

# Agricultural Production Statistics: June 2014 (final)

Embargoed until 10:45am – 13 May 2015

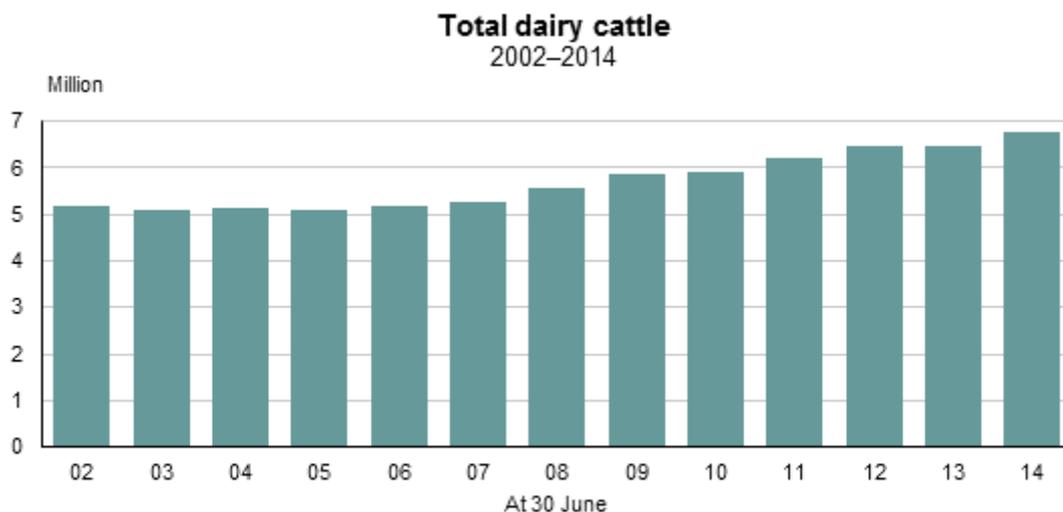
## Key facts

At 30 June 2014, the number of:

- sheep was 29.8 million, down 983,000 from 2013
- dairy cattle was nearly 6.7 million, 3 percent more than in 2013
- beef cattle was 3.7 million, down 29,000 from 2013
- deer decreased 7 percent, to 958,000

During the year ended 30 June 2014:

- the harvested area of wheat decreased by 1,200 hectares (3 percent) from 2013



Source: Statistics New Zealand

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## Commentary

- Sheep number drops almost a million
- Dairy cattle number increase mainly in South Island
- Number of beef cattle decreases slightly
- Deer number falls below 1 million
- Number of pigs continues to drop
- Arable crops
- Horticulture
- Little change in forestry harvest

This release contains final results for key livestock, forestry, arable crops, and horticultural crops from the 2014 Agricultural Production Survey. Statistics in this release may differ from the provisional statistics published in December 2014. Since the provisional release, we have received more survey responses and done more data processing and analysis.

Figures in this release are rounded. All percentage changes are calculated using unrounded figures.

### Sheep number drops almost a million

There were 29.8 million sheep in the national flock at 30 June 2014, a decline of 3 percent (983,000) from the previous year. The last time New Zealand had fewer than 30 million sheep was in 1943.

