

# Agriculture Statistics

1996

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# Preface

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**A**GRICULTURE remains an important sector in the New Zealand economy.

It makes a significant contribution to the nation's overseas earnings both directly, and indirectly as a major contributor to the manufacturing industry. Agriculture is a dynamic industry which has responded to such challenges as removal of subsidies for farm products and inputs, the fluctuations in the global marketplace and the vicissitudes of New Zealand's climatic conditions.

The statistics contained in this volume reflect the responses to these challenges through the changes in patterns and levels of farming activity.

Most of the information is from the 1996 Agriculture Production Survey conducted by Statistics New Zealand. Changes in the market conditions facing agriculture come from the Farm Expenses Price Index series.

This volume also includes statistics from the Sheep and Beef Farm Survey conducted by the New Zealand Meat and Wool Board's Economic Services and Dairy statistics prepared by the Livestock Improvement Corporation on behalf of the New Zealand Dairy Board, as well as statistics compiled by the Wool Board and the Overseas Investment Commission. These organisations have kindly permitted us to publish some of the results from their surveys in this report.

The co-operation of the farming community and its allied organisations is gratefully acknowledged. I appreciate their efforts and look forward to their continued support in the future.

Regrettably, a review of statistics priorities undertaken as part of the 1997/98 budget has resulted in us ceasing the annual Agriculture Production Survey. The soon-to-be-released *Review of Agriculture Statistics Report 1998* has recommended that Statistics New Zealand undertakes the collection of Agriculture Production Statistics on a three yearly cycle. Statistics New Zealand will be working with Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and industry representatives to fund this proposal.



Len Cook  
**Government Statistician**



## *Acknowledgement*

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This report was prepared by the Business Statistics Division and published by the Publishing and Community Information Division of Statistics New Zealand.

## *Further information*

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## *Statistics on agriculture*

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## ■ Percentage changes

Percentage movements are, in a number of cases, calculated using data of greater precision than published. This could result in slight variations.

## ■ Rounding procedures

On occasion, figures are rounded to the nearest thousand or some other convenient unit. This may result in a total disagreeing slightly with the total of the individual items as shown in tables. Where figures are rounded the unit is in general expressed in words below the table headings, but where space does not allow this the unit may be shown as (000) for thousands, etc.

## ■ Changes of base

Where consecutive figures have been compiled on different bases and are not strictly comparable, a footnote is added indicating the nature of the difference.

## ■ Values

All values are shown in New Zealand currency, except where otherwise stated.

## ■ Source

All data is compiled by Statistics New Zealand, except where otherwise stated.

## ■ Symbols

The interpretation of the symbols used throughout this report is as follows:

- nil or zero
- amount too small to be expressed
- .. figures not available
- ... not applicable
- R revised
- P provisional
- E early estimate
- C confidential
- S suppressed



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