THE DAIRYING AND CLEAN STREAMS ACCORD:
SNAPSHOT OF PROGRESS 2008/2009

Fonterra
Dairy for life

Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

MAF

Local Government New Zealand
te pūtahi matakōkiri

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Dairying and Clean Streams Accord remains a key environmental initiative, alongside a wide range of other projects and strategies, set up to support and improve the dairy industry's environmental, social and economic performance.
- To date, two of the five Accord 2007 targets have been met.
- Good progress has been made towards meeting the Accord target for excluding stock from waterways. Sixty-four percent of Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited's (Fonterra) suppliers have waterways that meet the Accord definition. Dairy cattle are excluded from waterways on 80 percent of those farms with all regions now having achieved the 2007 target. Three regions have also achieved the 2012 target of 90 percent of waterways protected. Fewer than 2 percent of Accord-type crossings still require bridging or culverts. Taranaki suppliers were excluded because information relating to waterways is provided directly by the Taranaki Regional Council through its farm planning programme. This programme differs to the Accord because it imposes riparian fencing and planting requirements on those farmers with riparian plans and covers a wider range of waterways.
- Less favourable is the progress made towards full compliance with regional council dairy effluent rules and consent conditions. Nationally, the level of full compliance dropped from 64 percent in the 2007/08[1] season to 60 percent this past season. In part, this reflects increased compliance monitoring and the inclusion of feed pads and other ancillary functions in monitoring, previously restricted to farm dairies. Across the regions compliance varied between 39 percent and 96 percent. Of the major dairy regions, Taranaki maintained a high level of effluent compliance (96 percent) representing 1764 of the region's 1837 farms.
- Nationally, the average level of significant non-compliance increased from 12[1] percent in 2007/08 to 15 percent in 2008/09. This level of non-compliance is unacceptable and will continue to be a key focus for the industry and regional councils.
- Fonterra has implemented an Effluent Improvement System (EIS) to support and promote improved effluent compliance.
- Almost all farmers now have a nutrient budget compared to only one in five at the Accord's outset in 2003. Data on the number of farmers actively using a nutrient management system is not yet being collected. A number of industry and council projects continue to raise awareness of efficient fertiliser use, the nutrient and economic value of farm dairy effluent, and reducing nutrient loss.
- Seven of the 13 regional councils have defined and identified their "regionally significant wetlands". Of these, three regions have met the 2005 target of having 50 percent of these wetlands fenced.

1 The 2007/08 compliance figures have been revised. This was due to incorrect weightings being applied to the data received from regional councils. The revised weightings have been calculated using Fonterra supplier numbers. The 2007/08 data from Auckland Regional Council was also amended as minor non-compliance was calculated as full compliance and was also updated in Auckland Regional Council's 2008/09 report on effluent compliance.

1. PROGRESS AGAINST THE TARGETS

Introduction

The Dairying and Clean Streams Accord is an agreement between the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry, and for the Environment, Fonterra and Local Government New Zealand (on behalf of regional councils). Signed in May 2003, the Accord provides a framework for these organisations to work together. The Accord remains a key voluntary environmental initiative, alongside a wide range of other projects and strategies, set up to support and improve the dairy industry's environmental, social and economic performance.

The Accord sets out five targets for dairy farmers. These are:

1. *Dairy cattle to be excluded from 50 percent of streams, rivers and lakes by 2007, rising to 90 percent by 2012.*
2. *Fifty percent of regular crossing points to have bridges or culverts by 2007, and 90 percent by 2012.*
3. *All dairy farm effluent discharge to comply with resource consents and regional plans immediately.*
4. *All dairy farms to have in place systems to manage nutrient inputs and outputs by 2007.*
5. *Fifty percent of regionally significant wetlands to be fenced by 2005, rising to 90 percent by 2007.*

Progress is measured by:

- the results of Fonterra's annual *Environmental and Animal Welfare Assessment* (*On-farm Environmental Assessment*);
- regional council monitoring of compliance with regional plans and resource consent requirements for dairy effluent disposal.