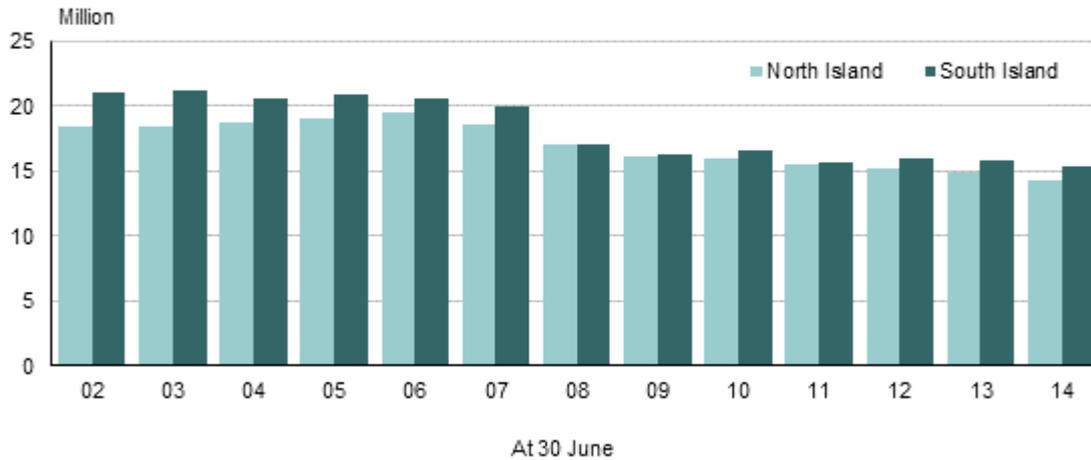
The number of sheep decreased by 4 percent (596,000) in the North Island, and 2 percent (387,000) in the South Island. There was a similar number of sheep in each island, with 14.4 million in the North Island and 15.4 million sheep in the South Island at 30 June 2014.

Manawatu-Wanganui was the most significant sheep farming region in the North Island (5.3 million sheep) followed by Hawke's Bay (2.9 million). The most significant sheep farming regions in the South Island were Otago (5.3 million), Canterbury (5 million), and Southland (4.3 million).

Canterbury was the region with the most significant fall in the number of sheep, down 255,000 (5 percent). Waikato followed, with 227,000 (12 percent) fewer sheep than in 2013.

China and the United Kingdom (UK) were our key destinations for lamb exports in the year ended 30 June 2014. We exported 94,000 tonnes of lamb to China and 60,000 tonnes to the UK.

### Sheep in the North and South islands 2002–2014



Source: Statistics New Zealand

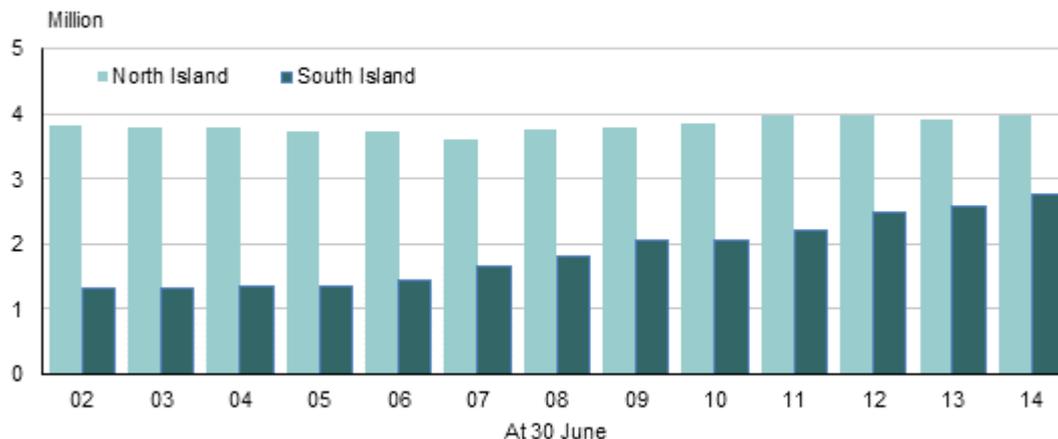
### Dairy cattle number increase mainly in South Island

The number of dairy cattle increased 3 percent between 2013 and 2014, mainly due to increases in the South Island. At 30 June 2014, the national herd numbered 6.7 million, up 215,000 from 2013. The number of dairy cattle in the South Island increased by 6 percent (148,000), while the number in the North Island increased by 2 percent (67,000).

The regions with the largest shifts in number between 2013 and 2014 were Southland, Waikato, and Manawatu-Wanganui. The Southland number was up 85,000 (14 percent), Waikato increased 77,000 (4 percent), and Manawatu-Wanganui increased 33,000 (7 percent).

