

Number of Livestock by Type in New Zealand

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Livestock have a major effect on the environment.
- Total livestock decreased by a million between 2013 (42 million) and 2014 (41 million).
- Total livestock decreased by almost a fifth between 2002 (51 million) and 2014 (41 million).



Source: http://woolshed1.blogspot.co.nz/2010/03/breeding-sheep-to-eliminate-dags-and_7781.html

Livestock have a major effect on the environment

Animals such as cattle, sheep and deer which are farmed for agriculture purposes have a very important role in the New Zealand economy. However, agricultural use of the land can have a major effect on the environment. For example:

- the run-off of effluent into water sources can affect water supply quality
- the land used for dairy cattle farms consumes a great deal of water thus affect the water supply levels
- the methane (CH₄) produced by dairy cattle can contribute to the climate change

Livestock decreased by a million between 2013 (42 million) and 2014 (41 million)

In 2014, there were 41 million livestock (including sheep, dairy cattle, beef cattle and deer) in New Zealand. Sheep were the predominant livestock, accounting for 72% of total in 2014, but had declined in number by 3 percentage since 2013. The number of dairy cattle increased by 3% during 2013-2014, compared to a decline in the number of other livestock (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of livestock in New Zealand, by type, 2013-2014

Livestock Type	Number of livestock (000s)		2013-2014 % change
	2013	2014	
Sheep	30,787	29,803	-3 ↓
Dairy cattle	6,484	6,698	3 ↑
Beef cattle	3,699	3,670	-1 ↓
Deer	1,028	958	-7 ↓
Total	41,998	41,129	-2 ↓

Note: Year to 30 June.

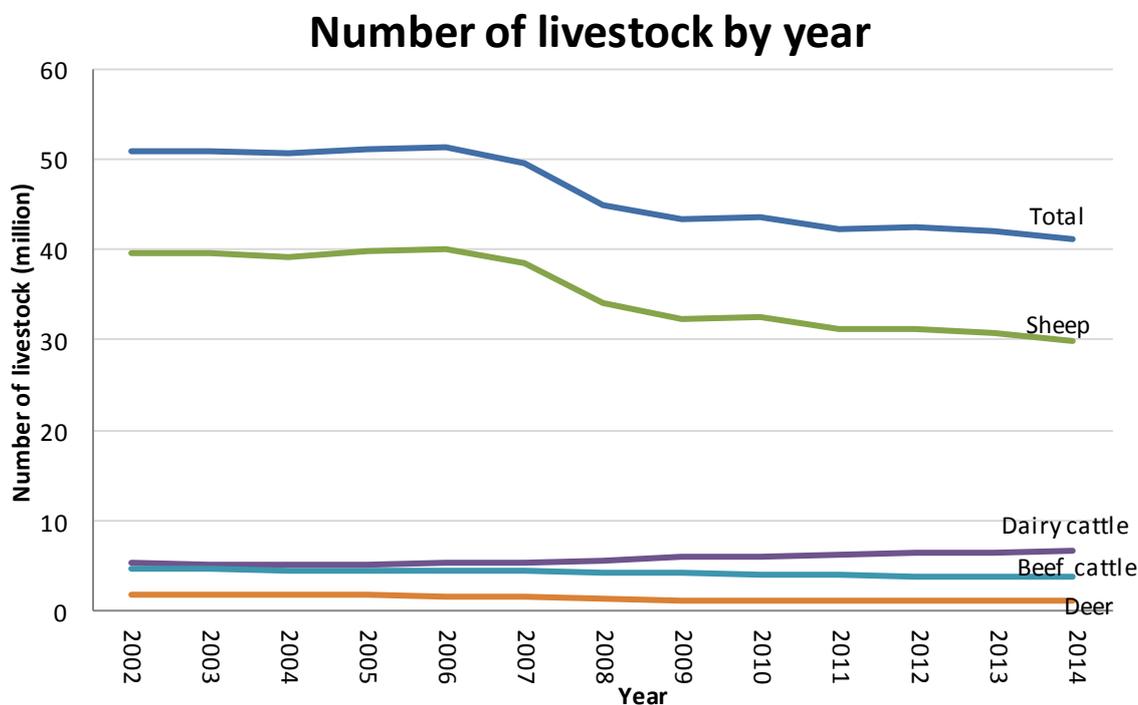
Source: Statistics New Zealand (2015)

Number of Livestock by Type in New Zealand

Total livestock decreased by almost a fifth between 2002 and 2014

Between 2002 and 2014, the total livestock in New Zealand decreased by nearly a fifth. Despite a decline of nearly one quarter in sheep numbers, sheep continued to comprise the majority of livestock in New Zealand. The number of dairy cattle has increased nearly 30% in the 13-year period. (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Number of livestock in New Zealand, by type and year, 2002-2014



Note: 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(2015)

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REFERENCES

- Statistics New Zealand. (2015). *Livestock numbers by regional council*. Retrieved on 24/07/2015, from <http://nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=TABLECODE7423#>.