	875	184	141	325
	Rangitikei	1,384,127	68,409	51,470	119,879	566	424	990	194	146	340
	Manawatu	1,247,147	60,795	46,051	106,846	514	388	902	186	141	326
	Palmerston North City	1,424,676	70,350	52,926	123,276	502	377	879	184	138	323
	Horowhenua	1,279,815	61,275	46,822	108,097	493	374	867	180	137	318
	Kapiti Coast	1,115,054	51,702	39,571	91,273	441	338	779	186	142	328
	Upper Hutt City	506,131	24,030	18,268	42,298	310	236	546	158	120	278
Wairarapa	Tararua	1,051,571	54,070	39,649	93,720	489	358	847	178	130	308
	Masterton	1,640,018	78,671	59,810	138,481	596	451	1,047	202	153	355
	Carterton	1,180,250	57,844	43,420	101,264	474	354	828	175	131	305
	South Wairarapa	1,506,024	74,511	56,544	131,055	516	390	906	185	140	326
North Island		1,098,475	54,754	40,920	95,674	520	387	907	183	137	320
Nelson/Marlborough	Marlborough	1,047,504	52,161	38,846	91,007	521	388	909	189	141	330
	Kaikoura	1,420,451	70,544	52,708	123,252	547	412	959	202	153	355
	Tasman/Nelson City	1,233,841	63,223	46,575	109,798	524	386	910	189	139	328
West Coast	Buller	1,209,558	62,662	46,331	108,993	496	366	862	206	151	357
	Grey	1,495,400	76,256	56,898	133,154	428	318	746	186	138	324
	Westland	1,107,765	58,814	42,753	101,566	399	290	690	196	143	339
North Canterbury	Hurunui	3,233,934	155,181	121,051	276,232	679	530	1,209	223	174	397
	Waimakariri	2,329,838	109,455	86,179	195,634	659	519	1,178	224	176	400
	Christchurch City	2,201,365	103,666	80,933	184,598	664	517	1,181	203	159	363
	Banks Peninsula	526,408	24,493	18,792	43,285	356	274	629	180	138	318
	Selwyn	2,765,866	133,460	103,637	237,096	679	528	1,207	216	169	385
	Ashburton	3,244,141	159,135	123,329	282,463	712	551	1,263	212	164	376
South Canterbury	Timaru/MacKenzie	2,760,873	132,614	103,739	236,353	704	549	1,253	214	167	381
	Waimate	3,205,270	157,173	121,400	278,573	673	522	1,196	212	164	376
Otago	Waitaki/Central Otago	2,616,203	126,058	97,946	224,004	656	509	1,165	212	165	377
	Dunedin City	1,532,734	71,571	56,180	127,751	616	487	1,103	236	187	423
	Clutha	2,140,376	102,561	79,930	182,491	589	460	1,048	213	166	379
Southland	Gore	2,147,840	103,909	80,597	184,506	595	461	1,056	221	171	392
	Invercargill	2,119,216	102,541	80,207	182,748	567	444	1,011	216	169	385
	Southland	2,148,623	105,365	81,825	187,191	591	459	1,051	219	170	389
South Island		2,129,933	104,290	80,415	184,705	591	455	1,046	211	162	373
New Zealand		1,301,308	64,495	48,687	113,182	534	400	934	189	142	330

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