



New Zealand – Seasonal Milking and its challenges in the Laboratory

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16th June 2008

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Special Thanks

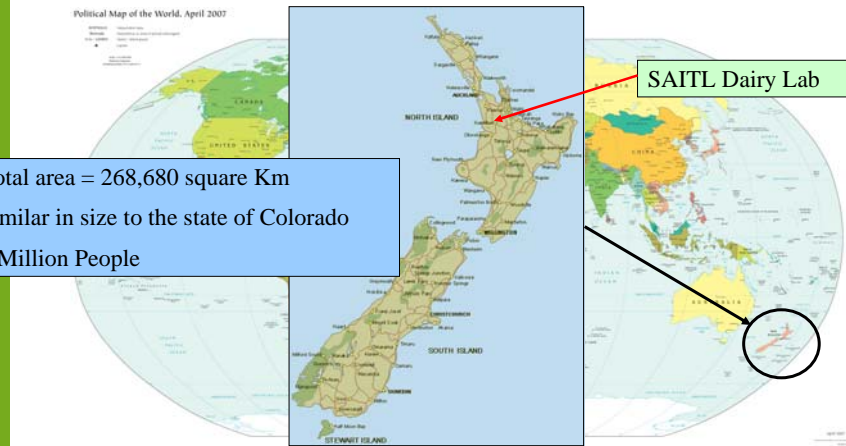
- ❑ Craig Bell – LIC Testlink Manager
- ❑ Steve Holdroyd – Fonterra
- ❑ Paul Jamieson - SAITL

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Where is New Zealand?



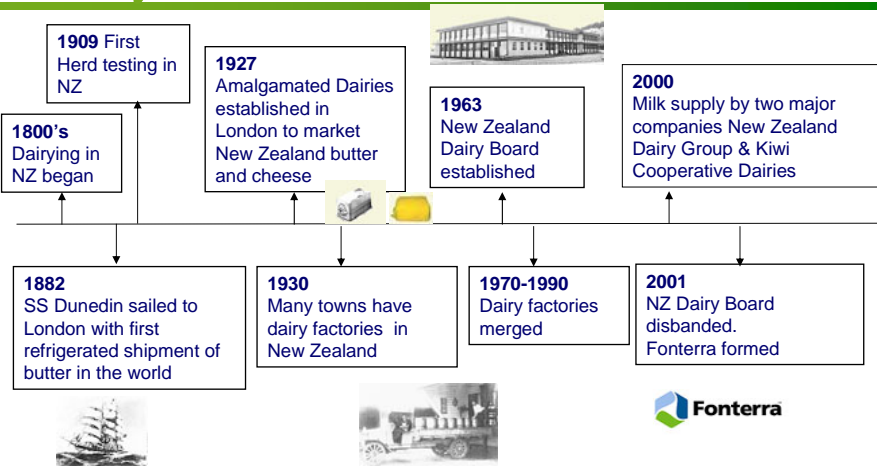
Total area = 268,680 square Km
 Similar in size to the state of Colorado
 4 Million People

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New Zealand Dairy Industry – long history



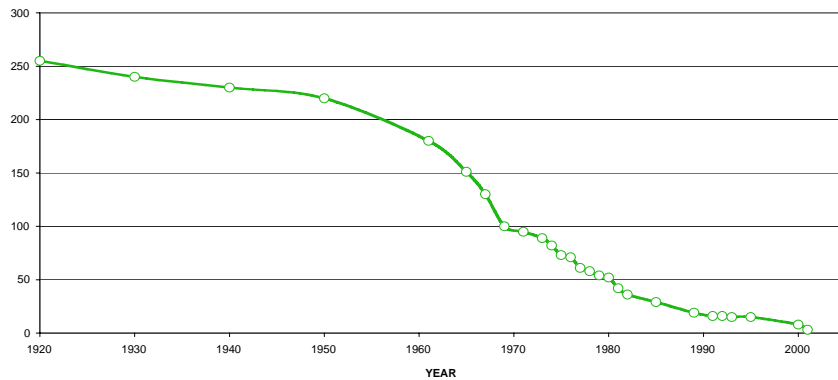
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New Zealand Dairy Industry

Number of Dairy Companies Operating 1920–2001

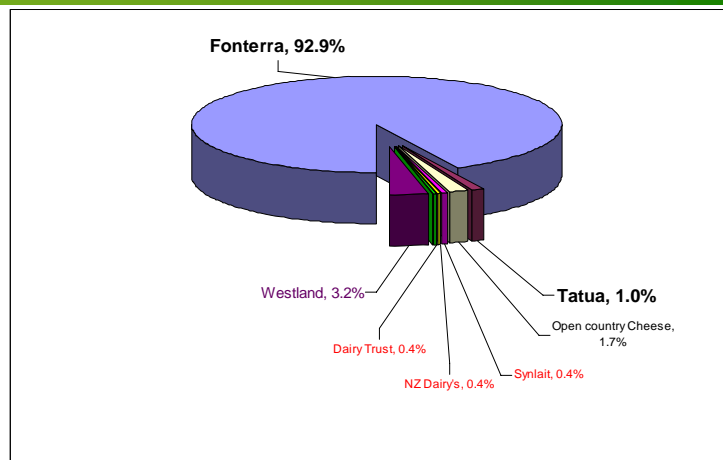


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Current NZ Dairy companies - 2008



