

A PROUD HISTORY


1840

Most dairy products consumed by a family and their neighbours. Any more than four cows was a full time job

1882

Refrigeration became available. This meant dairy products could be transported around the country and overseas

1893

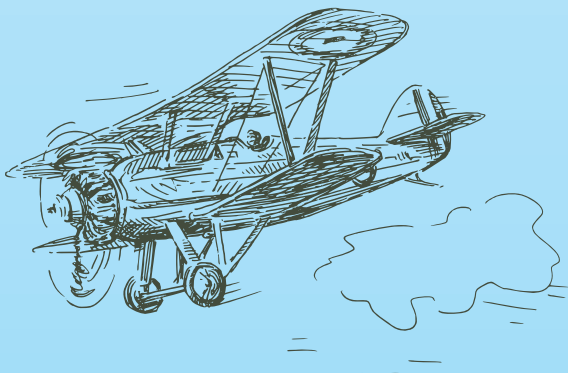
The first milking machine arrived in New Zealand. Workers could now milk more cows and so herds increased

1928

The Plant Research Station was set up in New Zealand. Scientists now worked to find the best grass for New Zealand Farms

1930

Aerial top dressing was invented by New Zealand Farmers. This allowed superphosphate fertiliser to be spread quickly and cheaply



1880s

- 1814** First cows to New Zealand
- 1846** First export of cheese from New Zealand
- 1871** First dairy cooperative formed in Otago
- 1882** The first refrigerated shipment of meat and butter left Dunedin for London
- 1884** The first Holstein-Friesian cow was imported to the South Island by Canterbury farmer John Grigg
- 1886** The Anchor brand was born
- 1888** Anchor butter was first exported to Australia and Hong Kong and won a prestigious award at Melbourne's Centennial International Exhibition
- 1893** A Scottish mechanical milking machine was trialled in Mangere



1900s

Early 1900s First milking machines in use

- 1909** Organised herd testing began at the Dalefield Dairy Company, Wairarapa – testing the fat content of milk to stop unscrupulous farmers adding water
- 1913** The country's first lactose factory is built at Edendale, Southland for the New Zealand Sugar of Milk and Casein Company. A growing market for casein develops, and within a few years 22 factories are producing curd for cheese manufacturing
- 1915** The government begins a programme under its Discharge Soldiers Settlement Act to provide potential farming land for 9,500 soldiers returning from World War 1
- 1918** By the end of World War 1, 7,600 milking machines had been installed around New Zealand
- 1923** New Zealand Dairy Control Board was created to market dairy products overseas
- 1927** Dairy Research Institute established, the first of New Zealand's specialised research institutions
- 1930** The number of cooperative dairy companies grows to more than 400
- 1934** Keeping records of the production from offspring of a cow (progeny testing), and relating this to the bull parent (sire surveying) begins.
- 1937** Bill Gallagher Senior makes his first electric fence
- 1939** Ruakura and Wallaceville research stations set up to help increase animal productivity



1940s

- 1940s** Over 50% of New Zealand farms are using milking machines. Walk Through predominant dairy type
- 1945** Over the next 10 years, some 10,000 ex-service men are placed on the land under a government rehabilitation programme
- 1948** The British-made Ferguson tractor arrives in New Zealand and revolutionises many aspects of farming

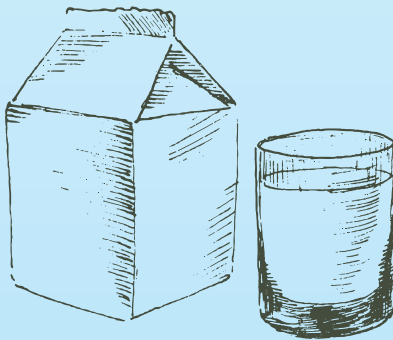
1945

Cow population totals
1.7 million



1950

Refrigerated milk tankers start collecting whole milk from farms. Tankers get bigger and collecting milk gets cheaper



1950s

- 1951** Introduction of tanker delivery of whole milk from farms to the factory
- 1952** Waikato farmer, Ron Sharp, develops the herringbone dairy milking system, cutting milking times in half
- 1955** New milking machine developed at Ruakura featuring stainless steel and automatic cleaning
- 1955** Cooling of milk on-farm is introduced
- 1957** Britain agrees to allow the free entry of New Zealand dairy products until 1967

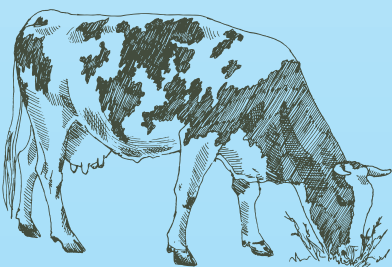


1960-1970s

- 1960** Cow population totals 2 million
- 1961** New Zealand Dairy Board established to market dairy products
- 1969** Taranaki farmer, Merv Hicks, develops the first turnstyle dairy, the forerunner to the rotary (14 cow capacity)
- 1970** The government introduces a range of subsidies and incentives to encourage diversification of markets
- 1973** Dairy exports face troubling times as the United Kingdom joins the European Economic Community
- 1978** Supplementary Minimum Price scheme (SMPs) introduced to guarantee minimum income for farmers

1970

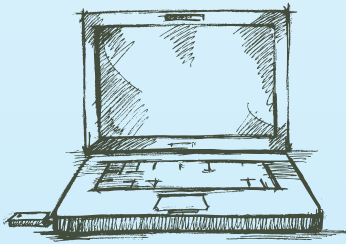
Cow population just over
2 million





1980-1990s

- 1980** More than 80% of farms milked through herringbones and average herd size is 130 cows
- 1984** Labour government begins phasing out agricultural support and subsidies (SMPs)
- 1985** Ruakura Milk Harvester developed - many of the features of modern-day milking appear on this system
- 1990** At the start of the 1990s, 7% of dairy cows are farmed in the South Island. By 1999, this has risen to 22% of the national herd
- 1995** The New Zealand Dairy Board is the world's largest marketing network
- 1996** Amalgamations of existing operations mean only 12 cooperative dairy companies remain
- 1996** The Dairy Board is dissolved with it's assets transferred to the ownership of the cooperative dairy companies
- 1997** Average herd size of 308 cows



1995

Dairy factories begin using computers to plan the best routes to collect milk

1997

Cow population reaches
3 million



2000s

- 2000** By 2000, more than 95% of the industry is represented by the two largest dairy companies: the Waikato-based New Zealand Dairy Group and Taranaki-based Kiwi Co-operative Dairies
- 2001** Dairy industry deregulated. The two largest dairy companies merge to form Fonterra - the world's largest dairy exporter
- 2001** First cow milked with Automatic Milking System in New Zealand. Dexcel (now DairyNZ) researchers develop new farming method incorporating automatic milking in New Zealand pasture-based farming system
- 2007** 21% of milking is now rotary - milking up to 800 cows in two hours with two people. Average herd size 327 cows
- 2008** First commercial farms in New Zealand adopt automatic milking - Southland and Canterbury
- 2010** Five farms in New Zealand are using Automatic Milking Systems
- 2011** About as many cows in New Zealand as there are people (just over 4.4million). Average herd size 386 cows

2005

Cow population almost
4 million

2011

Cow population just over
4.4 million