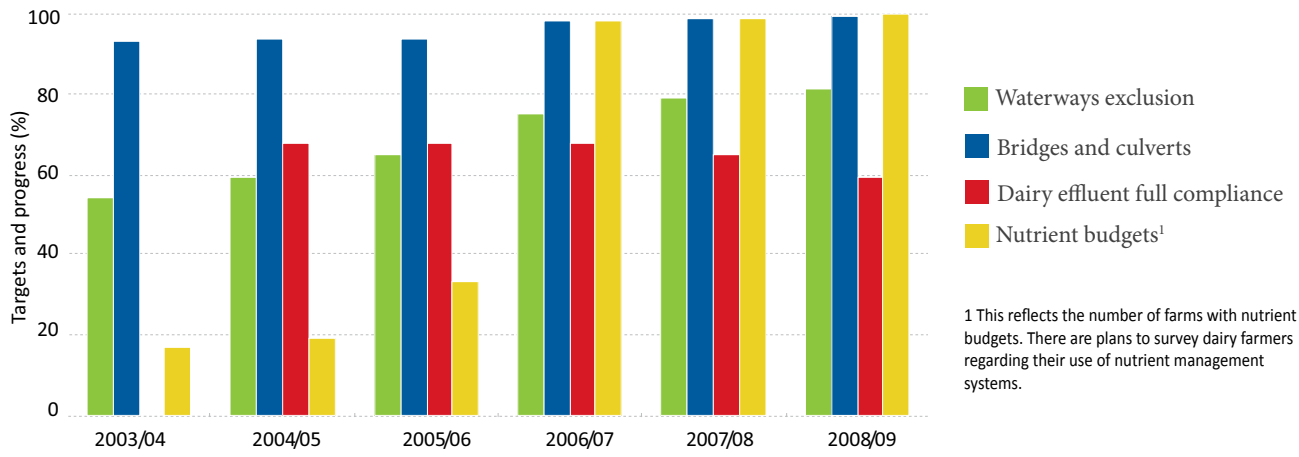
A standardised system for reporting dairy effluent compliance, initiated for the 2007/08 season, was continued in 2008/09. This enables more accurate comparisons to be made between the two seasons and across regions. **Minor non-compliance is defined as:** A level of non-compliance with rules and/or resource consents; situations where part of the system needs repairs or maintenance which if not carried out will likely lead to a non-complying discharge; or an administrative failure. In all cases these are not yet giving rise to a significant adverse effect on the environment. **Significant non-compliance:** Non-compliance with rules and/or resource consents resulting in a greater potential for environmental degradation.

Overall progress

The 2008/09 season produced mixed results in achieving the Accord targets. Two of the five 2007 targets were met. Dairy farmer progress toward meeting targets since the Accord was signed in 2003 is shown in Figure 1 and Table 1 (overleaf).

The 2007 Accord target of having *dairy cattle excluded from 50 percent of streams, rivers and lakes* has been achieved by all regions. The proportion of farms with stock excluded from Accord-type waterways (defined as deeper than a red-band gumboot (ankle deep), wider than a stride (1 metre) and permanently flowing) increased from 78 percent in 2007/08 to 80 percent in 2008/09. Three regions have also achieved the 2012 target of 90 percent exclusion. Similarly, in 11 of 12 regions the percentage of farms with protected waterways has increased or been maintained. Only 242 (2 percent) of crossings that meet the Accord criteria (used more than twice a week) still require a bridge or culvert.

Figure 1: Year-by-year progress against the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord targets



1 This reflects the number of farms with nutrient budgets. There are plans to survey dairy farmers regarding their use of nutrient management systems.

