Agricultural Production Statistics: June 2010 (final)
Embargoed until 10:45am – 12 May 2011

Highlights

At 30 June 2010:

- The sheep number, at 32.6 million, was 180,000 higher than in 2009.
- Dairy cattle numbered 5.9 million, 50,000 more than in 2009.
- The dairy milking herd had increased 2 percent, to 4.7 million.
- The beef cattle number, at 3.9 million, was down 4 percent from 2009.

During the year ended 30 June 2010:

- 444,900 tonnes of wheat were harvested, up 10 percent from 2009.
- The barley harvest fell 29 percent, to 308,300 tonnes.

During the year ended 31 March 2010:

- 21.2 million cubic metres of exotic timber were harvested, up 12 percent from 2009.

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Commentary

This release contains final results for livestock, forestry, and arable crops from the 2010 Agricultural Production Survey. The survey covers land use, animal farming (livestock), arable crop growing, forestry, and farming practices in New Zealand (including fertiliser and cultivation).

The 2010 survey was part of the current programme of agricultural production statistics that started in 2002. A census was held in 2002 and 2007, with sample surveys in 2003–06 and 2008–10.

Statistics in this release may differ from the provisional statistics published in December 2010. Since the provisional release, more survey responses have been received and further processing and analysis of data has been done.

Figures in this release have been rounded and all percentages are calculated using unrounded figures.

Dairy

Final results from the 2010 survey show that the national dairy herd number was just above 5.9 million at 30 June 2010, 50,000 more than in 2009. This compares with increases of 280,000 in 2009 and 320,000 in 2008. At the beginning of the 2009/10 season, the predicted milk solid payout was down to its lowest level since June 2008. Financial uncertainties influenced farmers' expansion plans.

The small increase in the dairy cattle number in 2010 occurred in the North Island, which had just under 3.9 million dairy cattle or two-thirds of the national total. The South Island number remained unchanged, at 2.1 million. This contrasts with recent years when most growth was in the South Island. In 2009, the South Island number had increased by 240,000 while the North Island increased by 40,000.

Waikato, with 1.8 million dairy cattle in 2010, remained the region with the most dairy cattle. The number was similar to that in 2009. Most of the increase in the North Island in 2010 was in the Manawatu-Wanganui and Taranaki regions – these grew by 50,000 and 40,000, respectively. Dairy cattle numbers in the main South Island dairying regions of Canterbury, Otago, and Southland were similar to 2009.

The overall growth in the national dairy cattle number in 2010 came from an increase in the milking herd (dairy cows and heifers in milk or in calf), which increased by 70,000 to 4.7 million. The replacement herd (cows and heifers not in milk or in calf, and rising one-year-old heifers and calves) remained at 1.2 million.
Sheep

There were 32.6 million sheep in the national flock at 30 June 2010. This was 180,000 more than in 2009, and follows decreases in recent years. In 2009 there were 32.4 million sheep, 1.7 million fewer than in 2008. In 2008 there were 34.1 million sheep, down 4.4 million from 38.5 million sheep in 2007.

The increase in the total sheep number in 2010 occurred in the South Island, where the number was up 230,000 to 16.5 million. The North Island number was stable, at 16 million.

In 2010 there were 5.8 million sheep in the Manawatu-Wanganui region, 30,000 more than in 2009. It was the largest sheep farming region, followed by Canterbury with 5.7 million sheep, Otago with 5.3 million, and Southland with 4.6 million.

During the year ended 30 June 2010, lambs tailed totalled 28.2 million, 260,000 more than in the previous year. Contributing to this was a 25 percent increase in the number of lambs tailed from ewe hoggets – 840,000 lambs were tailed from ewe hoggets in 2010. This reflects an increase in the number of ewe hoggets put to ram in the 2009 season. There were 27.3 million lambs tailed from ewes in 2010, a similar number as in the previous year.

The lambing percentage recovered in 2010. At 127 percent, it was back to the level recorded in 2006. In 2008 and 2009 drought affected several regions, which contributed to a lower lambing percentage of 119 percent. Weather conditions were more favourable in most regions in 2010.
Beef

The total beef cattle number at 30 June 2010 was estimated at 3.9 million, down 4 percent from 4.1 million in 2009. In the last Agricultural Production Census in 2007, the beef cattle herd was 4.4 million. Since then, drought, and competition from other farming activities such as dairy support, have contributed to the decrease in beef cattle numbers.

There were 2.8 million beef cattle in the North Island at 30 June 2010. This accounted for almost three-quarters of the national beef cattle herd. The South Island had 1.1 million beef cattle. Numbers in both islands were below 2009 levels – the North Island was 60,000 below and the South Island 90,000 below. The decreases were mainly in the Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Canterbury, and Southland regions.

