

# WORLD DAIRY DIGEST

## Managing cow numbers in New Zealand

Over the past two decades, the number of cows in New Zealand has doubled. Statistics New Zealand reports there were 6.46 million cows in 2015, a 69 per cent increase from 3.84 million cows in 1994.

According to a UK-based Vivid Economics report, the country needs to reduce its pastoral animals by 20 to 35 per cent in order to meet the country's carbon neutral promise by 2050. Green Party co-leader James Shaw supports the report and suggests cow counts need to be managed for environmental concerns, but the method for do-

ing so is not clear. Deputy Prime Minister Paula Bennett says the country would not consider implementing a cow quota system.

Shaw suggests using economic incentives for farmers who foster a value-over-volume industry in order to reduce the number of cows.

Nathan Guy, primary industries minister, says the issue needs to be managed by regional councillors who can analyze how many cows individual catchments can handle. He says national directives are not on the agenda. [www.i-stuff.co.nz](http://www.i-stuff.co.nz)



## Retail milk prices may increase in Mumbai

The price of milk at retail stores might rise in Mumbai, India, as the Maharashtra government announced a hike in the procurement price of cow and buffalo milk.

This was one of the demands farmers made when they went on strike in June, distressed over falling prices of agriculture products and other issues. As a result, the government raised the procurement price for cows' milk to Rs27 (C\$0.54) from Rs24 (C\$0.48) a litre, and buffaloes' milk to Rs36 (C\$0.72) from Rs33 (C\$0.66) a litre.

Dairy development minister Mahadev Jankar says the hike would not affect retail prices, but private milk brands say otherwise, indicating there will be a rise in retail prices.

Cows' milk is currently sold for Rs37 to Rs45 (C\$0.74 to C\$0.90) a litre. [www.hindustantimes.com](http://www.hindustantimes.com)

## ZambeeF invests \$1.5M in dairy expansion

ZambeeF Products has invested \$1.5 million to build an addition to the Kalundu Dairy Farm, making it the biggest rotary milking parlour in Zambia and Central Africa.

Felix Lupindula, ZambeeF's head of retailing, marketing and corporate affairs, says the enhancement will allow the farm to manage larger herds.

The food processing and retailing company now has the ability to milk up to 2,500 cows a day. When the rotary parlour is operating at full capacity, the plant will

allow ZambeeF to produce up to 60,000 litres of milk a day.

The new facility uses computerized sensors to help veterinarians and staff identify areas that need attention. The parlour also includes a maximized cooling system designed to keep the milk fresh, as well as storage tank temperatures kept at regulated levels.

Along with this new parlour, ZambeeF plans to build four more barns, each with the capacity to house 300 cows that would be milked using ZambeeF's new rotary parlour. [www.dairyreporter.com](http://www.dairyreporter.com)

## Nearly half of Americans don't know origins of chocolate milk

According to a survey from the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, seven per cent of Americans believe chocolate milk comes from brown cows.

That translates to about 16.4 million Americans, or about Pennsylvania's population, who believe brown cows produce chocolate milk.

And out of more than 1,000 American adults who took the survey, about 48 per cent aren't sure where chocolate milk comes from.

Some agriculture and nutrition experts aren't surprised by these results, believing there are many people who don't know where their food comes from.

"We still get kids who are surprised that a french fry comes from a potato," says the co-founder of nonprofit FoodCorps.

According to a department of agriculture study that was conducted two decades ago, nearly one in five adults don't know hamburgers are made from beef. Another study on California students in Grades 4 to 6 found more than half didn't know where pickles, onions and lettuce came from. Nearly a third didn't know cheese is made from milk. [www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com)

## Australia encouraged to look at new export markets

According to Sandy Chen, a Chinese-based dairy analyst, dairy exporters should look to South East Asia now that demand for dairy in China is slowing.

Sales of higher value products, such as yogurt, are growing by 15 per cent annually in China, but growth in white milk is stagnant, Chen says.

"After many years of rapid growth in dairy consumption in China between 2000 and 2008, what we're seeing is maturing in certain categories," Chen says.

He says while China will always need dairy imports, there are other markets that offer more growth. He says demand will grow between two to 2.5 per cent a year for liquid milk in China, but it will grow even faster in South East Asia.

"These are possible alternative markets the Australian industry should be looking at and certainly not ignore," Chen says. [www.abc.net.au](http://www.abc.net.au)