

DairyNZ 

Together.  
Let's vote.



Together.  
Let's make  
it count.





**Together.**  
Let's vote.

## Why vote?

You're voting on whether the Milksolids Levy you currently pay to fund DairyNZ continues to invest in:

- Research and development to create practical on-farm tools and future-focused solutions
- Science-based advocacy for farmers with central and regional government
- Helping farmers respond to change and seize opportunities.
- Under the Commodity Levies Act 1990, dairy farmers must vote every six years on whether the levy continues.

**When:** Voting opens 16 February and closes 13 March 2026

**How:** Vote online at [dairynz.co.nz/levy-vote](https://dairynz.co.nz/levy-vote) or by post





## About DairyNZ

DairyNZ, is the industry-good organisation representing all New Zealand dairy farmers. It leads research, advocacy and the development of practical on-farm tools and resources to support farmers to respond to change and to access opportunities.

## What is the Milksolids Levy?

The Milksolids Levy is the primary source of funding for DairyNZ's work. It enables investment into practical on-farm tools, research, farmer support, extension, and advocacy to help farmers respond to change and seize opportunities. DairyNZ, the industry organisation representing all New Zealand dairy farmers, carries out this work on behalf of Levy Payers.

## How much is the levy currently?

4.5 cents per kilogram of milksolids.

## What is the Milksolids Levy invested in?

Your levy is an investment in DairyNZ. This is an investment in shared knowledge; sharing the costs and outcomes of future-focused research; practical on-farm solutions; and having a clear, united voice for more government support and favourable policy.

Shared knowledge

Research into action

A Strong voice

Practical solutions

These shared activities are connected to DairyNZ's core priorities to deliver a positive future for New Zealand dairy farming:

### Driving productivity

As we lock in as the world's most productive dairy farmers, our focus includes three key investment areas:

- One BW
- Resilient pastures
- Extended lactation

### Strengthening farm systems

We look to future proof the way we farm with investments such as:

- Maximising on-farm data
- DairyBase partnerships
- Biosecurity Act advocacy

### Competing on sustainability

We help farmers embrace responsible dairy as a competitive advantage, with key work such as:

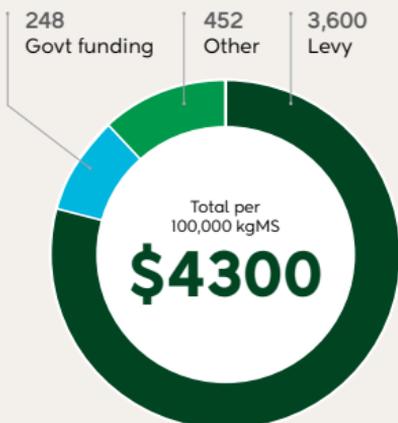
- Dairy Beef Opportunities project
- Ecosystem health research
- Greenhouse gas research

Working alongside farmers, DNZ continues to prioritise initiatives that can accelerate and expand a positive impact and influence to benefit more farmers, faster.

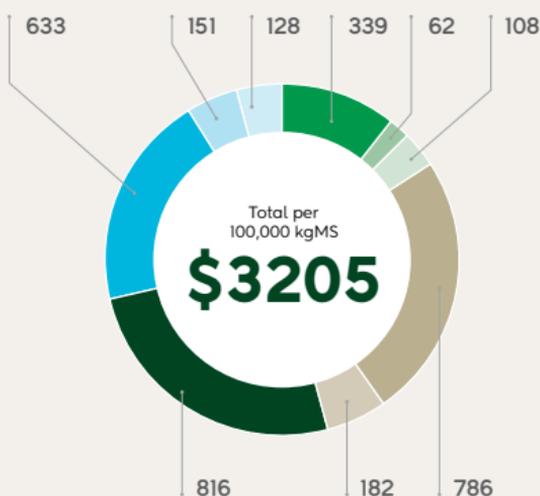
## How the levy was invested in 2024/25

expressed as dollars per 100,000 kgMS

### Funding (income)

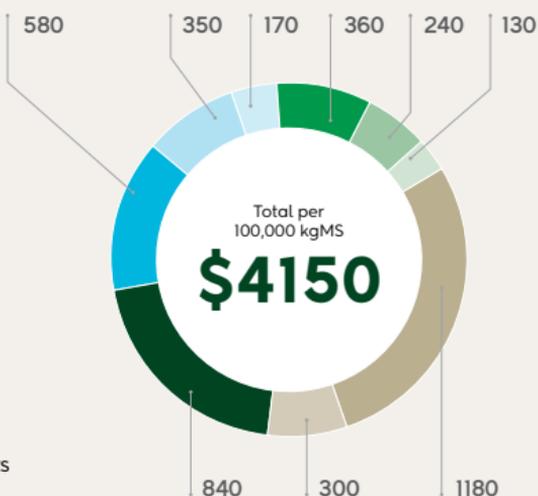


### Funding invested into strategic programmes (77% of total expenditure)



## 2026 levy funding targets

expressed as dollars per 100,000 kgMS



\* Excludes operational costs and overheads

## Key:

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ Genetic gain        | ■ Biosecurity systems |
| ■ First in forage     | ■ Water quality       |
| ■ Power up our people | ■ Animal care         |
| ■ Future farm systems | ■ Greenhouse gases    |
| ■ Economic insights   |                       |

## Return on investment

Through your collective investment in the levy, results are delivered on farm, in the community, and across the industry. Independent economic analysis of the Milksolids Levy since 2020 has shown a 7x return, through productivity gains and costs and risks avoided.

- \$341 million in levy revenue is estimated to have generated nearly \$3 billion in value
- A levy return equivalent to 26 cents per kgMS per year or
- \$187 per hectare per year

## What happens if there is a No vote?

A 'No' vote means the Milksolids Levy would stop, leading to the wind-down of DairyNZ. The sector would lose its unified voice, central funding for research and advice, and ability to co-invest with government and others. Responses to challenges would become fragmented and costlier. Other levy-supported initiatives like Dairy Women's Network, industry awards, and other programmes would also be affected.



## It's time to vote. Together.

The upcoming Milksolids Levy vote is a chance to do what you've always done for the sector – to come together to continue building a stronger future for NZ dairy farming.

For generations, you've been part of each other's success. You've shared knowledge. You've shared the cost of future-focused research, and its on-farm benefits. You've established the clear, united voice of dairy that has generated more government support and practical policy.

That's what your levy is for – a collective investment that has supported you on farm and in your community, and what keeps us all moving forward.

And there's more to get done.

So let's keep ahead.  
Let's vote - together.

For more information



[dairynz.co.nz/levy-vote](https://dairynz.co.nz/levy-vote)

*DairyNZ* 

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