

What's special about New Zealand dairy?

Our footprint

- New Zealand dairy milk is one of the most carbon efficient milks in the world and is significantly more efficient than the global average.¹
- New Zealand milk has a lower carbon footprint than alternative milks and beverages when compared on a nutrient density basis* (most comparisons are made on a volume basis).²



Our contribution to the economy

- Dairy is NZ's biggest exporter earner – worth around \$20b per year and accounts for one in every three dollars earned by New Zealand for exporting goods.³
- The New Zealand dairy sector provides direct employment for around 50,000 people.⁴
- Dairy is the most internationally connected industry in the NZ economy, with almost 90% of its output by value exported, the remaining 10% being domestically consumed.⁵
- Dairy has a big contribution to regional economies being a top 10 purchaser of output from a third of all other industries in New Zealand.⁶



Our healthy farming environment is great for cows



- New Zealand's pastoral farming system provides a different environment to how many animals are raised internationally – it allows animals to enjoy fresh air, space and sunshine.
- Our antibiotic use is very low by world standards.⁷
- New Zealand is Foot and Mouth Disease free and has the most favourable bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) status possible.
- No use of growth promotants.⁸
- A love for animals is what drives many New Zealand dairy farmers to keep farming. A recent survey of dairy farmers found that over 40% said that working and caring for their animals was their biggest motivator to get out of bed in the morning.⁹

Our milk is highly nutritious



- New Zealand dairy products feed over 100m people globally.¹⁰
- Milk and other dairy foods are highly nutritious. It is a great source of protein, calcium and are loaded with essential vitamins and minerals, including carbohydrates, protein, calcium, phosphorus, potassium, vitamins A, D, B12, riboflavin and niacin. ¹¹

¹ Chobtang, J., S. F. Ledgard, S. J. McLaren, and D. J. Donaghy. 2017. Life cycle environmental impacts of high and low intensification pasture-based milk production systems: A case study of the Waikato region, New Zealand. *J. Clean. Prod.*140:664-674.

² Smedman, A, Lindmark-Mansson, H Drewnowski, A and Edman, A-K M (2010) Nutrient density of beverages in relation to climate change. *Food & Nutrition Research*, 54:5170.

³ Sense Partners, August 2020, Dairy's economic contribution – 2020 update

⁴ As above.

⁵ October 2018, How does the dairy sector share its growth? An analysis of the flow-on benefits of dairy's revenue generation NZIER final report to Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand, www.dcanz.com

⁶ As above.

⁷ McDougall S, Gohary K, Bates A, Compton C, 2016, Antimicrobial usage on farm, *Proceedings of the New Zealand Milk Quality Conference*

⁸ Ministry of Primary Industries, Using Hormonal Growth Promotants, 2020, www.mpi.govt.nz/growing-and-harvesting/livestock-and-animal-care/using-hormonal-growth-promotants/

⁹ DairyNZ, 2020, The view from the cowshed, www.dairynz.co.nz

¹⁰ Jeremy Hill, 2017, Fonterra's Jeremy Hill points out that if the world's dairy producers were as emissions-efficient as New Zealand, the global carbon footprint from dairy would be more than halved, <https://www.interest.co.nz/rural-news/88406/fonerras-jeremy-hill-points-out-if-worlds-dairy-producers-were-emissions-efficient>

¹¹ Fonterra, How milk and dairy products can help build immunity, 2020, <https://www.fonterra.com/ph/en/news-and-media/articles/how-milk-and-dairy-can-help-build-immunity.html>