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Dairy farming in New Zealand

- ❑ Approx 4 million dairy cows
- ❑ 11,500 suppliers
- ❑ Average herd size approx 350
- ❑ Average kg milksolids per cow approx 330
- ❑ 20 Billion litres of milk processed each year

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Dairy farming in New Zealand

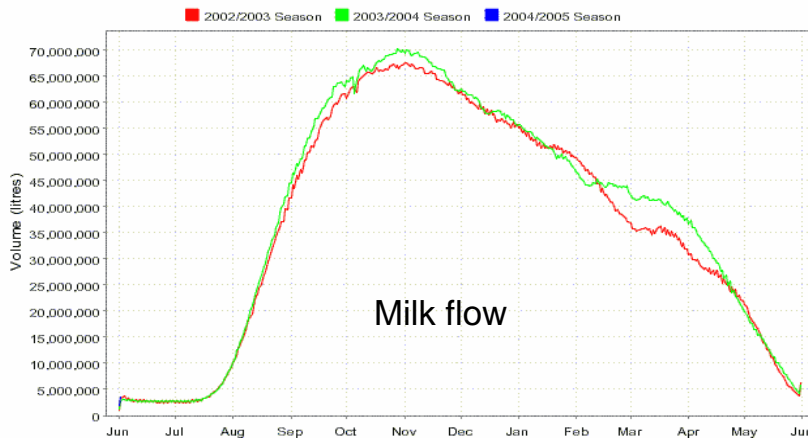
- ❑ Pasture based seasonal milk production
- ❑ Temperate climate
- ❑ Geographic isolation
- ❑ Strict border controls and food safety regulations
- ❑ **No subsidies!**

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Seasonal milk flow

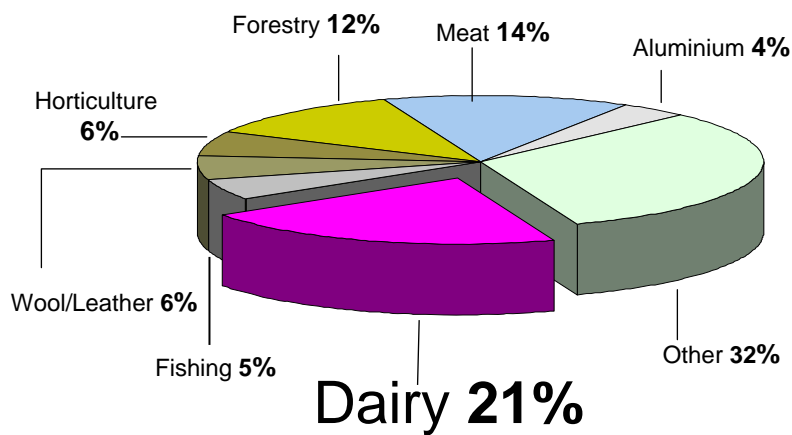


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Dairy exports a vital part of NZ economy

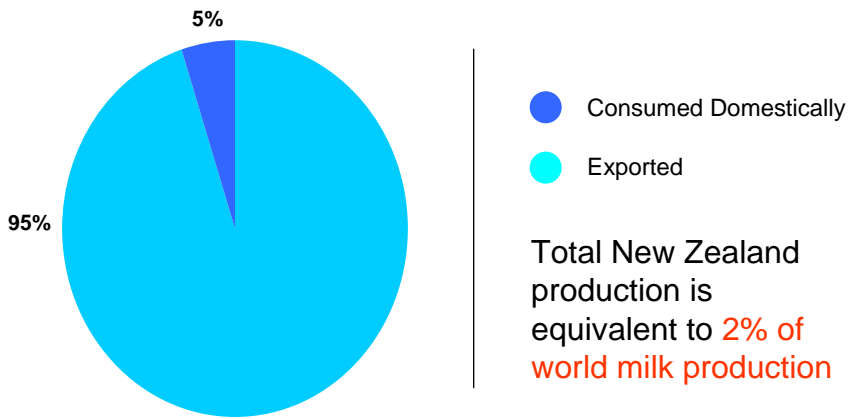


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New Zealand Milk Production



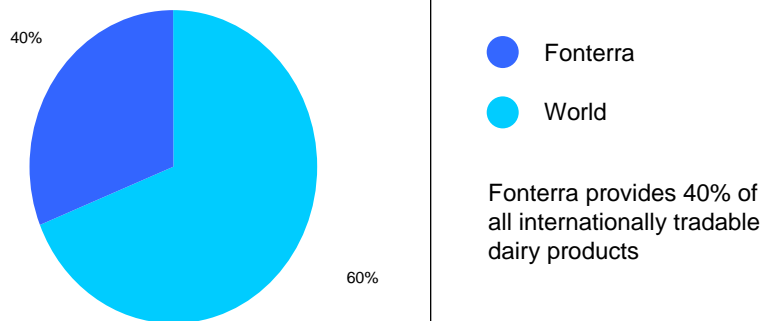
Source: Rabobank Global Focus, August 2003

