

6. Disease control

A. Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL) eradication scheme

- Excellent progress toward eradication of EBL
- 32 herds have an EBL positive status
- 10,722 herds have an EBL Free status

Livestock Improvement manages and operates the EBL eradication scheme and Dairy InSight funds the scheme on behalf of the dairy industry. Testing for EBL is undertaken using samples from bulk milk and individual animal milk samples. Blood testing is used to monitor infected herds.

Since its inception in 1997, the EBL eradication programme has dramatically reduced the number of EBL infected herds within New Zealand. Testing of all dairy herds continued during the 2002/2003 dairy season, with the number of recorded infected (positive) herds further reducing from a peak of 928 (6.3%) in 1998 to 32 (0.2%) in June 2003 (Graph 6.1). The majority of the remaining infected herds are large with 25 of the 32 herds having at least 300 milking cows. There were 10,722 herds with an EBL Free status and 141 Suspect status herds. Herds become suspect if they purchase stock from infected or other suspect herds.

The New Zealand Dairy Industry is close to achieving eradication of EBL. Following eradication, some annual testing will continue to demonstrate to international customers that New Zealand dairy animals remain free of this disease.

Graph 6.1 The number of EBL positive herds is declining rapidly

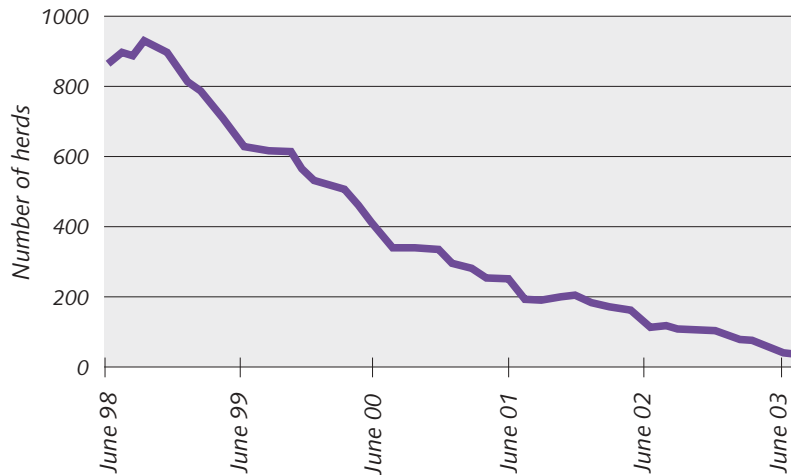


Table 6.1 EBL status for dairy herds (June 2003)

Herd EBL Status	Number of herds	%
EBL Free	10,722	81.6
Negative	1,855	14.1
Untested/New locations	390	3.0
Suspect	141	1.1
Blood Positive	29	0.2
Milk Test Positive	3	0.0
Total	13,140	100.0

Note: EBL Free herds have been tested for at least three years with a negative result. Negative herds have been screened at least once with negative test results using milk samples. Untested/New locations include herds yet to be assigned a status following herd movement between locations. Suspect herds contain animals that have been purchased or leased from positive or other suspect herds. Milk test positive herds have not completed the required blood testing to confirm status.



B. Tuberculosis (Tb) control

- **Number of infected dairy herds decreases compared with the previous season**

Tuberculosis (Tb) is a chronic infectious disease characterised by the formation of tubercles in the tissues of the body. Various tissues and organs including the lungs, lymphatic system, kidneys, liver, intestines and brain may become infected. The disease is caused by the organism *Mycobacterium spp.* of which there are three strains: *M. bovis* (cattle), *M. tuberculosis* (human) and *M. avian* (bird). Cattle can be susceptible to strains other than *M. bovis* and react to initial testing in the same way but the disease is not as serious with this infection.

Control of Tb (*M. bovis*) over the agricultural industry is managed by the Animal Health Board whose primary objective is to manage Tb to reduce the number of infected herds and to prevent Tb vector free areas becoming vector risk areas. The status of a vector area is determined by the prevalence of wild animals that are considered a source of infection (e.g., possums, and ferrets).

In 2002/03 the number of infected dairy herds (79) and number of dairy cattle with Tb (247) continues to decrease compared with the previous season (96 and 328 respectively).

Table 6.2 Tuberculosis (Tb) testing and results in 2002/03

Region	Vector Status	Number of infected dairy herds June 2003	Number of dairy cattle primary tested	Number of Tuberculous ^a dairy cattle
Northland	Free	0	110,389	0
Auckland	Free	0	46,939	2
	Risk	0	6,612	1
Waikato	Free	10	1,246,874	29
	Risk	2	180,352	4
Bay of Plenty	Free	1	77,771	1
	Risk	0	16,293	2
Gisborne	Free	0	909	0
Hawkes Bay	Free	0	15,474	0
	Risk	1	20,217	2
Taranaki	Free	0	182,736	0
Manawatu / Wanganui	Free	1	117,547	2
	Risk	1	78,639	1
Wellington	Risk	7	119,078	38
Nelson / Marlborough	Free	0	85,854	0
	Risk	4	16,163	11
West Coast	Free	0	4,858	1
	Risk	36	171,357	116
Canterbury	Free	4	205,297	2
	Risk	1	101,109	3
Otago	Free	1	93,471	5
	Risk	5	133,465	21
Southland	Free	1	166,053	2
	Risk	4	122,724	4
North Island	Free	12	1,798,639	34
	Risk	11	421,191	48
North Island	Total	23	2,219,830	82
South Island	Free	6	555,533	10
	Risk	50	544,818	155
South Island	Total	56	1,100,351	165
New Zealand	Free	18	2,354,172	44
	Risk	61	966,009	203
New Zealand	Total	79	3,320,181	247

