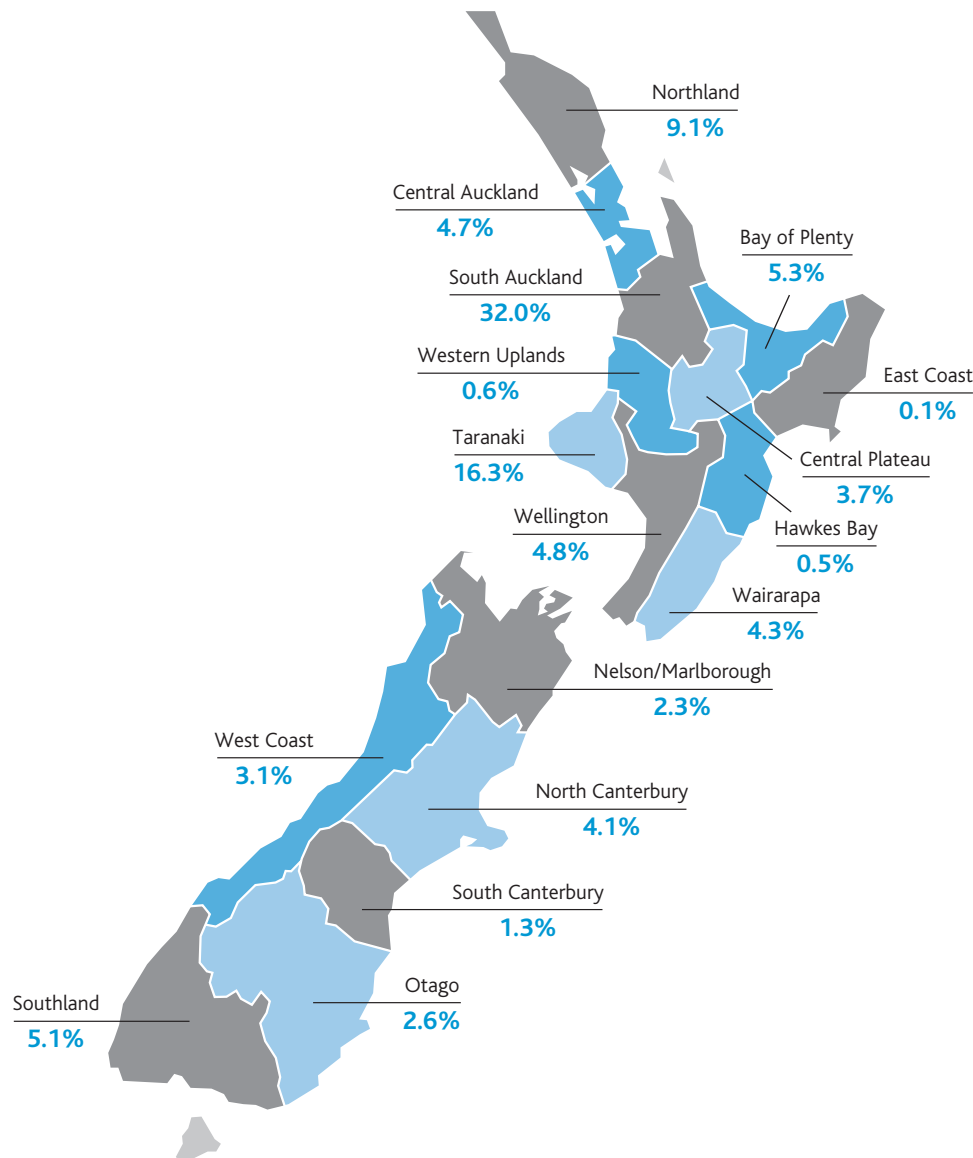


3. Regional dairy statistics

- 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 27.5% of the cows. The distribution of dairy herds within regions of each island in 2004/05 (Graph 3.1) has remained similar to previous seasons.