Manawatu-Wanganui region had the greatest number of cattle in 2010, with 630,000 beef cattle, 3 percent more than in 2009. It was followed by Waikato with 540,000, Canterbury with 490,000, and Northland with 470,000 beef cattle.

In 2010 there were 1.1 million beef cows and heifers in calf, a similar number as in 2009.
Deer

At 1.1 million, the number of deer at 30 June 2010 was at the same level as a year earlier. This follows de-stocking in recent years after the number peaked at 1.8 million in 2004.

In the early 1990s, there were more deer in the North than the South Island. Since then, deer farming has become concentrated in the South Island. In 2010 there were almost 800,000 deer in the South Island, 70 percent of the New Zealand total and a similar number as the previous year. The North Island number continued to drop, from 353,000 in 2009 to 332,000 in 2010.

The favoured deer farming regions are Canterbury, Otago, and Southland. In 2010 there were 320,000 deer in Canterbury, 169,000 in Otago, and 246,000 in Southland. These numbers were similar in 2009.
### Pigs

The number of pigs was estimated to be 335,000 at 30 June 2010, 4 percent more than in 2009. Canterbury region had 178,000 pigs in 2010, more than half the national total. This was followed by Waikato, with 48,000 pigs, and Manawatu-Wanganui with 32,000. There were 34,000 breeding sows in 2010, a similar number as in 2009. In 2002, there were 41,000 breeding sows.

The pig industry has faced several challenges in recent years, including competition from imported pig meat and products, disease outbreaks, animal welfare concerns, environmental issues, and rising production costs. Imports of pig meat and products in carcass weight equivalent (cwe) increased by over 70 percent between 2002 and 2010, according to New Zealand Pork Industry Board estimates – up from 21,000 tonnes to 36,000 tonnes, in cwe terms. While imports supplied 32 percent of domestic consumption in 2002, by 2010 the figure had risen to 44 percent.

### Forestry

During the year ended 31 March 2010, 43,800 hectares of exotic timber were harvested, 9 percent more than in the previous year. The volume harvested, at 21.2 million cubic metres, was 12 percent higher than in 2009. This increase was driven by the strong international demand for New Zealand logs, especially by China. Over 70 percent of timber harvesting in 2010 occurred in the North Island – 10,500 hectares were harvested in the Bay of Plenty region, 6,000 hectares in Waikato, and 4,800 hectares in Northland.

There were 2,900 hectares of new area planted during the year ended 31 March 2010, 25 percent more than in 2009. This estimate includes new area planted with exotic forests for commercial and conservation purposes. Two-thirds of the new area planted in 2010 was in the North Island, where 1,900 hectares were planted. This was 600 hectares more than in the
previous year. In the South Island, 1,100 hectares of new area were planted. This was similar to 2009 planting.

During the year ended 31 March 2010, 33,100 hectares area were replanted with exotic forest, up by 5 percent from the previous year. Most of this increase occurred in the North Island, where 24,100 hectares were replanted. In the South Island, there were 9,000 hectares of replanting in 2010.

The harvested area awaiting replanting increased by 10 percent, to 71,000 hectares in 2010.

**Grain crops**

**Wheat**

During the year ended 30 June 2010, 444,900 tonnes of wheat were harvested, up from 403,500 tonnes in 2009. The area harvested increased to 54,800 hectares in 2010 – up from 53,900 hectares. The yield was 8.1 tonnes per hectare in 2010 – up from 7.5 tonnes per hectare in the previous year. In 2010, 40 percent of the harvest was bread/milling wheat, compared with one-third in the previous year.

Nearly 90 percent of all wheat comes from Canterbury region. In 2010, 48,000 hectares were harvested in Canterbury, 2 percent more than in 2009. The tonnage harvested increased 11 percent, to 390,300 tonnes.

Otago and Southland are the next-largest wheat producing regions.

**Barley**

In 2010, the barley harvest was one-third less than in 2009. In 2010, 52,300 hectares of barley were harvested for a total yield of 308,300 tonnes. Oversupply from the last season and lower prices were contributing factors to the smaller harvest. The 2010 yield of 5.9 tonnes per hectare was above that of 2009, when it was 5.6 tonnes per hectare.

Canterbury accounted for over two-thirds of the barley harvested – in 2010 there were 35,300 hectares of barley harvested, 21 percent less than in 2009. The tonnage harvested was down 14 percent, to 216,000 tonnes.

**Maize grain**

Harvesting of maize grain was down 21 percent from the 2009 level, when an oversupply of maize grain was harvested, and was back to the 2007 level. In 2010, 188,800 tonnes were harvested from 17,500 hectares.

