

# Dairy Sector Quickfacts

## ECONOMICS AND MARKETS



### Herds and cows

Total number of herds **10,370**

Average herd size **451**

Number of cows (milking) **4.68m**

### Milk production



**21 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**



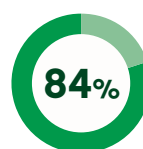
### Operating structure

Approx herds

Owner operator – **5500**

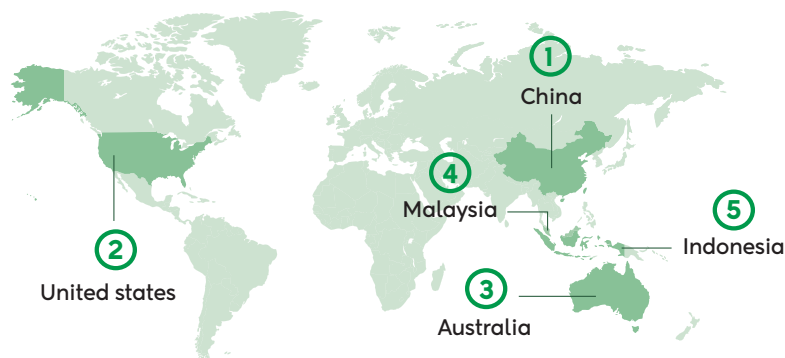
Contract milkers – **1500**

Sharemilkers – **3000**



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.*

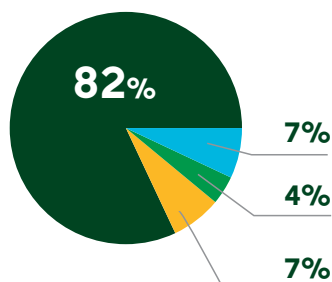
New Zealand is the world's **largest exporter** of dairy products, but is only the **8<sup>th</sup>** largest milk producer worldwide.

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