The South Island dairy herd has been increasing since 2005 and now accounts for 40 percent of the national herd, compared with 27 percent in 2005. At 30 June 2014, there were 2.7 million dairy cattle in the South Island compared with 1.4 million in 2005 – the total almost doubled in this period.

## Dairy cattle in the North and South islands 2002–2014



Source: Statistics New Zealand

### Number of beef cattle decreases slightly

In 2014, there was a slight decrease in the total number of beef cattle when compared with 2013. There were 3.7 million beef cattle at 30 June 2014, down 1 percent (29,000) from 2013.

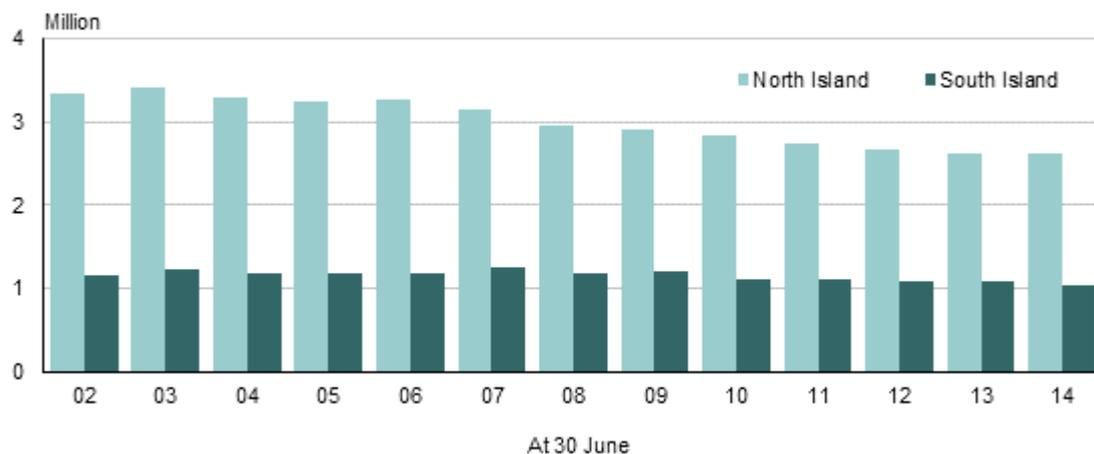
Beef farming continues to be predominantly in the North Island, with 71 percent (2.6 million) of the national beef cattle herd in the North Island at 30 June 2014.

The regions with the largest falls in beef cattle from 2013 were Northland (47,000 decrease), Canterbury (46,000 decrease), and Waikato (32,000 decrease). These falls were almost offset by regional increases that included Gisborne (17,000 increase), Wellington (17,000 increase), and Otago (17,000 increase).

At 30 June 2014 there were 1 million beef cows and heifers in calf, slightly less than in 2013.

We exported over \$1.0 billion of frozen beef (196,000 tonnes) to North America in the June 2014 year, and \$82 million (9,000 tonnes) to the European Union.