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World Dairy Trade



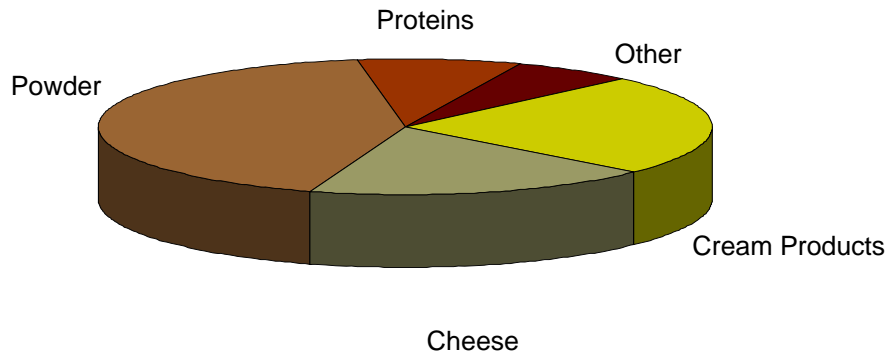
Source: Rabobank Global Focus, August 2003

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Fonterra's product mix

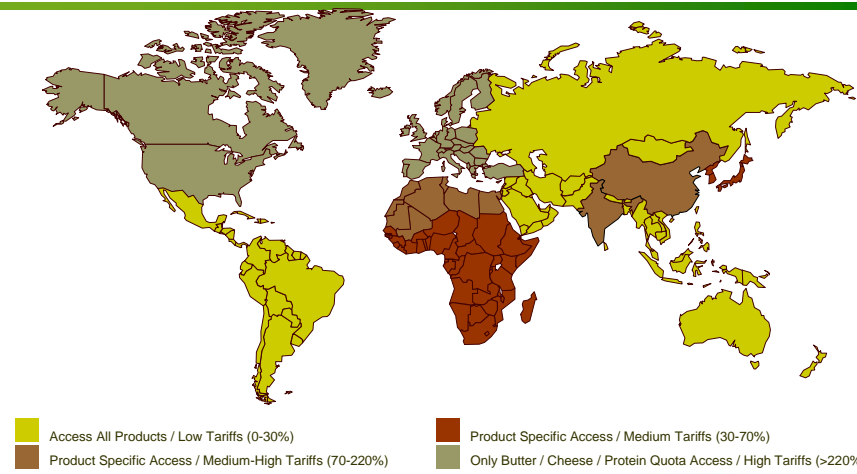


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World Dairy Access and Tariffs



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New Zealand Milk Testing Labs

- LIC – Testlink
 - DHI herd testing (> 95% NZ market)

- SAITL Dairy laboratory
 - Farmer payment (> 96 % NZ Farmers)
 - DHI under contract to small NZ player (<5% NZ Market)

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LIC – Testlink Labs

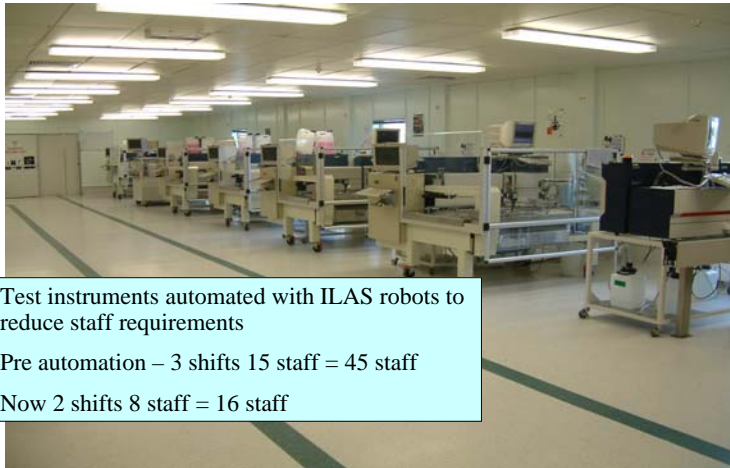
- LIC is a dairy farmer owned, farm improvement company providing a diverse range of products and services.
- Test link has two labs
 - 9 CombiFosses in North Island (Hamilton).
 - 5 CombiFosses in South Island (Christchurch).
- Processes over 9 million samples per year.
- Runs two shifts – 8 lab staff per shift (40% permanent rest casual)

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LIC Laboratory



Test instruments automated with ILAS robots to reduce staff requirements

Pre automation – 3 shifts 15 staff = 45 staff

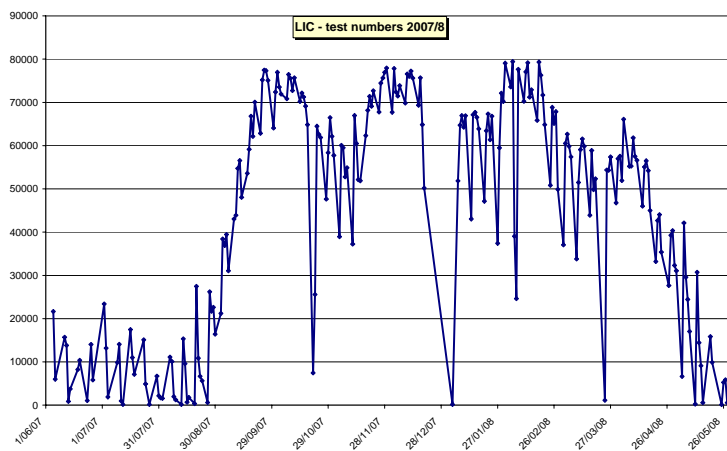
Now 2 shifts 8 staff = 16 staff

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LIC Test numbers



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LIC herd testing



SAITL Dairy Lab

LIC Testlink North

LIC Testlink South

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Livestock
Improvement

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Leading in Milk Testing

SAITL Dairy Laboratory

- ❑ SAITL = South Auckland Independent Testing Laboratory
- ❑ Non Profit Organisation (Industrial Provident Society).
- ❑ Provides Farmer Payment services to member Dairy companies
- ❑ Established 1984
- ❑ Current Member companies
 - Fonterra
 - Tatua