Graph 3.1 Regional distribution of dairy herds in 2004/05



- Over one million cows in the South Island
- Largest average herd size (636) and average cows per hectare (3.18) in South Canterbury
- Average herd size in the South Island reaches 470

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 (12,271) has dropped compared with the previous season (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 of 636 cows, an increase from the previous season's figure of 604 cows. In the North Island, Hawkes Bay has the largest average herd size of 545 cows. The smallest herd averages are in Central Auckland, Taranaki and Northland, averaging 221, 246 and 255 cows respectively. South Canterbury has the highest average cows per hectare (3.18), followed by North Canterbury (3.06) and South Auckland (2.98). The regions with the lowest average cows per hectare are found in the West Coast (2.16) and Northland (2.21).

Table 3.1 *Herd analysis by region in 2004/05*

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	1,118	9.1	285,040	7.4	130,263	9.2	255	117	2.21
Central Auckland	578	4.7	127,853	3.3	53,650	3.8	221	93	2.40
South Auckland	3,924	32.0	1,087,607	28.1	369,550	26.2	277	94	2.98
Bay of Plenty	647	5.3	188,752	4.9	66,223	4.7	292	102	2.88
Central Plateau	458	3.7	204,977	5.3	77,073	5.5	448	168	2.74
Western Uplands	78	0.6	28,606	0.7	11,034	0.8	367	141	2.68
East Coast	15	0.1	5,060	0.1	2,009	0.1	337	134	2.61
Hawkes Bay	66	0.5	35,948	0.9	12,761	0.9	545	193	2.75
Taranaki	2,006	16.3	492,486	12.7	174,594	12.4	246	87	2.86
Wellington	591	4.8	187,508	4.8	69,696	4.9	317	118	2.73
Wairarapa	529	4.3	160,353	4.1	58,992	4.2	303	112	2.73
North Island	10,010	81.6	2,804,190	72.5	1,025,845	72.7	280	102	2.79
Nelson/Marlborough	278	2.3	85,129	2.2	31,999	2.3	306	115	2.71
West Coast	379	3.1	123,776	3.2	57,761	4.1	327	152	2.16
North Canterbury	500	4.1	304,308	7.9	98,854	7.0	609	198	3.06
South Canterbury	154	1.3	97,893	2.5	31,208	2.2	636	203	3.18
Otago	321	2.6	152,316	3.9	54,807	3.9	475	171	2.78
Southland	629	5.1	300,047	7.8	111,120	7.9	477	177	2.70
South Island	2,261	18.4	1,063,469	27.5	385,749	27.3	470	171	2.74
New Zealand	12,271		3,867,659		1,411,594		315	115	2.78



- *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 226,619 kilograms of milksolids (Table 3.2). In the North Island, the Hawkes Bay region recorded the highest average herd production of 173,733 kilograms of milksolids.

In 2004/05, 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 (1,148 kg), while South Auckland had the highest average milksolid production in the North Island (924 kg).

North Canterbury had the highest average milksolids per cow (367 kg). The region with the lowest average milksolids per cow was recorded in Northland (257 kg).

Table 3.2 *Herd production analysis by region in 2004/05*

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	801,455	38,512	28,854	67,366	327	244	571	147	110	257
Central Auckland	774,934	36,837	27,874	64,711	397	300	697	164	124	288
South Auckland	998,090	49,283	36,547	85,830	531	393	924	177	131	309
Bay of Plenty	1,054,264	50,408	37,891	88,300	497	373	870	171	129	300
Central Plateau	1,619,965	77,955	58,219	136,174	494	368	862	181	135	316
Western Uplands	1,188,581	58,141	43,572	101,712	437	328	765	162	122	284
East Coast	1,233,630	48,058	43,270	91,328	420	355	774	164	138	302
Hawkes Bay	2,074,820	98,759	74,974	173,733	490	370	860	176	134	310
Taranaki	820,490	43,288	31,655	74,943	503	367	870	175	128	303
Wellington	1,190,158	57,438	43,271	100,708	492	370	862	180	136	316
Wairarapa	1,071,804	53,962	39,752	93,714	483	355	838	177	130	307
North Island	983,908	48,667	36,170	84,836	485	359	844	172	128	300
Nelson/Marlborough	1,102,677	55,492	40,743	96,235	505	371	876	185	136	322
West Coast	1,061,991	54,589	40,045	94,634	366	267	633	170	124	294
North Canterbury	2,597,115	124,835	95,248	220,083	634	485	1,119	208	159	367
South Canterbury	2,670,233	128,271	98,348	226,619	650	498	1,148	204	157	360
Otago	1,920,104	90,962	69,961	160,923	543	419	962	195	150	345
Southland	1,937,221	93,671	72,078	165,749	536	412	948	198	153	351
South Island	1,881,326	91,289	69,468	160,758	534	406	940	194	147	341
New Zealand	1,149,262	56,520	42,305	98,825	494	368	862	176	132	308