Nearly all maize grain is harvested in the North Island. The main growing regions are Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, and Hawke’s Bay.
## Changes between provisional and final results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Provisional</th>
<th>Final</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
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<td>Dairy cows and heifers, in milk or calf</td>
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<td>Fawns born on the farm</td>
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<td>Mated gilts</td>
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<td>Total pigs</td>
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<td>Piglets weaned on the farm</td>
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<td>Area of new forestry plantings (hectares)</td>
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<td>Area of forestry replantings (hectares)</td>
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<td>Exotic timber harvested (hectares)</td>
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<td>Exotic timber harvested (cubic metres)</td>
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<td>Wheat tonnage harvested</td>
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<td>Wheat area harvested (hectares)</td>
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<td>Barley tonnage harvested</td>
<td>314,181</td>
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<td>Barley area harvested (hectares)</td>
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<td>Maize grain tonnage harvested</td>
<td>202,613</td>
<td>188,812</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maize grain area harvested (hectares)</td>
<td>18,646</td>
<td>17,548</td>
<td>-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For technical information contact:
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Auckland 09 920 9100
Email: info@stats.govt.nz

Next release ...

*Agricultural Production Statistics: June 2011 (provisional)* will be released in December 2011.
Technical notes

Background

This release contains final results from the 2010 Agricultural Production Survey. This survey is part of an ongoing programme of agricultural production statistics conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. A census was held in 2002 and 2007, with sample surveys in 2003–06 and 2008–10.

The figures from the Agricultural Production Survey may differ from those produced from other sources, such as the National Exotic Forestry Description Survey produced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 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.

Figures released for Auckland are for the Auckland and Waikato regional boundaries before 1 November 2010. From that day, the former Franklin district was split between the new Auckland Council and Waikato region. The statistics for the new Auckland Council will be included in the next release in 2012.

Target population

The target population for the 2010 Agricultural Production Survey was all businesses engaged in 'agricultural production activity' (including livestock, cropping, horticulture, and forestry) or which owned land that was intended for agricultural activity. The target population included businesses that were engaged in agriculture or forestry production as a secondary activity.

The target population was defined in terms of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC06). It specifically included businesses classified as:

- A01 Agriculture
- A0301 Forestry (excluding native forestry)

and 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 target population specifically excluded:

- 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 frame

The 2010 Agricultural Production Survey includes all businesses identified on Statistics New Zealand'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. In the case of agriculture, the Business Frame includes:

• businesses registered for GST that have indicated involvement in agricultural activity (as defined above)
• businesses with more than $200,000 of GST sales or purchases, or that are an employer whose main activity is not agriculture, but that have indicated some secondary agricultural activity.

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

Responses from farmers and foresters in the 2010 Agricultural Production Survey have resulted in an estimated eligible population of 60,000 livestock, arable, horticulture, and forestry businesses.

Time series consistency

Population changes

Users should note that while there is consistency in the frame from which the population has been drawn for agricultural production data collections from 2003 to 2010, there are differences for data collections before 2003.

From 1981 to 1991, the population was sourced from an agricultural directory. Statistics NZ maintained this directory by tracing transfers of farming, horticulture, and forestry land. In 1992, this agriculture directory was merged with Statistics NZ's Business Frame. For the 1992 and 1993 surveys, population units were drawn from the Business Frame by industrial classification. In the 1994 Agricultural Production Census, for the first time the population was extracted using both the industrial classification and GST registration information.

Between 1994 and 1996, the population was all businesses, sourced from the Business Frame, that were registered for GST and classified to agriculture. The 1999 Agricultural Production Survey population was sourced solely from AgriBase (a geospatial database owned and managed by AgriQuality New Zealand Ltd). The population for the 2000 Horticulture Production Survey was sourced from the Business Frame, supplemented by AgriBase and growers' lists. For the 2002 Census, the population was sourced from the Business Frame and the Inland Revenue Client Register. These sources were checked against industry lists and AgriBase to ensure all large units were included in the population. The Business Frame was used for the 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 surveys, the 2007 Census and the 2008, 2009, and 2010 surveys.
Survey content changes

Users should note that there have been changes to the core information gathered in agricultural production collections.

Since 1994, agricultural production collections have gathered information on livestock and arable farming, horticulture, and forestry with the following exceptions:

- In 1999, the survey collected information on livestock and arable farming only.
- In 2000, the survey collected horticulture production information only.
- In 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010 the surveys collected information on livestock and arable farming, and forestry (horticulture production information was not collected).

2010 questionnaire changes

Horticulture

Questions on the area of fruit trees and vines planted, and the area of vegetables and other horticulture crops harvested were not included.

Inhibitors applied to the farm

The questions in this section were expanded to collect information on urease inhibitors and nitrification inhibitors.

Past questionnaire changes relevant for 2010

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 of Agriculture and Forestry.

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. This change takes into account industry recommendations. In 1994, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2003, and 2004, data related to fawns weaned on the farm. In 2002, data related to fawns born on the farm.