1. PROGRESS AGAINST THE TARGETS continued

To date, seven regional councils (Environment Bay of Plenty, Environment Waikato, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Horizons, Otago and Southland) have defined and identified their "regionally significant wetlands", of which three (Taranaki, Horizons and Otago) have met the 2005 target of *50 percent of regionally significant wetlands to be fenced.*

Fonterra, the fertiliser industry and DairyNZ are continuing work to ensure nutrient budgets are being used as part of a wider nutrient management system by identifying priority catchments with regional councils. This reflects the industry targets as developed under the Primary Sector Water Partnership, a group of major primary sector organisations committed to ensuring the sustainable use of fresh water resources in the primary sector: http://www.fonterra.com/wps/wcm/connect/fonterracom/fonterra.com/Our+Business/Sustainability/Water/

As noted in the *2007/08 Snapshot of Progress,* dairy effluent compliance continues to be a concern. Nationally, the level of significant non-compliance increased from 12 percent in 2007/08 to 15 percent in 2008/09. Overall, full compliance decreased from 64 percent to 60 percent. This is an undesirable result given that full compliance is a regulatory requirement and was an immediate Accord target in 2003.

Stock access to waterways

Fonterra's *On-Farm Environmental Assessment* results for 2008/09 confirm that 64 percent (5710 farms) of Fonterra's suppliers (excluding the Taranaki region) have waterways that meet the Accord definition. Cattle are excluded from waterways on 80 percent of these farms (4591 farms). The continuing steady progress towards total stock exclusion from Accord-type waterways is highlighted in Figure 2.

The Accord target, *dairy cattle to be excluded from 50 percent of streams, rivers and lakes by 2007* has been exceeded in all regions. Three regions – Northland, Otago and Southland – have also achieved the 2012 Accord target of 90 percent exclusion. Overall, there has been a continuing steady increase across all regions.

Of particular note is the increase in protected waterways since the 2006/07 season in the Horizons and Southland regions. In the Horizons region, farms with protected waterways increased from 54 percent to 74 percent in 2008/09. Southland's increase from 88 percent to 96 percent of farms with protected waterways was achieved with a corresponding 17 percent increase in farms with Accord-type waterways during the same time period.

Waterway crossings

The *On-farm Environmental Assessment* recorded 12,879 Accord-type crossings. Of these, 242 (2 percent) still require a bridge or culvert. The 2012 Accord target of *90 percent of regular crossing points to have bridges or culverts* has already been exceeded in almost all regions (The Tasman region was assessed at 89 percent of crossings having a bridge or culvert).

Table 1: Progress towards Accord targets – 2003/04 to 2008/09

Accord target	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Dairy cattle are excluded from streams, rivers and lakes (2007 target: cattle excluded from 50 percent of Accord waterways)(a,b)	54%	59%	64%	75%	78%	80%
Regular race crossing points have bridges or culverts (2007 target: 50 percent of regular crossing points bridged or culverted)	92%	93%	93%	97%	98%	98%
Farm dairy effluent is appropriately treated and discharged (target: full compliance with regional council resource consent and/or permitted activity conditions immediately)(c)	n/a	67%	67%	68%	64% R	60%
All farms have a system in place to manage nutrient inputs and outputs (2007 target) (d)	17%	19%	33%	97%(e)	98%	99%

(a) Based on farms with Accord-type waterways – deeper than a red band gumboot (ankle deep), wider than a stride (1 metre) and permanently flowing.
(b) Progress for all years has been revised to more accurately reflect performance, and only includes farms that have Accord-type waterways (previously this was based on all farms, including those without Accord-type waterways).
(c) Prior to 2007/08 different criteria were used between regions for reporting non-compliance. While comparisons were made in earlier Snapshots to provide an indication of the overall level of compliance achieved, there are doubts as to accuracy of these comparisons. The data presented for these periods should be used as a guide only as to the level of compliance achieved. A standardised system of reporting between councils was introduced in 2007/08 to improve the reliability of the data presented and enabling comparison between 2007/08 and 2008/09.
(d) These figures represent the percentage of farms with a nutrient budget which is an important step in the development of a nutrient management system. Data on the number of farmers actively using a nutrient management plan is not yet being collected.
(e) In 2006/07, *Fonterra's On-farm Environmental Assessment* showed 64 percent of farms had nutrient budgets. The 97 percent reported for the 2006/07 year is more comprehensive data from Fert Research's analysis of the fertiliser industry's customer databases.
R – Revised. The 2007/08 value has been revised. This was due to incorrect weightings being applied to the data received from regional councils. The 2007/08 data from Auckland Regional Council was also amended as minor non-compliance had been calculated as full compliance and was also updated in Auckland Regional Council's 2008/09 report on effluence compliance.