South Taranaki continues to be the district with the most herds (1,207) and cows (314,441), followed by Matamata-Piako (Table 3.3). Waimate in South Canterbury has the highest average herd size, with 763 cows and largest average effective hectares (249).



Table 3.3 *Herd analysis by district in 2004/05*

Region	District	Total herds	Total cows	Total effective hectares	Average herd size	Average effective hectares	Average cows per hectare
Northland	Far North	322	77,666	36,693	241	114	2.13
	Whangarei	361	98,603	43,377	273	120	2.29
	Kaipara	435	108,771	50,193	250	115	2.20
Central Auckland	Rodney	207	45,745	20,358	221	98	2.24
	Manukau City	21	4,249	1,599	202	76	2.65
	Papakura	10	2,172	866	217	87	2.46
South Auckland	Franklin	340	75,687	30,827	223	91	2.49
	Waikato	754	215,421	75,486	286	100	2.90
	Hamilton City	12	2,959	1,003	247	84	3.06
	Waipa	635	187,188	61,698	295	97	3.08
	Otorohanga	414	127,856	43,284	309	105	2.95
	Thames-Coromandel	102	24,724	9,917	242	97	2.55
	Hauraki	474	115,743	42,493	244	90	2.75
	Matamata-Piako	1,139	296,541	95,172	260	84	3.15
	South Waikato	394	117,175	40,497	297	103	2.95
Bay of Plenty	Western Bay of Plenty	216	67,989	22,541	315	104	3.01
	Tauranga	11	3,077	1,021	280	93	2.79
	Kawerau/Whakatane	329	92,871	33,585	282	102	2.83
	Opotiki	91	24,815	9,076	273	100	2.74
	Taupo	118	76,011	29,073	644	246	2.74
	Rotorua	340	128,966	48,000	379	141	2.73
Western Uplands	Waitomo	58	21,350	8,179	368	141	2.73
	Ruapehu	20	7,256	2,855	363	143	2.56
	Gisborne	7	3,170	1,285	453	184	2.58
East Coast	Wairoa	8	1,890	724	236	91	2.64
	Napier/Hastings	26	15,958	5,945	614	229	2.57
	Central Hawkes Bay	40	19,990	6,816	500	170	2.87
Taranaki	New Plymouth	497	112,852	42,770	227	86	2.68
	Stratford	302	65,193	24,880	216	82	2.65
	South Taranaki	1,207	314,441	106,944	261	89	2.98
Wellington	Wanganui	22	7,903	2,999	359	136	2.73
	Rangitikei	83	28,618	9,991	345	120	2.86
	Manawatu	284	86,466	32,505	304	114	2.71
	Palmerston North City	37	13,954	4,989	377	135	2.83
	Horowhenua	133	42,805	15,886	322	119	2.74
	Kapiti Coast	24	6,433	2,673	268	111	2.53
	Upper Hutt City	8	1,329	653	166	82	2.05
	Tararua	341	95,124	35,354	279	104	2.71
	Masterton	21	8,121	2,856	387	136	2.93
Wairarapa	Carterton	73	22,250	8,221	305	113	2.69
	South Wairarapa	94	34,858	12,561	371	134	2.80
North Island		10,010	2,804,190	1,025,845	280	102	2.79