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SAITL
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Leading in Milk Testing

SAITL Dairy Laboratory

- ❑ 34 Permanent Staff
- ❑ Test samples 365 days per year
- ❑ Approx 11,000 Farmers tested – including South Island suppliers.
- ❑ 5.5 million samples received each year.
- ❑ 96% of all Dairy Farmers in New Zealand
- ❑ Provide commercial testing to other Dairy organisations eg. Dairy Goat Co-op, Open Country Cheese, Synlait, NZ Dairies, Dairy Trust, and Ambreed

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SAITL Dairy Laboratory Developments

- ❑ Completed transition from screw capped vial to flipcap vial in November 2006
- ❑ Completed transition from Barcode to RFID in April this year.
- ❑ New vial/ RFID enables automation:
 - Automated opening/ closing of vials on Foss instruments.
 - Enabled RFID reading at pipette on Foss instruments
 - Automated inhibitory testing.



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Inhibitory Robot



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SAITL Dairy Laboratory - Next steps

- 2009/10 Automate Plate counting (Coliforms + Thermotolerants).
 - Currently working with a Japanese company who have an automatic plater that meets our requirements.
- 2009/10 Automate test selection process.
 - Have initial concept drawings from a local automation house.

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Payment testing



Fonterra 4 head automatic sampler.
Other company's range from manual dip systems to semi automated systems.



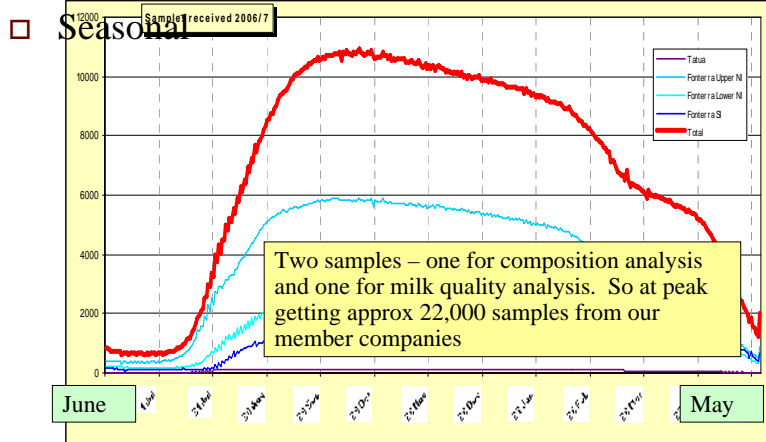
Vials colour coded – clear for quality testing, Green for composition testing.
Tanker composite sample is pink.

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SAITL Member company testing



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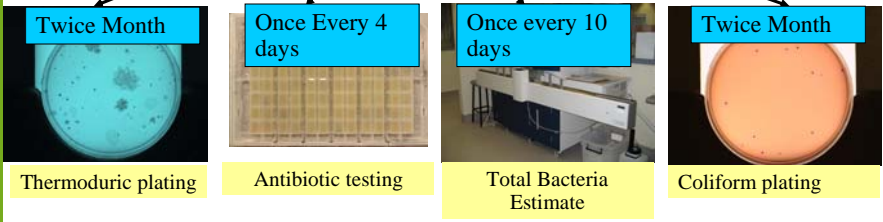
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SAITL - Milk Quality Section

Milk Quality tests done on Regime basis – each company slightly different

- Aflatoxin As requested
- Foreign Once a Month
- Senses Once a Month
- IgG test Start of season
- DDE Test As requested

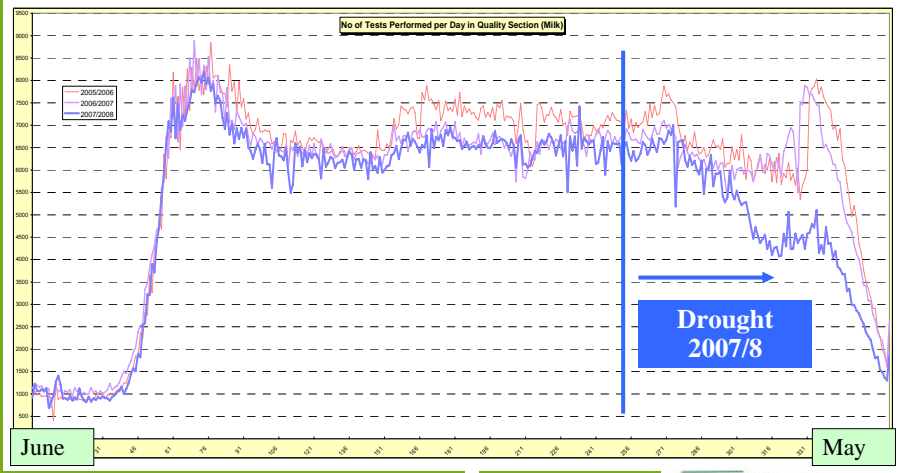


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Milk quality testing



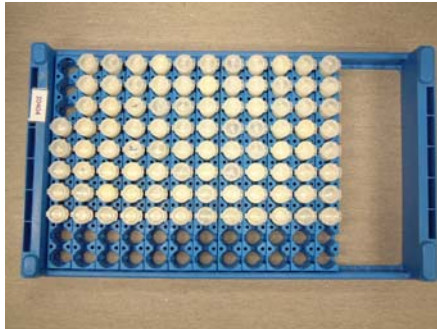
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Screening for Inhibitory Substances