## Beef cattle in the North and South islands 2002–2014



Source: Statistics New Zealand

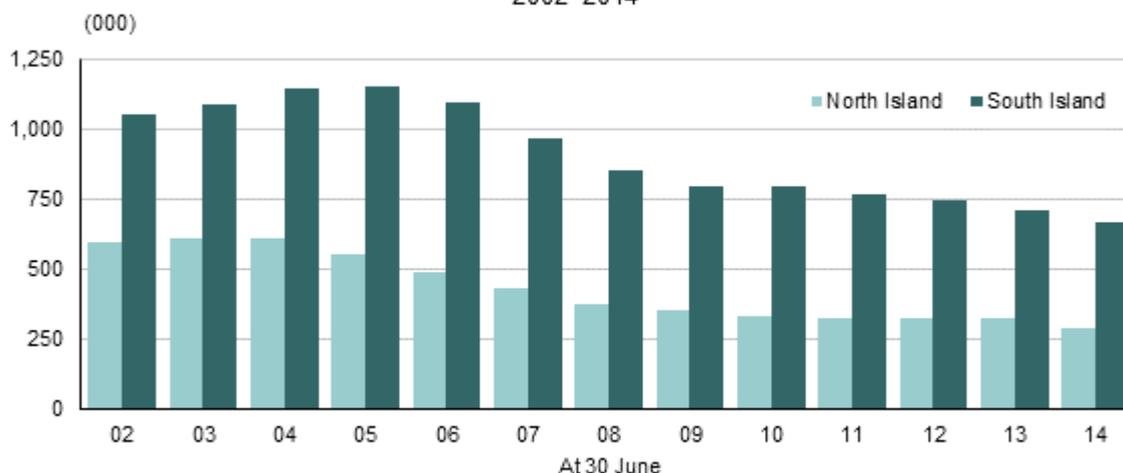
### Deer number falls below 1 million

The total number of farmed deer in New Zealand has continued to decline, and was 958,000 at 30 June 2014. The last time there was under 1 million deer was in 1990. Since then, the number peaked in 2004 before starting a gradual decline. Venison prices remained subdued in 2014.

Deer farming is mainly concentrated in the South Island, which has 70 percent (668,000) of the national herd. In 2014, the three key deer farming regions in the South Island were Canterbury (253,000), Southland (223,000), and Otago (139,000).

During the year ended 30 June 2014, 375,000 fawns were born and alive at four months, down 6 percent on 2013. This fall reflects 20,000 fewer females being mated in 2013 than in 2012.

## Deer in the North and South islands 2002–2014



Source: Statistics New Zealand

## Number of pigs continues to drop

The number of pigs was estimated to be 287,000 at 30 June 2014 – 4 percent less than in 2013. Canterbury continues to be New Zealand's largest pig farming region, with 58 percent of the total.

Pig numbers have been falling since 2010, while imported pig meat has continued to increase. Imports of pig meat have risen from 19,000 tonnes in 2004 to 34,000 tonnes in 2014, a 79 percent increase.

## Arable crops

### Wheat

For the year ending 30 June 2014, 48,000 hectares of wheat was harvested, down 3 percent from 2013. A total of 413,000 tonnes was harvested, equating to a yield per hectare of 8.6 tonnes – less than the previous year's 9.1 tonnes per hectare. The dry summer in 2013 was conducive to a good wheat harvest.

### Barley

During the year ended 30 June 2014, 59,000 hectares of barley was harvested, down 3 percent from 2013. The total yield was 406,000 tonnes, down from 416,000 tonnes in 2013. The yield for barley remained at 6.8 tonnes per hectares, as for 2013.

Canterbury accounted for almost two-thirds (65 percent) of the total area harvested. Barley is commonly used for stock feed.

## **Maize grain**

The area of maize grain harvested was 22,000 hectares for the year ending 30 June 2014, up 16 percent from 2013.

Nearly all maize grain is harvested in the North Island. The main growing regions are Hawke's Bay, Waikato, Manawatu-Wanganui, and Bay of Plenty.

## **Horticulture**

### **Apples**

During the year ended 30 June 2014, the planted area of apples was 8,420 hectares, down 5 percent from 2012. Hawke's Bay and Tasman were the two main growing regions, accounting for 86 percent of the total harvested area. Between 2012 and 2014 the harvested area in Hawke's Bay decreased 5 percent (to 4,860 hectares), while the Tasman area also decreased 5 percent (to 2,370 hectares).

The total value of apple exports for the year ended 30 June 2014 was \$536 million, up 13 percent from 2013. The quantity exported in the June 2014 year was 325,000 tonnes, up 2 percent from 2013.

### **Cherries**

The planted area in cherries at 30 June 2014 (660 hectares) was 7 percent above the 2012 planted area. Cherries are grown almost exclusively in Otago, with 82 percent of the total planted area.

In the June 2014 year, the main export destinations for cherries were Taiwan (34 percent), China (20 percent), and Thailand (16 percent).

## **Little change in forestry harvest**

During the year ended 31 March 2014, 26.4 million cubic metres of exotic forestry timber was harvested from 50,000 hectares of plantation.

