

Dairy Sector Quickfacts

ECONOMICS AND MARKETS



Herds and cows

Total number of herds **10,485**

Average herd size **448**

Number of cows (milking) **4.7m**

Milk production



20.9 billion

litres of milk processed by New Zealand dairy companies in 2024/25

1.94 billion kgs of milksolids produced by dairy farmers in 2024/25

1.7 million total effective hectares of dairy land in New Zealand

Dairy employs almost

55,000 people

On farm – **40,000**

Processing – **15,000**



Operating structure

Approx herds

Owner operator – **5500**

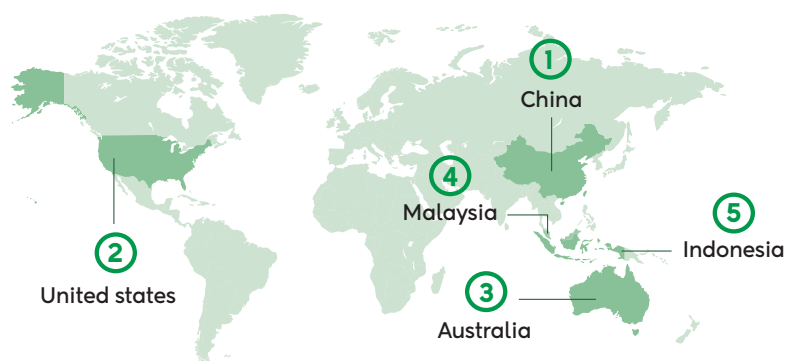
Contract milkers – **1500**

Sharemilkers – **3000**



84% of dairy farmers have a Farm Environment Plan

TOP 5 MARKETS for New Zealand dairy exports are:



Export markets

\$27 billion

of dairy exports for the year ending June 2025

That's around one in every four export dollars earned by New Zealand.

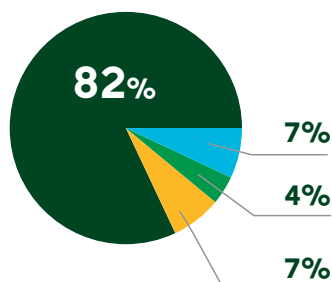
New Zealand is the world's **largest exporter** of dairy products, but is only the **8th** largest milk producer worldwide.

New Zealand produces

3%

of all the milk in the world

What we feed our cows



- Pasture
- Crops
- Harvested supplement
- Imported supplement

New Zealand is the lowest cost producer of milk in the world

