

Dairy sector quickfacts

NEW ZEALAND DAIRYING

PEOPLE, ANIMALS AND ENVIRONMENT

PEOPLE

THE VALUE OF DAIRYING
IN NEW ZEALAND

People employed in the dairy sector (2017)¹



38,700 EMPLOYEES

NUMBER EMPLOYED²

On-farm



26,500

Processing and
wholesaling



12,200

60% of dairy herds are run by owner-operators⁴

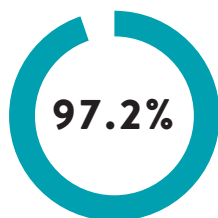
27% of dairy herds are run by sharemilkers⁴

12% of dairy herds have contract milkers⁴

59% of all sharemilkers are 50/50 sharemilkers³



ENVIRONMENT



of waterways have dairy
cattle excluded⁵

550b m³



New Zealand's annual rainfall (equal
to about 220 million Olympic-sized
swimming pools)⁷

4.8b m³



of water is used on dairy farms
(97% for irrigation)⁸

ANIMAL CARE



1ST PLACE

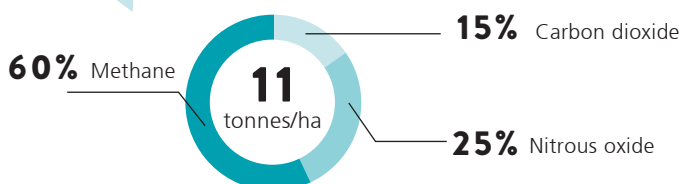
for New Zealand's animal welfare
standards (along with the United Kingdom,
Austria and Switzerland) ranked by the
Animal Protection Index (2014) which
evaluates 50 countries across the world⁶



99.4%

of 44,386 stock crossing points have bridges
or culverts⁹

Average emissions from a
New Zealand dairy farm¹⁰



22.5%



New Zealand biological emissions are
attributed to the dairy sector¹⁰

REFERENCES

- ¹⁻² NZIER Report “How does the dairy sector share it’s growth?” (www.nzier.org.nz).
- ³ New Zealand Dairy Statistics 2017-18 (www.dairynz.co.nz/dairystats).
- ⁴ New Zealand Dairy Statistics 2017-18 (www.dairynz.co.nz/dairystats).
- ⁵ The Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord (www.dairynz.co.nz/wateraccord).
- ⁶ See the full Animal Protection Index at <https://api.worldanimalprotection.org/> and read the 2014 media release at <https://www.worldanimalprotection.org.nz/news/new-global-index-shows-new-zealand-world-leader-animal-welfare>.
- ⁷ Collins, D, Zammit, C, Willsman, A, & Henderson, R (2015). Surface water components of New Zealand’s national water accounts, 1995–2014. Prepared for the Ministry for the Environment. Retrieved from www.data.mfe.govt.nz.
- ⁸ Higham, C. 2017. Water use on pastoral dairy farms in New Zealand: An analysis of measurements, predictions, and water footprinting. Doctor of Philosophy, Institute of Agriculture and Environment, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand.
- ⁹ The Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord (www.dairynz.co.nz/wateraccord).
- ¹⁰ Key drivers of GHG emissions on New Zealand dairy farms, DairyNZ.