The new area of exotic forest planted in 2014 decreased 60 percent from 2013 (to 4,000 hectares). During the same period, the replanted area of exotic forest decreased 5 percent (to 41,000 hectares). The area replanted decreased in both islands, down 1 percent (1,000 hectares) in the North Island and down 14 percent (2,000 hectares) in the South Island.

For more detailed agricultural data see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

## Definitions

### About the Agricultural Production Survey

The Agricultural Production Survey is part of an ongoing programme of agricultural production statistics conducted in partnership with the Ministry for Primary Industries. Previous sample surveys were held in 2003–06, 2008–11, and 2013, with censuses in 2002, 2007, and 2012.

The 2014 survey covers land use, animal farming (livestock), horticultural and arable crops, forestry, and farming practices in New Zealand (including fertiliser and cultivation). This release contains final results from the 2014 Agricultural Production Survey.

### More definitions

**Arable land:** capable of being ploughed, fit for tillage (not pasture or woodland).

**Bull:** an entire (ie not castrated) male cattle.

**Calf:** a young cattle of either sex between birth and weaning, with eight temporary teeth. Also sometimes refers to animals up to one year old.

**Calving percentage:** calculated either by calves weaned to number of cows mated, or calves sold to cows mated in the previous year.

**Cow:** a mature female cattle beast of any age, but usually over 30 months.

**Dairy milking herd:** milk-producing cows and heifers, which includes all cows and heifers either in milk or in calf.

**Dairy replacement herd:** dairy cows and heifers not currently producing milk and all calves and heifers reared for future dairy breeding and milking.

**Dry cow/ewe:** a female animal not carrying offspring.

**Ewe:** a female sheep.

**Exotic timber:** timber harvested from trees which are not native to New Zealand.

**Flock:** a group of sheep, angora or feral goats, or poultry.

**Heifer:** a female cattle having no more than six permanent incisors.

**Herd:** a group of cattle, horses, or milking goats (or pigs and deer).

**Hogget:** a young male or female sheep having no more than two permanent incisors in wear.

**Lamb:** a sheep under 12 months of age, or without any permanent teeth in wear.

**Lambing percentage:** the number of lambs marked or tailed per ewe mated in the previous year.

**Ram:** an adult uncastrated male sheep having more than two permanent incisors in wear.

**Schedule:** the basic minimum price paid to a farmer by a meat processing company. Based on categories of stock. Usually announced weekly. Variable premiums can apply for particular groups at certain times.

**Steer:** a male cattle castrated when young. Does not develop secondary sexual characteristics (eg large shoulders) or masculine temperament.

**Two-tooth:** a sheep with two teeth (a one-year-old).

**Wether:** a castrated male sheep.

## **Related links**

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*Agricultural Production Statistics: June 2015 (provisional)* will be released on 15 December 2015.

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### **Past releases**

[Agricultural Production Statistics – information releases](#) has links to past releases.

### **Related information**

More information on [agriculture, horticulture, and forestry](#) is available on our website.

## Data quality

### Period-specific information

This section contains information about data that has changed since the last release.

- [Survey information](#)
- [2014 questionnaire changes \(from 2013\)](#)
- [Sample design](#)
- [2014 sampling error and imputation levels](#)
- [Response rates](#)

### General information

This section has information that does not change between releases.

- [About the estimates](#)
- [Population frame](#)
- [Survey population](#)
- [Population changes](#)
- [Survey content changes](#)
- [Past questionnaire changes](#)
- [Reliability of sample survey estimates](#)
- [Imputation](#)
- [Confidentiality](#)
- [Quality suppression](#)
- [More information](#)

## Period-specific information

### Survey information

This release contains final results for livestock, forestry, and arable crops from the 2014 Agricultural Production Survey. These final figures are at the regional level.

The 2014 survey was part of the current programme of agricultural production statistics that started in 2002. Previous censuses were held in 2002, 2007, and 2012, with annual sample surveys in 2003–06, 2008–11, and 2013.

Responses from farmers and foresters in the 2014 Agricultural Production Survey resulted in an estimated eligible population of 56,600 enterprises.