- ❑ Samples placed into 8x12 matrix
- ❑ Plated onto Copan milk test by robotic system

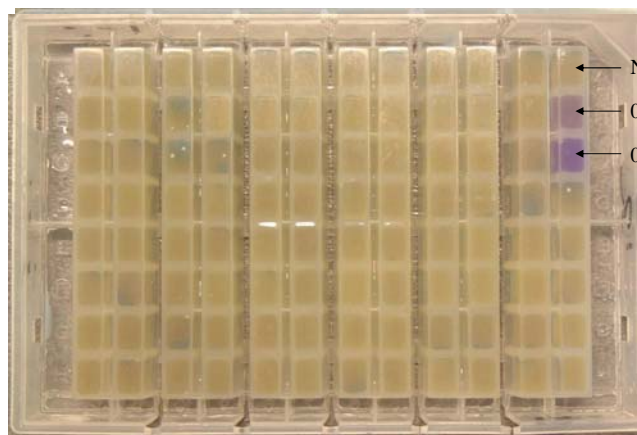


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Copan Testing Plate



← Negative Control

← 0.003IU Control

← 0.006IU Control

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Confirmation Testing

- ❑ Plated on both Delvo and Copan.
- ❑ Must be positive on both before we issue a positive grade
- ❑ Also plated with penase to confirm Beta-Lactam.
- ❑ If not Beta-Lactam then carry out other confirmatory tests.
- ❑ Also tested on *Bacillus Stearothermophilus* Disk Assay (BSDA) plate for est. concentration.

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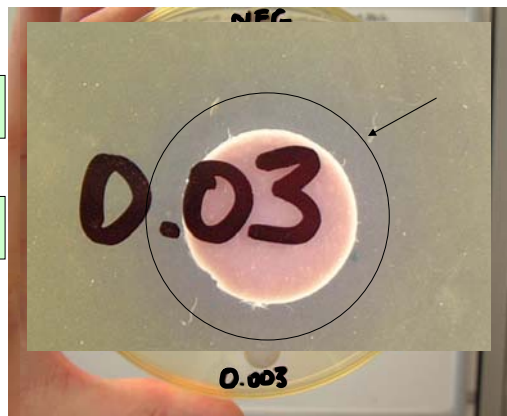
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BSDA Plate

Before
Incubation

After
Incubation



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What do the Inhib Grades Mean

- Grades issued based on estimation of concentration
- (Less than 0.05% of samples tested are confirmed as positive. Most of these are still below MRL (0.006 IU/ml).
- (
- (
- (>0.05 IU/ml = 100 demerits 500%
- Plus consequential loss.

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Challenges - Antibiotic testing

- End of season and start of season higher risk.
 - due to higher incidence of mastitis at end of season, and
 - use of dry cow therapy over the off season.
- Dairy companies manage their risk at these times by increasing testing at the start and end of season – eg. daily testing of all samples for antibiotics.

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Challenges - Antibiotic testing

- ❑ This extra testing at start/end of season has historically meant hiring extra labour resource to help do the plating.
- ❑ Last season the inhibitors were used, thus eliminating the need for extra resource.



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Total Bacterial Estimate - Bactoscan

- ❑ 3x Foss Bactoscan
- ❑ Process 150 samples an hour
- ❑ Replaces reference test that takes 72 hours.
- ❑ Calibration samples taken daily for SPC.



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BScan Grades

- ❑ A+ = Less than 10,000 cfu/ml 0 demerits
- ❑ A = 10,000 – 19,000 cfu/ml 0 demerit
- ❑ B = 20,000 – 49,000 cfu/ml 0 demerits
- ❑ C = 50,000 – 99,999 cfu/ml 1 demerit (5%)
- ❑ D = 100,000 – 199,999 cfu/ml 2 demerits (10%)
- ❑ E = 200,000 – 499,999 cfu/ml 4 demerits (20%)
- ❑ F = 500,000 – 2,999,999 cfu/ml 8 demerits (40%)
- ❑ R = > 3,000,000 cfu/ml 20 demerits (100%)

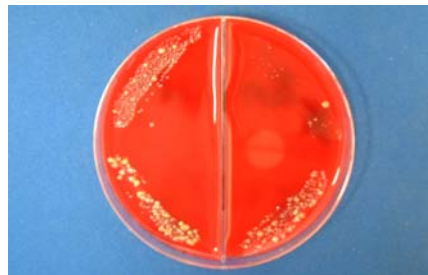
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Grade Investigation

- ❑ Purpose is to indicate if the grade has been primarily due to mastitis or hygiene issues
- ❑ Grade investigation carried out on samples with a bacterial count of 50,000 cfu and above.