Deer

Users should note that deer figures since the 2004 survey are not directly comparable with 2002 and 2003 figures. Improvements 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, Statistics NZ estimates undercounts of about 70,000 deer at 30 June 2002 and 50,000 at 30 June 2003.
Sample design

For the 2010 Agricultural Production Survey, a stratified sample design was used to select a sample from the population. In selecting this sample, the population was stratified by regional council area, ANZSIC06 group, and size group. The size groups were determined as follows:

- For businesses that had previously responded to one or more of the agricultural production censuses or surveys since 2002, the most recent production data was used to form size groups. A range of livestock and cropping variables was used to form size groups. Typically, three size groups were formed: small, medium, and large.
- For new businesses or businesses that did not respond to the 2002 to 2009 agricultural collections, a random sample was taken.

The 2010 Agricultural Production Survey has a sample size of 30,000.

Reliability of sample survey estimates

This release contains statistics from the 1994–96, 1999, and 2002–10 agricultural production collections. All the results from these collections are subject to non-sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from biases in the patterns of response and non-response, inaccuracies in reporting by respondents, and errors in recording and classifying data. Statistics NZ adopts procedures to detect and minimise these types of errors, but they may still occur and are not easy to quantify.

As the 1995, 1996, 1999, 2003–06, and 2008–10 are sample surveys, not censuses, the results from these collections are also subject to sampling error. Sampling error arises from selecting a random sample of businesses and weighting the results, rather than holding a complete enumeration. The 2010 sample design was optimised to produce a specified sampling error for certain combinations of key variables and regions, but not all. Also, the 2010 design was optimised on the basis of the distribution of past farmer responses, mainly those to the 2009 and 2008 surveys. Given the dynamic nature of the agricultural sector, the sample errors for 2010 may sometimes be smaller or larger than planned, particularly for rapidly changing sectors or regions.

Imputation

Values were imputed for farmers and foresters who did not return a completed questionnaire. Imputation involves replacing missing items with values based on other information available.

The method of imputation used is random 'hot deck' imputation. A proportion of non-respondents were estimated as ineligible. The remaining non-respondents were grouped into imputation cells based on regional council area, ANZSIC06 (Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006) group, and previous years' production data. Each non-respondent was then randomly assigned to a respondent in the same imputation cell, and the farm production data of the respondent was copied across to the non-respondent. In order to improve the imputation process, respondents with uncharacteristically high levels of agricultural activity were removed from their respective imputation cells, as it was considered unlikely that any of the non-respondents would have similar characteristics to them.
# Imputation levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imputation levels and sampling errors for the 2010 Agricultural Production Survey</th>
<th>Sampling errors at 95% confidence interval (%)</th>
<th>% of total estimate imputed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ewe hoggets put to ram</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeding ewes 2-tooth and older put to ram</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total sheep</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lambs born to ewe hoggets</td>
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<td>Lambs born to ewes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total lambs</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dairy cows and heifers, in milk or calf</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calves born alive to dairy heifers/cows</td>
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<td>Beef cows and heifers in calf (aged 1–2 years)</td>
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<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef cows and heifers in calf (aged 2 years +)</td>
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<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total beef cattle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calves born alive to beef heifers/cows</td>
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<td>Female deer mated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total deer</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fawns born on the farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breeding sows 1 year and over</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mated gilts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total pigs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piglets weaned on the farm</td>
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<td>Area of new forestry plantings (hectares)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Area of forestry replantings (hectares)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exotic timber harvested (hectares)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exotic timber harvested (cubic metres)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat tonnage harvested</td>
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<td>Wheat area harvested (hectares)</td>
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<td>Barley area harvested (hectares)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maize grain tonnage harvested</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maize grain area harvested (hectares)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Response rates

The estimated proportion of eligible businesses that responded to the 2010 Agricultural Production Survey for this final release is 85 percent. These businesses represent 86 percent of the total estimated value of agricultural operations.

Revisions

In some cases, data collected before the 2010 Agricultural Production Survey may be revised. This revision usually results from the correction of information provided by survey respondents. Revised figures are indicated in the tables by an 'R'.

Confidentiality

Data collected and information contained in this release must conform to the provisions of the Statistics Act 1975. This requires that published information maintains the confidentiality of individual respondents. Figures affected by these provisions have been suppressed and are denoted by 'C'.

Quality suppressions

Data with high sample errors or imputation levels have been suppressed and are indicated by an 'S'.

More information

For more information, follow the link from the technical notes of this release on the Statistics NZ website.

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Tables

The following tables are printed with this information release and can also be downloaded from the Statistics New Zealand website in Excel format. If you do not have access to Excel, you may use the Excel file viewer to view, print, and export the contents of the file.

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. Livestock by island, at 30 June
11. Breeding ewes and lambing percentages, at 30 June