### 2014 questionnaire changes (from 2013)

**Horticulture** – in 2014, we included questions on the area of fruit trees and vines planted, and the area of vegetables and other horticulture crops harvested.

**Farm practices** – in 2014, we included questions on the irrigated area of the farm.

**Sheep breeds** – in 2014, we did not include questions on the breed of sheep.

## Sample design

For the 2014 Agricultural Production Survey, we used a stratified sample design to select a sample from the population. In selecting this sample, we stratified the population by regional council area, ANZSIC06 group, and size group.

We determined the size groups as follows:

- For businesses that had previously responded to one or more of the agricultural production censuses or surveys since 2002, we used the most-recent production data to form size groups. The variables used covered a range of livestock and cropping variables. Typically, three size groups were formed: small, medium, and large.
- For new businesses or businesses that had not responded to any of the 2002 to 2013 agricultural collections, we took a random sample.

The 2014 survey had a sample size of 30,000 businesses.

We optimised the 2014 sample design to produce a specified sampling error for certain combinations of key variables and regions, but not all. Given the dynamic nature of the agricultural sector, the sample errors for 2014 may sometimes be smaller or larger than planned, particularly for sectors that change rapidly.

## 2014 sampling error and imputation levels

Sampling error and imputation levels for the 2014 Agricultural Production Survey		
	Relative sampling errors at 95% confidence interval (%)	% of total estimate imputed
Ewe hoggets put to ram	6	16
Breeding ewes (2-tooth and over) put to ram	3	15
<b>Total sheep</b>	3	15
Lambs born to ewe hoggets	7	15
Lambs born to ewes	3	15
<b>Total lambs</b>	3	15
Dairy cows and heifers, in milk or calf	3	24
<b>Total dairy cattle</b>	3	24
Calves born alive to dairy heifers/cows	3	25
Beef cows and heifers in calf (aged 1–2 years)	7	18
Beef cows and heifers in calf (aged 2 years and over)	4	14
<b>Total beef cattle</b>	3	16
Calves born alive to beef heifers/cows	4	16
Female deer mated	8	12
<b>Total deer</b>	7	13
Fawns born on the farm	8	12
Breeding sows (aged 1 year and over)	3	8
Mated gilts	3	7

<b>Total pigs</b>	2	9
Piglets weaned on the farm	3	7
Area of new forestry plantings (hectares)	24	3
Area of forestry replantings (hectares)	6	3
Exotic timber harvested (hectares)	3	4
Exotic timber harvested (cubic metres)	3	4
Wheat harvested (tonnage)	9	19
Wheat area harvested (hectares)	9	17
Barley harvested (tonnage)	7	17
Barley area harvested (hectares)	7	18
Maize grain harvested (tonnage)	15	14
Maize grain area harvested (hectares)	14	14
Apple (hectares)	1	9
Avocados (hectares)	3	18
Kiwifruit (hectares)	3	14
Wine grapes (hectares)	1	12
Blackcurrants (hectares)	32	3
Cherries (hectares)	4	10
Onions (hectares)	6	3
Potatoes (hectares)	8	7
Buttercup squash (hectares)	12	5
Peas (hectares)	15	12
Sweet corn (hectares)	18	9

### **Response rates**

The estimated proportion of eligible businesses that responded to the 2014 Agricultural Production Survey for this final release was 80 percent. These businesses represent 86 percent of the total estimated value of agricultural operations.

## **General information**

### **About the estimates**

Figures in this release are rounded. We calculate all percentages in this release using unrounded figures. The figures from the agricultural production surveys may differ from those produced from other sources, such as the National Exotic Forestry Description Survey produced by the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Stock Number Survey from Beef and Lamb New Zealand Limited, and Dairy Statistics from Livestock Improvement Corporation Limited. These surveys use different survey frames and designs.

### **Population frame**

The agricultural production surveys include all units identified on Statistics NZ's Business Frame as having agricultural activity. The Business Frame is a list of businesses in New Zealand, based on their registration for goods and services tax (GST) with Inland Revenue.