(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	73	18,153	6,721	249	92	2.71
	Kaikoura	28	9,938	3,623	355	129	2.74
	Tasman / Nelson City	177	57,038	21,655	322	122	2.71
West Coast	Buller	134	45,292	19,302	338	144	2.37
	Grey	89	33,899	15,661	381	176	2.18
	Westland	156	44,585	22,798	286	146	1.98
North Canterbury	Hurunui	53	33,206	11,479	627	217	2.93
	Waimakariri	71	30,238	10,259	426	144	2.76
	Christchurch City	9	4,035	1,225	448	136	3.33
	Banks Peninsula	11	1,496	834	136	76	1.89
	Selwyn	164	98,266	33,054	599	202	3.05
	Ashburton	192	137,067	42,003	714	219	3.27
South Canterbury	Timaru/MacKenzie	105	60,490	18,989	576	181	3.22
	Waimate	49	37,403	12,219	763	249	3.11
Otago	Waitaki/Central Otago	94	57,008	19,193	606	204	3.01
	Dunedin City	73	21,304	8,233	292	113	2.57
	Clutha	154	74,004	27,381	481	178	2.74
Southland	Gore	100	47,824	17,240	478	172	2.76
	Invercargill	45	20,518	7,517	456	167	2.69
	Southland	484	231,705	86,363	479	178	2.69
South Island		2,261	1,063,469	385,749	470	171	2.74
New Zealand		12,271	3,867,659	1,411,594	315	115	2.78

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 265,083 kilograms of milksolids (Table 3.4). Christchurch City district recorded the highest average kilograms of milksolids per effective hectare (1,255), as well as the highest production per cow (387 kg of milksolids). The North Island district with the highest production is Napier/Hastings, with an average of 190,850 kilograms of milksolids per herd.

Table 3.4 Herd production analysis by district in 2004/05

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	734,212	34,583	26,109	60,691	293	220	513	137	103	240
	Whangarei	871,718	42,794	31,703	74,497	353	261	614	152	113	265
	Kaipara	792,919	37,867	28,521	66,388	330	248	579	150	113	263
Central Auckland	Rodney	748,233	37,121	27,499	64,620	367	271	638	163	120	283
	Manukau City	765,837	34,833	26,807	61,640	453	348	800	168	129	298
	Papakura	784,499	35,846	27,780	63,627	395	307	703	160	124	284
	Franklin	791,471	36,817	28,170	64,988	411	314	725	164	126	290
South Auckland	Waikato	1,012,038	48,939	36,637	85,576	497	371	868	171	128	298
	Hamilton City	816,271	41,361	30,264	71,626	505	366	871	166	121	286
	Waipa	1,072,569	52,935	39,327	92,262	550	406	956	177	131	309
	Otorahanga	1,102,784	54,468	40,410	94,878	522	387	909	177	131	308
	Thames-Coromandel	829,152	39,970	29,985	69,955	427	320	747	168	125	293
	Hauraki	862,014	42,310	31,464	73,774	481	357	839	175	130	305
	Matamata-Piako	940,027	47,457	34,800	82,257	572	419	990	182	133	315
Bay of Plenty	South Waikato	1,122,184	54,926	40,888	95,815	546	405	951	185	137	323
	Western Bay of Plenty	1,090,912	53,265	39,622	92,887	509	378	887	168	125	292
	Tauranga	963,179	46,242	34,825	81,067	449	338	787	157	119	276
	Kawerau/Whakatane	1,061,170	49,935	37,859	87,794	502	380	882	176	134	310
	Opotiki	953,315	45,842	34,272	80,114	456	340	796	165	123	287