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Thermoduric Testing

- ❑ Thermoduric organism is any organism that will survive pasteurization
- ❑ 72°C for 15 sec or 62.8°C for 30 mins
- ❑ Sample added to petri dish and agar added.
- ❑ Incubated for 72 hours at 30°C



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Thermoduric Grades

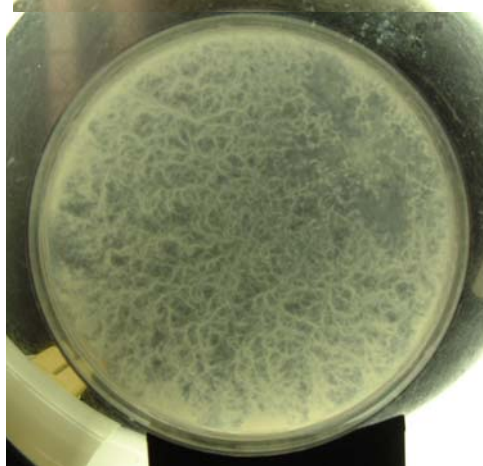
- ❑ Less than 1,500 0 Demerits
- ❑ 1,500 – 4,999 1 demerit (5%)
- ❑ 5,000 – 59,999 4 demerits (20%)
- ❑ >60,000 20 demerits (100%)
- ❑ Spreader – a single organism has taken over
- ❑ Normally an indicator of
 - A build up of milk stone within the plant.
 - Perished rubber ware.
 - Or may be due to environmental sources.

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Spreader



Spreader – a single organism has taken over

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Thermoturcic Grades

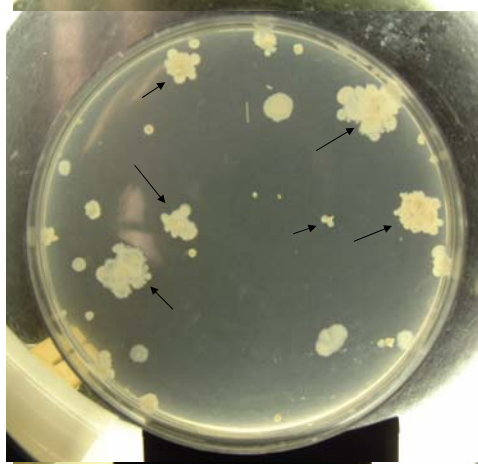
- ❑ Spore Forming Organisms
 - Indicated if above 50% of total count on plate.
 - Identified by morphology.
 - Can be an indication of poor quality silage.
 - Normally a Bacillus species.

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Spore Forming Organisms



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Coliform Testing

- ❑ Samples tested for presence of total Coliforms
- ❑ Use selective media
ie VRBA
- ❑ Incubated at 30°C
for 24 hours

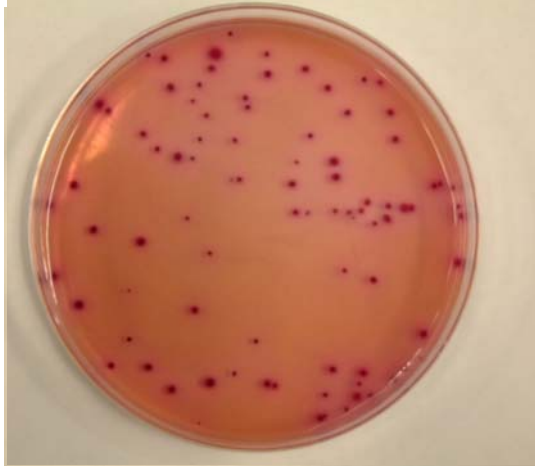


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Coliform Testing



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Coliform Grades

- ❑ Less than 499 cfu/ml 0 Demerits
- ❑ 500 – 999 cfu/ml 1 Demerit (5%)
- ❑ 1000 – 1,999 cfu/ml 2 demerit (10%)
- ❑ >2000 cfu/ml 4 demerit (20%)
- ❑ Normally an indicator of faecal contamination or poor hygiene (eg. no hot wash or chemical clean).
- ❑ Characteristic slimy bio-film build up in the Dairy plant with a distinctive odour.

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Organoleptic Testing

- ❑ Visually Inspect Milk (physical defects eg blood)
- ❑ Smell the Milk and identify off taints.
- ❑ Final Grade result of consensus between 2 or more testers on senses panel.



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Organoleptic Grades

- ❑ Grades cover a range of sensory defects. Including:
 - Cowy, Fishy, Feedy, Skatol, Sour
- ❑ In all cases they smell like they are described
- ❑ Can also pick up Kiwifruit, Turnips and other feed taints.

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Foreign matter

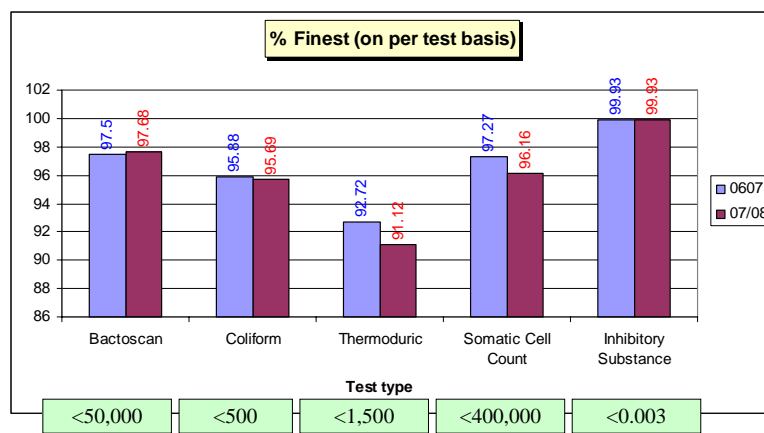
- ❑ Milk Sample passed through a filter (Lintene pad).
- ❑ Residue analysed.
- ❑ Normally find partly digested plant matter, sand, grit, animal hairs
- ❑ Normally indicates that the filter sock is ruptured or full, or that the vat is open.