The compulsory registration level for GST is \$60,000, so there is a partial and unquantifiable coverage of units below this level.

## **Survey population**

The survey population for the agricultural production surveys is all businesses engaged in 'agricultural production activity' (including livestock, cropping, horticulture, and forestry), or which own land intended for agricultural activity. The survey population includes businesses engaged in agriculture or forestry production as a secondary activity.

## **Industries in scope**

The survey population specifically includes businesses classified to the following ANZSIC06 codes:

- A01 Agriculture
- A0301 Forestry (excluding native forestry).

It also includes parts of:

- L671200 Non-residential property operators
- M691000 Scientific research services (agriculture-related research that involves land holding (excluding universities))
- P802300 Combined primary and secondary education (agricultural high school operation)
- P802400 Special school education (special needs education involving agricultural production activity)
- P810200 Higher education (agriculture-related research undertaken by universities that involves land holding)
- R912100 Horse and dog racing administration and track operation
- R912900 Other horse and dog racing activities (racehorse training and racing stables operations)
- R892200 Nature reserves and conservation parks operation.

The survey population specifically excludes:

- A019300 Beekeeping
- part of A019900 Other livestock farming nec (worm farming, pet breeding, dog breeding, cat breeding, bird breeding (except poultry, game birds, ostriches, and emus))
- A017100 Poultry meat (except growers who also produce eggs for human consumption).

## **Population changes**

For the 2002 Agricultural Production Census, we sourced the population from the Business Frame and the Inland Revenue Client Register. We checked these sources against industry lists and AgriBase to ensure all large units were included in the population.

After the 2002 Census, we use the Business Frame for the census and survey populations.

## **Survey content changes**

Over the years, we have changed the core information we gather in agricultural production collections.

Since 2002, these collections have gathered information on livestock and arable farming, horticulture, and forestry with the following exception:

- In 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2013, the surveys collected information on livestock and arable farming, and forestry (we did not collect horticulture production information).

## **Past questionnaire changes**

### **Forestry**

The reference date for forestry production estimates changed to 31 March in the 2005 Agricultural Production Survey. This change was made to allow the forestry section of the survey to align more closely with the National Exotic Forest Description survey run by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

For the 2002 Census, and the 2003 and 2004 surveys, the year-ended date was 31 December. For agricultural production collections before the 2002 Agricultural Production Census, the year-ended date was 30 June.

### **Fawns**

Since the 2005 survey, the data relates to fawns born on the farm that were alive at four months. In 2003 and 2004, data related to fawns weaned on the farm. In 2002, data related to fawns born on the farm. The change took industry recommendations into account.

### **Deer**

Deer figures since the 2004 survey are not directly comparable with 2002 and 2003 figures. Improvements we made to the questions about deer in the 2004, 2005, and 2006 surveys have resulted in improved deer number estimates. While it is not possible to quantify the exact extent of the previous undercoverage, we estimate an undercount of about 70,000 deer at 30 June 2002, and 50,000 at 30 June 2003.

## **Reliability of sample survey estimates**

This release contains statistics from the 2002 to 2014 agricultural production collections. All results from these collections are subject to non-sampling error, and sampling error.

**Non-sampling error** arises from bias in the patterns of response and non-response, inaccuracies in reporting by respondents, and errors in recording and classifying data. Non-sampling error comprises coverage error, measurement error (which arise from respondents, questionnaires, and collection methods), non-response error, and processing error. We use procedures to detect and minimise these types of error, but they may still occur and are not easy to quantify.

**Sampling error** occurs because we base inferences about the entire population on information obtained from only a sample of that population. As 2003–06, 2008–11, and 2013 collections are sample surveys, not censuses, the results from these collections are also subject to sampling error.

## **Imputation**

We impute values for farmers and foresters who do not return a completed questionnaire. Imputation involves replacing missing items with values based on other information available.

The method of imputation we use is random 'hot deck' imputation.