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	2,214,570	106,909	80,133	187,042	478	356	834	174	130	304
	Rotorua	1,413,602	67,907	50,613	118,520	500	372	871	184	137	320
Western Uplands	Waitomo	1,179,360	58,557	43,678	102,235	443	330	772	162	120	282
	Ruapehu	1,215,321	56,934	43,264	100,198	422	322	743	164	125	290
East Coast	Gisborne	1,506,885	55,244	53,167	108,411	352	306	658	133	116	249
	Wairoa	994,531	41,770	34,610	76,380	479	397	876	190	158	348
Hawkes Bay	Napier/Hastings	2,298,408	108,416	82,434	190,850	449	341	790	172	131	303
	Central Hawkes Bay	1,929,487	92,481	70,125	162,606	516	388	905	180	135	315
Taranaki	New Plymouth	747,364	39,145	28,506	67,651	458	333	790	170	124	293
	Stratford	720,808	37,027	27,435	64,462	450	333	783	169	126	295
	South Taranaki	875,541	46,561	34,008	80,568	535	390	925	178	130	308
Wellington	Wanganui	1,374,353	63,914	48,571	112,485	486	367	854	178	135	312
	Rangitikei	1,252,585	62,211	46,431	108,642	517	385	901	181	135	316
	Manawatu	1,161,459	56,387	42,399	98,786	491	369	861	181	136	317
	Palmerston North City	1,332,612	65,332	48,591	113,923	498	370	867	178	132	310
	Horowhenua	1,207,115	56,978	43,375	100,354	494	373	867	180	137	317
	Kapiti Coast	1,027,039	47,324	36,146	83,470	443	339	782	175	134	309
	Upper Hutt City	603,338	28,876	21,855	50,730	358	272	630	176	134	309
Wairarapa	Tararua	957,073	49,129	35,889	85,018	474	345	819	175	127	302
	Masterton	1,548,821	74,689	56,118	130,807	567	423	990	195	145	340
	Carterton	1,090,826	53,610	39,865	93,476	472	350	822	176	131	307
	South Wairarapa	1,366,668	67,134	50,024	117,159	508	377	885	181	135	316
North Island		983,908	48,667	36,170	84,836	485	359	844	172	128	300
Nelson/Marlborough	Marlborough	943,000	46,830	34,563	81,393	516	380	896	190	140	330
	Kaikoura	1,341,987	66,329	48,724	115,053	528	391	918	192	142	334
	Tasman/Nelson City	1,130,675	57,349	42,030	99,379	497	364	861	182	134	316
West Coast	Buller	1,095,125	55,927	41,168	97,094	400	291	691	168	123	291
	Grey	1,276,863	64,497	47,891	112,388	370	273	643	171	126	296
	Westland	910,942	47,787	34,605	82,392	336	242	578	172	124	296
North Canterbury	Hurunui	2,680,204	127,838	97,281	225,119	601	457	1,058	205	156	361
	Waimakariri	2,008,316	93,150	72,267	165,417	591	460	1,051	214	166	380
	Christchurch City	2,092,167	97,888	74,938	172,826	708	547	1,255	218	169	387
	Banks Peninsula	498,110	22,848	17,387	40,236	319	243	562	170	130	300
	Selwyn	2,534,252	120,702	92,440	213,142	635	488	1,123	210	162	372
	Ashburton	2,989,533	146,358	110,997	257,355	674	510	1,184	206	156	362
	Timaru/MacKenzie	2,465,171	118,052	90,616	208,669	663	509	1,172	206	158	363
Otago	Waimate	3,109,651	150,167	114,916	265,083	620	476	1,096	200	154	354
	Waitaki/Central Otago	2,490,177	118,531	90,854	209,385	608	466	1,074	201	154	355
	Dunedin City	1,284,473	59,237	46,027	105,265	524	408	932	204	159	362
Southland	Clutha	1,873,444	89,173	68,554	157,727	512	395	907	187	144	331
	Gore	1,890,737	90,998	69,693	160,691	534	409	942	193	148	341
	Invercargill	1,908,378	91,022	70,759	161,781	528	412	940	197	153	350
South Island	Southland	1,949,506	94,469	72,694	167,163	537	413	950	199	154	353
	South Island	1,881,326	91,289	69,468	160,758	534	406	940	194	147	341
New Zealand		1,149,262	56,520	42,305	98,825	494	368	862	176	132	308

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