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Grading rates (Fonterra)

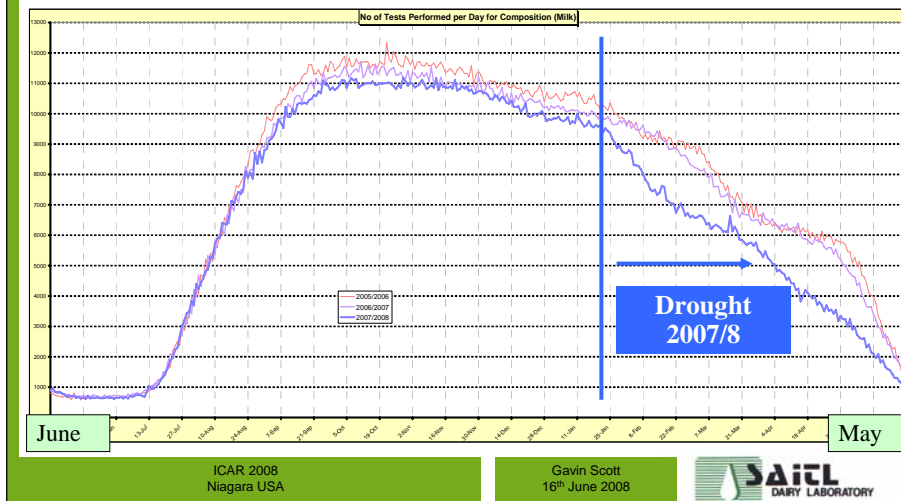


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Component test numbers



SAITL Composition testing

- 5 CombiFoss instruments – payment
 - 2 x FT6000 + 3 x MSC4000 (1 x FT600+ on way)
- 2 CombiFoss (MSC 4000) instruments - DHI
- Test Fat, Protein, Lactose, Total Solids, Somatic Cells, Freezing Point on all composition samples received.
- NZ Dairy companies tend to payout on “Milk Solids” (ie Fat + Protein).

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SAITL Composition testing



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Challenges - Resources

- ❑ Need to have enough test equipment and labour to meet requirements at peak.
 - Very inefficient use of resources!!
- ❑ For example the lab needs 5 CombiFoss instruments at peak to do 12,000 tests
- ❑ However in the off season when we are doing 800 tests only need 1 instrument for a couple of hours.

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Challenges – Milk composition

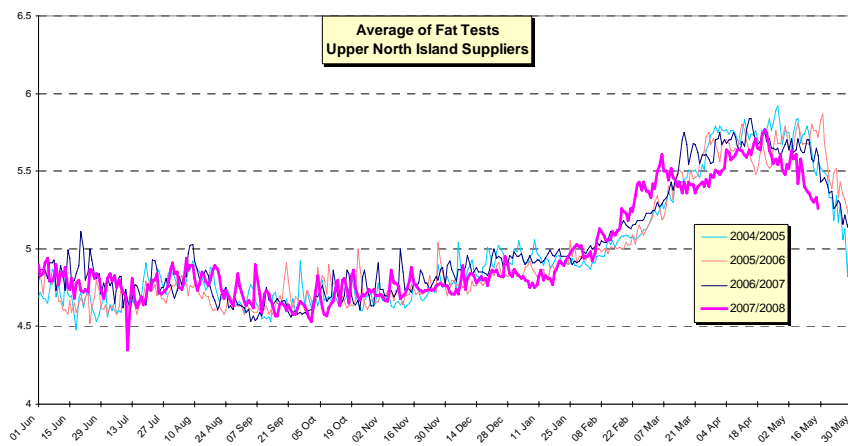
- The composition of the milk changes throughout the season.
 - Calibration issues – milk matrix changes through season and also season to season.
 - Lactation issues – eg start of season potential Colostrum contamination.
 - Unexpected matrix issues due to environmental effects – eg Drought, flooding etc.

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Milk Composition - Fat

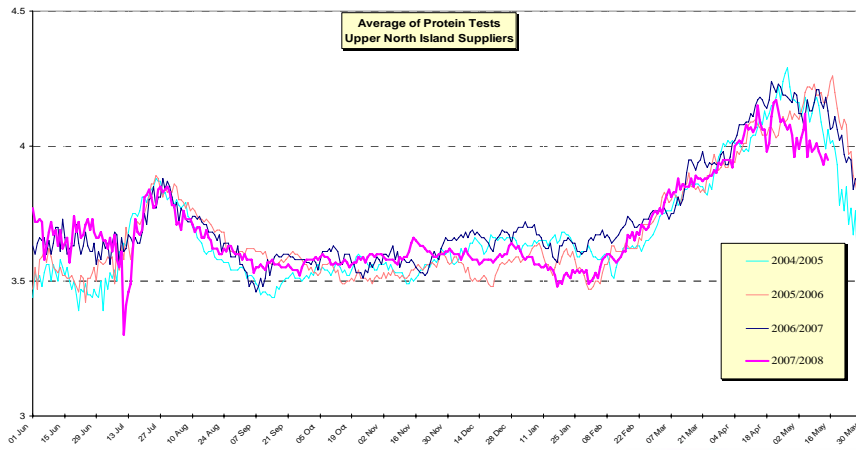


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Milk Composition – Crude Protein