Compliance with regional plan and resource consent requirements

The third Accord target states that *all dairy farm effluent discharge to comply with resource consents and regional plans immediately*. The percentages quoted in this report are based on information provided by regional councils and reflect each region's particular method of monitoring. Council methods differ across the following factors: number of farms being visited; decisions on what farms to visit based on the previous season's performance; and the inclusion of feed pads and stock underpasses in monitoring.

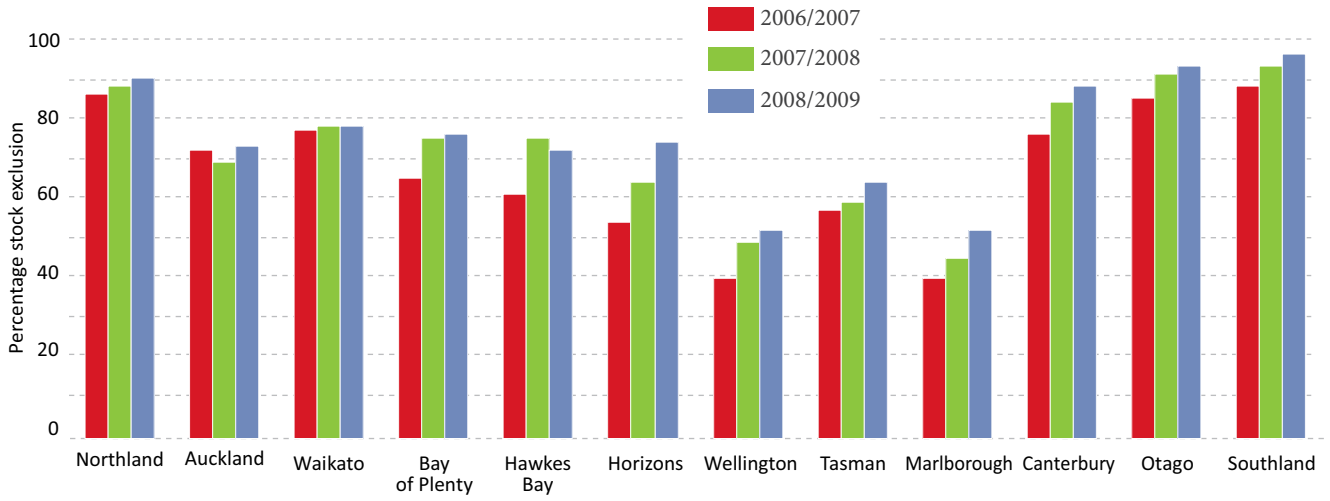
The data shows that full compliance rates decreased from 64 percent in 2007/08 to 60 percent last season. There was considerable variation in achievement between regions, ranging from 39 percent in Northland up to 96 percent in Taranaki. Figure 3 shows the percentage of farms in each region that complied with their dairy effluent resource consents. A more detailed regional breakdown showing the changes in compliance levels between 2007/08 and 2008/09 is shown in Table 2.

Taranaki continues to maintain a high level of effluent compliance (96 percent) equating to 1764 of the region's 1837 farms. Marlborough and Tasman also have full compliance levels close to 90 percent. Northland, Auckland[2], Waikato, Canterbury, and Southland have the lowest levels of full compliance ranging between 39 and 69 percent. Wellington showed the biggest improvement, with full compliance increasing from 53 percent of farms in 2007/08 to 72 percent in 2008/09, and a large reduction in significant non-compliance (28 percent down to 4 percent). This is a positive reflection of more intensive monitoring of dairying consents, earlier farm inspections allowing for multiple follow-ups, including input from farm staff during inspections, and the industry and council working together to identify the effluent management improvements needed.