The Agriculture Production Survey uses random hot deck imputation. Using this method, we replace missing values of one or more variables for a non-respondent with observed values from a respondent with similar characteristics. The imputation class is formed from common characteristics such as regional council area, ANZSIC06 group, and production data from previous years. We randomly assign each non-respondent to a respondent in the same imputation cell, and the farm production data of the respondent is copied across to the non-respondent.

To improve the imputation process, we remove respondents with uncharacteristically high levels of agricultural activity from their respective imputation cells. It is unlikely that any of the non-respondents would have similar characteristics to them.

## **Confidentiality**

Data collected and information contained in this release must conform to the provisions of the Statistics Act 1975. Published information must maintain the confidentiality of individual respondents. Figures in the tables affected by these provisions are denoted by 'C'.

## **Quality suppression**

Data with high sample errors or imputation levels are suppressed and are indicated by 'S' in the table.

## **More information**

[See more information about the Agricultural Production Survey.](#)

Statistics in this release have been produced in accordance with the [Official Statistics System principles and protocols for producers of Tier 1 statistics for quality](#). They conform to the Statistics NZ Methodological Standard for Reporting of Data Quality.

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## Revisions

Since the provisional release of *Agricultural Production Statistics: June 2014 (provisional)* in December 2014, we have received more survey responses and done more data processing and analysis. Statistics in this final release differ from the provisional statistics published.

<b>Changes between provisional and final results for agricultural estimates (national level)</b>			
	<b>Provisional</b>	<b>Final</b>	<b>% change</b>
Ewe hoggets put to ram	2,001,000	2,072,000	4
Ewes (2-tooth and over) put to ram	19,710,000	19,779,000	0
Total sheep	29,556,000	29,803,000	1
Lambs born to ewe hoggets	919,000	978,000	6
Lambs born to ewes	23,980,000	23,998,000	0
Total lambs marked or tailed	24,899,000	24,977,000	0
Dairy cows and heifers in milk or calf	5,264,000	5,176,000	-2
Total dairy cattle	6,748,000	6,698,000	-1
Calves born alive to dairy heifers / cows	3,805,000	3,852,000	1
Beef cows and heifers in calf 1–2 years	140,000	149,000	7
Beef cows and heifers in calf 2 years and over	856,000	863,000	1
Total beef cattle	3,635,000	3,670,000	1
Calves born alive to beef heifers / cows	770,000	781,000	2
Female deer mated	458,000	468,000	2
Total deer	949,000	958,000	1
Fawns born on the farm alive at four months	370,000	375,000	2
New area planted in forestry (hectares)	4,000	4,000	0
Area replanted in forestry (hectares)	42,000	41,000	-3
Exotic timber harvested (cubic metres)	26,064,000	26,401,000	1
Exotic timber harvested (hectares)	50,000	50,000	0
Apple (hectares)	8,000	8,000	-1
Cherries (hectares)	1,000	1,000	8
Blackcurrants (hectares)	2,000	2,000	11
Avocados (hectares)	4,000	4,000	0
Kiwifruit (hectares)	12,000	12,000	-1
Onions (hectares)	5,000	5,000	-4
Sweet corn (hectares)	5,000	5,000	-5
Squash (hectares)	6,000	7,000	5

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## Tables

The following tables are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box. If you have problems viewing the files, see [opening files and PDFs](#).

### Agricultural production statistics

1. Selected livestock numbers, by region
2. Sheep numbers, by region
3. Lamb numbers, by region
4. Dairy cattle numbers, by region
5. Beef cattle numbers, by region
6. Deer numbers, by region
7. Pig numbers, by region
8. Forestry, by region
9. Grain crops, by region
10. Area planted in outdoor fruit, by region
11. Harvested area of outdoor vegetables, by region
12. Livestock by island
13. Breeding ewes and lambing percentages

### Tables for Federation of Māori Authorities

1. Land use, stock units, and supplementary feed
2. Selected livestock numbers
3. Selected farm practices

## Access more data on Infoshare and NZ.Stat

Infoshare and NZ.Stat allow you to organise data in the way that best meets your needs. You can view the resulting tables onscreen or download them.

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Group: **Agriculture**

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