

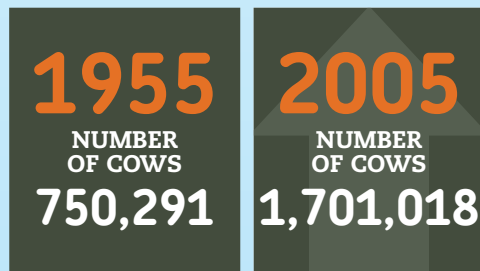
WAIKATO REGION

DAIRY FACTORIES IN THIS REGION TODAY:

Te Rapa, Hamilton,
Hautapu, Te Awamutu,
Waitoa, Tirau and Lichfield

START YOUR RESEARCH WITH THESE HISTORIC SITES:

Te Awamutu, Pukekura, Matangi,
Mercury Bay, Otorohanga, Piopio,
Cambridge, Waharoa and Kopuarahi



HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT DAIRYING IN THE WAIKATO REGION

Small dairy factories were established in Waikato from the 1880s, but by 1910 there were two main companies – the New Zealand Dairy Association and the Waikato Co-operative Dairy Company, whose owner, William Goodfellow, was a strong supporter of mechanisation. Milking machines saved farmers time, letting them add to their herds and increase milk production. Farm cream separators eliminated the need to take milk to creameries for separation before factory processing. The Department of Agriculture worried that these new machines were unhygienic and that tainted dairy products would undermine New Zealand's export market. Goodfellow educated his suppliers in

the proper use of machinery and managed to win the department over.

Dairy factories opened in the King Country from the early 1900s and smaller factories closed as road transport improved in the 1920s and 1930s – milk could be taken to larger, more advanced factories further afield. After World War 2, processing was concentrated in these larger factories and eventually moved out of the region altogether. In 2011 the closest factories were in Taranaki and Waikato.

The Thames Valley Dairy Company opened a cheese factory at Waitoa in 1916. In 1920, the year it amalgamated with the New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Company, the company was building a dried milk factory

there. When completed, it was said to be the largest in the world. Later, it diversified into condensed milk, baby food and cheese products. Farmer Henry Reynolds set up a factory at Pukekura, near Cambridge, in 1886 and others in Waikato. He built a cool store in London and sold direct to shops there, also exporting to Australia and Asia.



THE INDIANS

Punjabi Sikhs, who often had farming experience, settled mainly in the Waikato district and took up dairy farming. Friesian cows were an early Dutch contribution to the landscape and migrants brought special expertise as dairy farmers.

Have been sourced from www.teara.govt.nz

Regional museums that might be able to help you with your research: **Agricultural Heritage Museum, Cambridge Museum and Firth Tower Museum**. For more museums that may be able to assist, visit www.nz museums.co.nz