Nationally, significant non-compliance increased from 12 percent in the 2007/08 season to 15 percent in 2008/09 with the biggest percentage increases occurring in Auckland and Waikato. Northland and Canterbury have continued to demonstrate high levels of significant non-compliance similar to 2007/08. Factors leading to the continuing high levels of significant non-compliance include poor management of effluent systems. For example, pond overflows and lack of storage capacity, runoff from feed/standoff pads, poor effluent disposal methods onto land and lack of upgrading infrastructure to cater for increasing stock numbers. Hawkes Bay, Horizons and Otago all had reductions in their significant non-compliance rates.

2 The 2007/08 data from the Auckland Regional Council was amended as minor non-compliance was calculated as full compliance and the data provided in the 2007/2008 was updated in their 2008/2009 report. This reduced the full compliance figure for the 2007/08 from 92 percent down to 73 percent and increased minor non-compliance from 6 percent up to 19 percent.

Figure 2: Percentage of farms with total stock exclusion from Accord waterways, 2006/07—2008/09



Notes
Data is only based on those farms that have Accord-type waterways.
Annual percentage changes for each region are affected by farm sales (that is, an Accord-complying farm is bought and becomes part of a non-complying farm, or vice versa), as well as adoption of Accord farm practices.

The number of infringement and abatement notices[3] issued to farmers between the past two seasons has almost doubled while prosecutions decreased by approximately 15 percent. This may highlight an increasing focus of councils and industry organisations to work together and provide more intensive one-on-one support and education to farmers where non-compliance is an ongoing issue. Over the past two seasons, Wellington, Tasman, Marlborough, Otago and Southland have had zero or low levels of notices issued. The remaining regions have had large increases in infringement notices issued. The Northland and Horizons regions also had large increases in the number of abatement notices issued.

Progress towards meeting this Accord target continues to be difficult. The Accord partners accept that this level of dairy effluent non-compliance is unacceptable and it remains a major focus. Fonterra, regional councils and territorial authorities, together with industry organisations such as DairyNZ, will continue to work with poorly performing farmers and the wider farming community to improve compliance levels and nutrient management to achieve the Accord's stated environmental objectives. This will be addressed through education programmes and increased enforcement action.

3 Infringement notices are utilised for situations where an offence requires a penalty but is not considered serious enough to warrant prosecution. Abatement notices are issued to individuals or parties who have committed an offence against a plan, rule or other legislative requirement.

Nutrient management

Since 2007, Fonterra suppliers were required to have in place systems to manage nutrient inputs and outputs. Data on the number of farmers actively using a nutrient management system is not yet being collected. However, a nutrient budget forms a key part of this process. Fonterra, DairyNZ and the fertiliser industry recognise the need for wider incorporation of nutrient management into the farm system and are committed to programmes that increase farmer awareness and implementation to meet the Accord's targets (see "Areas of Focus in 2008/09" for further information).

Data from Fonterra's *On-farm Environmental Report 2008/2009* indicates that the number of farmers with a nutrient budget has increased from 98 percent in 2007/08 to 99 percent.

