

1. Introduction

As of March 2002, LIC became a user-owned co-operative, with responsibility for farm production activities and, in particular, dairy herd improvement and herd records.

LIC's activities can broadly be described as genetics, information and advice. Services provided to farmers include farm management information, herd testing and artificial breeding services, DNA analysis, a farm advisory service, research to improve farm profitability, statistical information related to the New Zealand dairy industry, and herd recording on the LIC Database.

New Zealand Dairy Statistics 2006/07 contains many of the dairy industry statistics that were released until 1983/84 in the *New Zealand Dairy Board Farm Production Report*. In 1984/85, with the formation of the Livestock Improvement Division, the report was renamed the *Livestock Improvement Report*. In 1987/88 it was titled *Annual Report (Livestock Improvement Division)* and, with the establishment of Livestock Improvement Corporation Limited in 1988 it was renamed *Dairy Statistics*. The report is now released under the title *New Zealand Dairy Statistics*.

Source data used for the publication have altered over time. The statistics presented in *Dairy Statistics* from 1992/93 were obtained from dairy companies and from information stored on the LIC Database. Prior to 1991/92, the information for the *Dairy Statistics* publications was obtained primarily from the analysis of the New Zealand Dairy Industry Cow Census (an annual survey of all dairy farmers) last conducted for the 1990/91 season. The 1991/92 edition of *Dairy Statistics* was a transition year for which only minimal data was available.