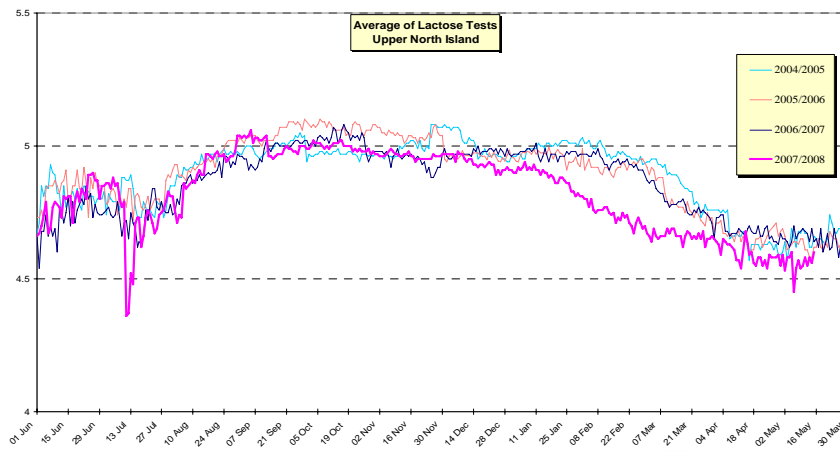


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Milk Composition - Lactose

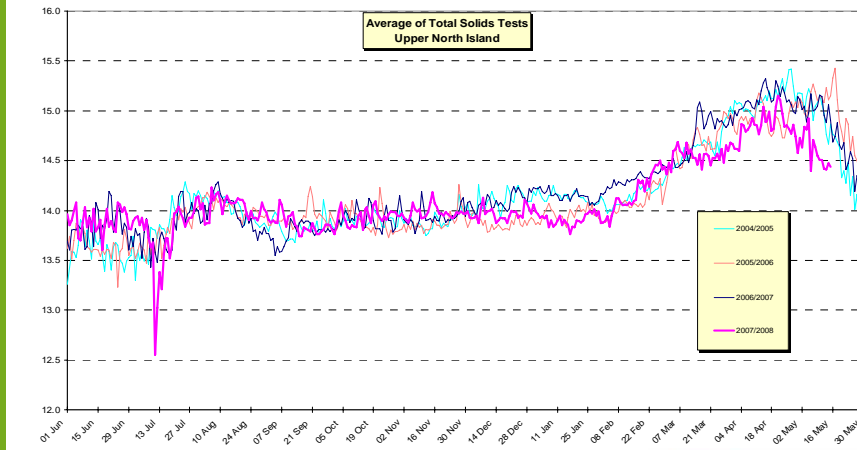


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Milk Composition

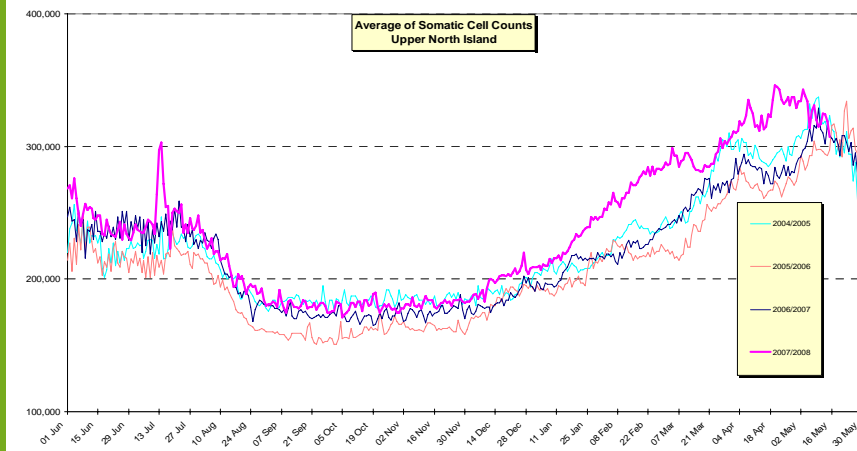


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Milk Composition – Somatic Cells

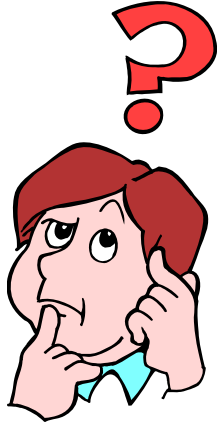


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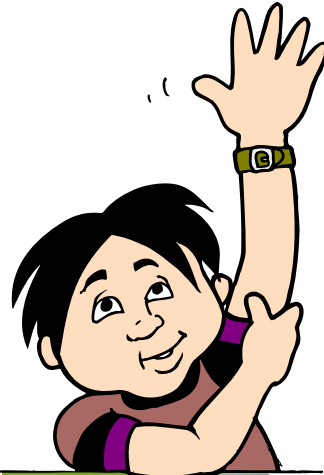
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