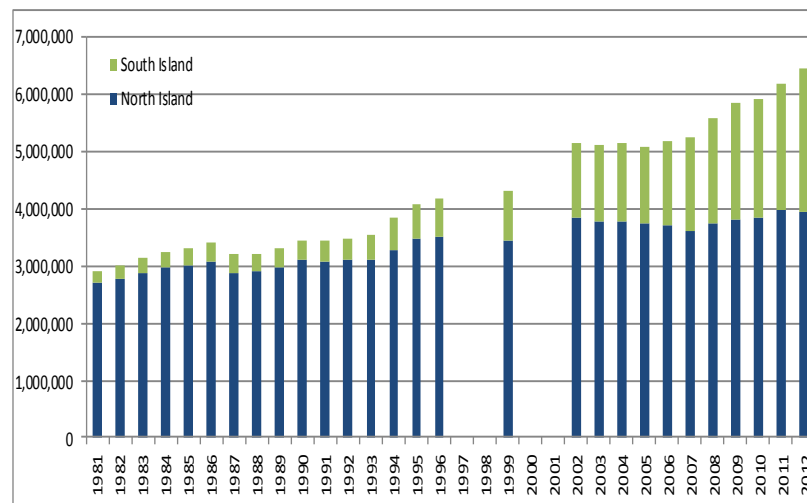


Dairy Cattle by Region and Territorial Authority (TA)

Between 1981 and 2012, the majority of dairy cattle in New Zealand were located in the North Island. Since 1981, the total number of dairy cattle had increased 1.2 times from less than 3 million to over 6.4 million in 2012. This is average of 2.6% per year. During this 32 year period, the number of dairy cattle in the North Island increased by 47% compared to more than a 10 fold increase in dairy cattle in the South Island (an average of 8% per year) (figure 1).

In 2012, dairy farming was carried out predominantly in the central North Island, Taranaki, Canterbury and Southland. At the level of territorial authorities (TAs), Southland district had the highest number of dairy cattle, followed by Ashburton, South Taranaki, Matamata-Piako, Waikato and Waipa district (figure 2).

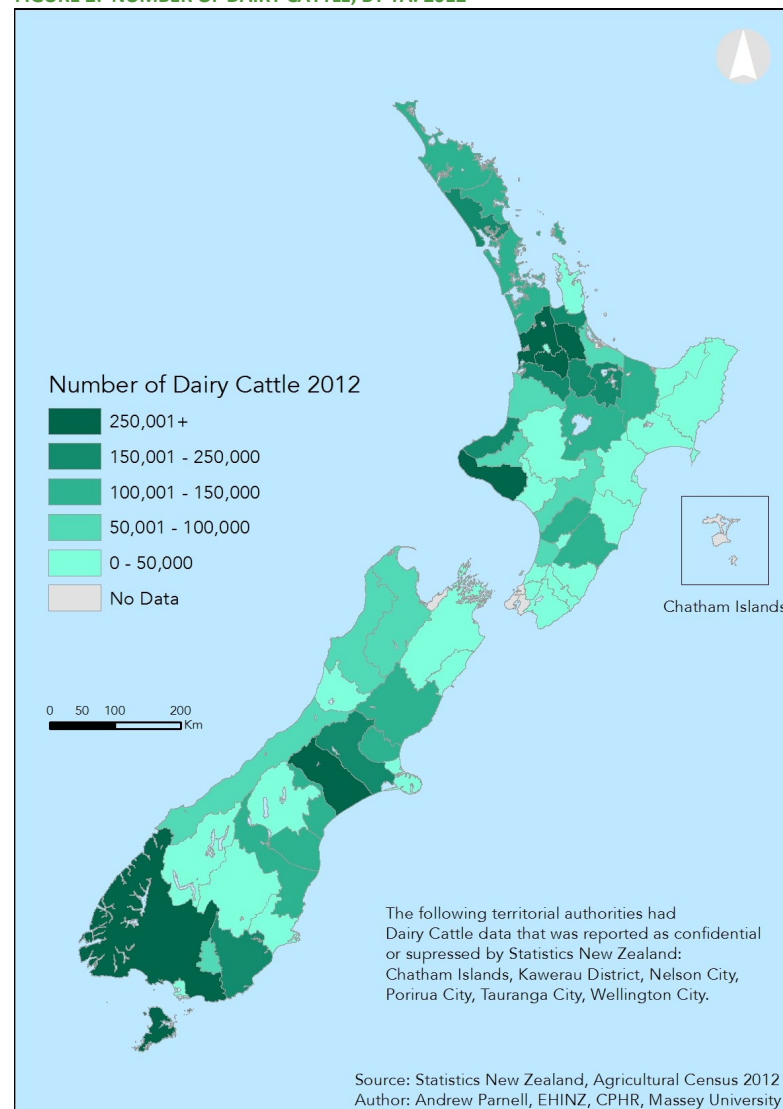
FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF DAIRY CATTLE BY ISLAND AND YEAR, 1981-2012



Note: An asterisk (*) indicates that data was unavailable for that year. Year to 30 June. Numbers for 2008-2011 are based on agricultural production sample surveys, and are therefore subject to sample bias.

Source: Statistics New Zealand (2012)

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF DAIRY CATTLE, BY TA. 2012



REFERENCES

• Statistics New Zealand 2012. Annual Agricultural Production Surveys, and five-yearly Agricultural Production Census.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Between 1981 and 2012, the majority of dairy cattle in New Zealand were located in the North Island. The number of dairy cattle had increased 1.2 times over this 32 years period.
- In 2012, dairy farming was carried out predominantly in the central North Island, Taranaki, Canterbury and Southland.

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