Sourced from Animal Health Board - Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2002

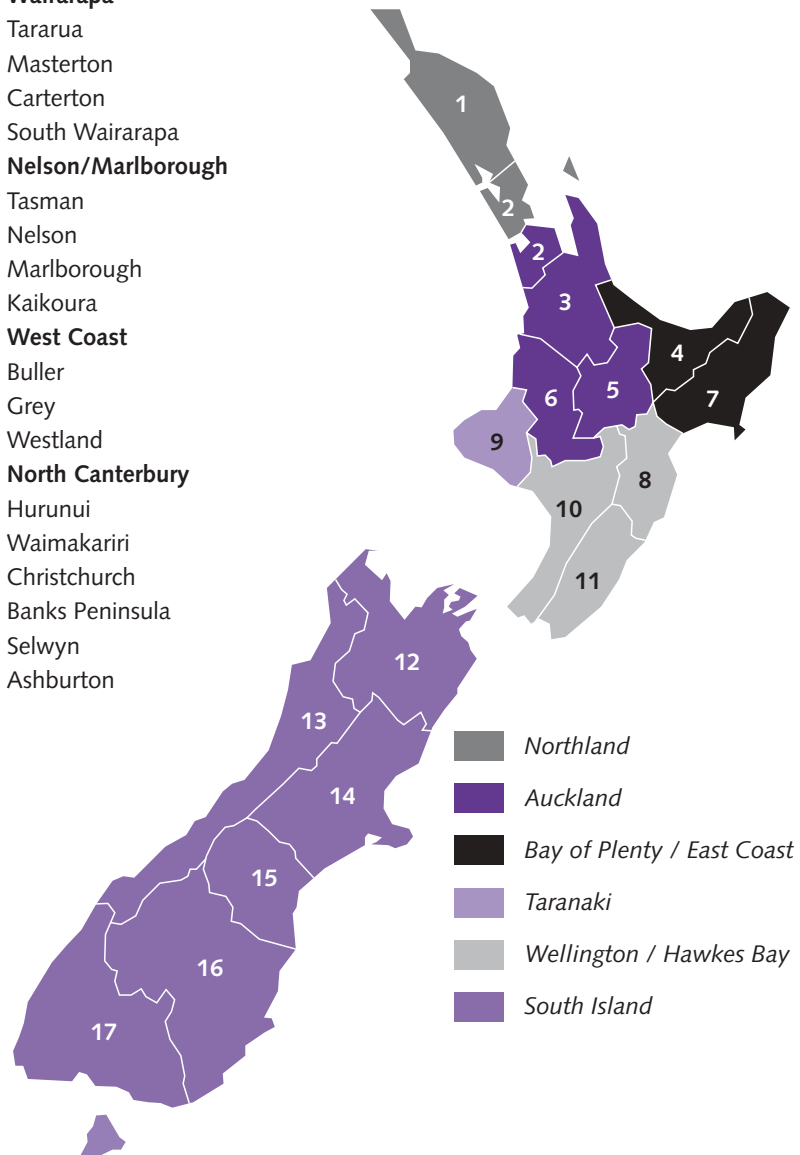
^a Tuberculous Animals include lesioned reactor cattle and lesioned cull cattle



Appendix 1 Farming regions and districts

The following map shows the six Livestock Improvement Corporation Limited regions and the farming regions used in all analyses presented in this report. The list of districts and cities within each region is also given.

1 Northland	9 Taranaki	15 South Canterbury
Far North	New Plymouth	Timaru
Whangarei	Stratford	MacKenzie
Kaipara	South Taranaki	Waimate
2 Central Auckland	10 Wellington	16 Otago
Rodney	Wanganui	Waitaki
North Shore	Rangitikei	Central Otago
Waitakere	Manawatu	Queenstown/Lakes
Auckland	Palmerston North	Dunedin
Manukau	Horowhenua	Clutha
Papakura	Kapiti	17 Southland
Franklin	Porirua	Southland
3 South Auckland	Upper Hutt	Gore
Thames/Coromandel	Lower Hutt	Invercargill
Hauraki	Wellington	
Waikato	11 Wairarapa	
Matamata/Piako	Tararua	
Hamilton	Masterton	
Waipa	Carterton	
Otorohanga	South Wairarapa	
South Waikato	12 Nelson/Marlborough	
4 Bay of Plenty	Tasman	
Western Bay of Plenty	Nelson	
Tauranga	Marlborough	
Whakatane	Kaikoura	
Kawerau	13 West Coast	
Opotiki	Buller	
5 Central Plateau	Grey	
Rotorua	Westland	
Taupo	14 North Canterbury	
6 Western Uplands	Hurunui	
Waitomo	Waimakariri	
Ruapehu	Christchurch	
7 East Coast	Banks Peninsula	
Gisborne	Selwyn	
Wairoa	Ashburton	
8 Hawkes Bay		
Hastings		
Napier		
Central Hawkes Bay		





Dairy InSight