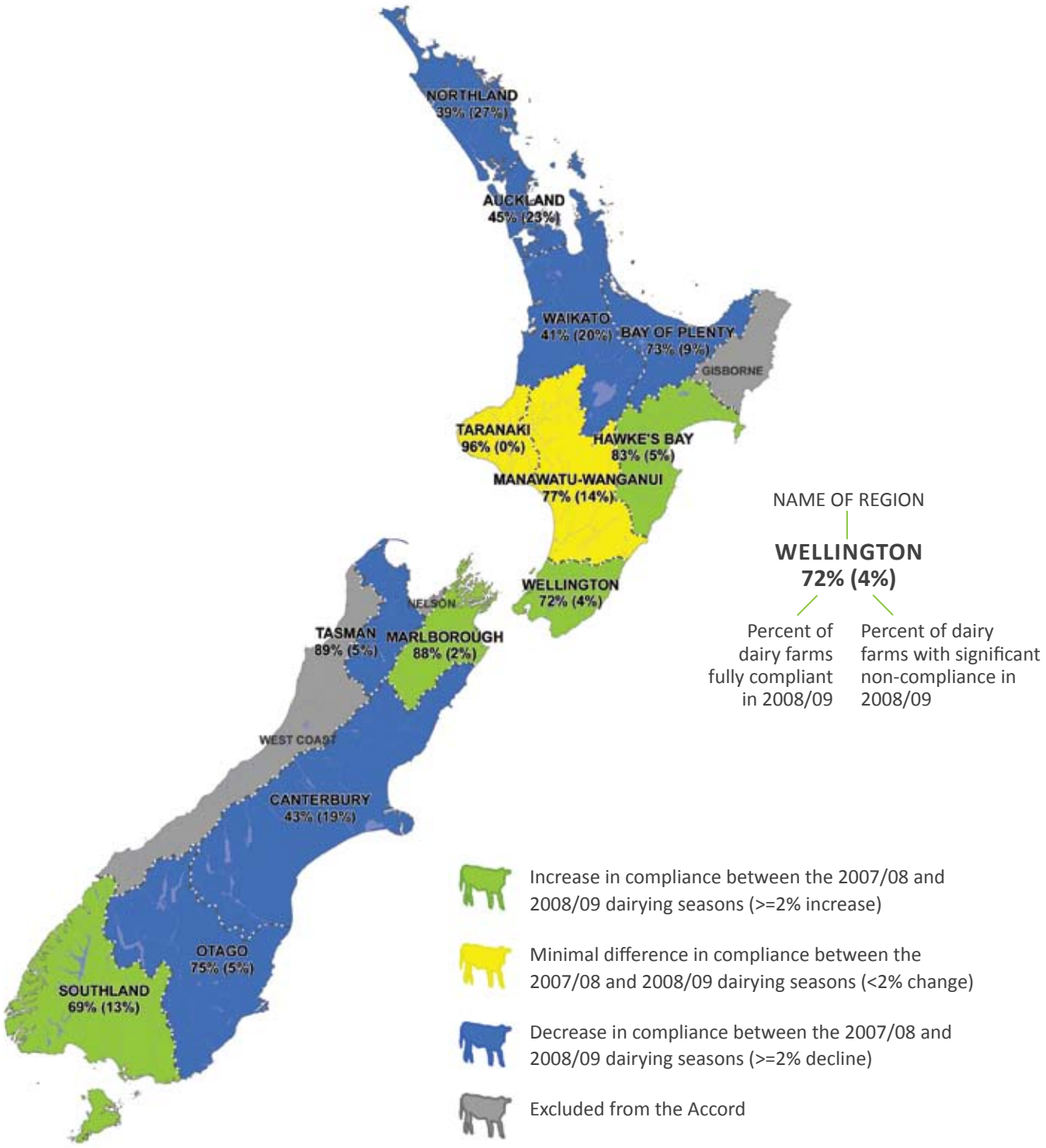
The nutrient budgeting model Overseer®, as used by the fertiliser industry and rural professionals, continues to be the main tool for developing a budget and is an important first step towards the development of a more comprehensive system of nutrient management.

Table 2: Regional dairy effluent compliance for the 2007/08 and 2008/09 seasons

	Full compliance (%)		Minor non-compliance (%)		Significant non-compliance (%)		Total farms (Fonterra)		Number of farms assessed (b)(c)	
Regional Council	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09
Northland	43	39	31	34	26	27	925	921	925	960
Auckland	73	45	19	32	7	23	328	322	328	325
Waikato	48	41	42	39	10	20	3933	3815	928	783
Bay of Plenty	76	73	15	18	9	9	684	660	388	331
Taranaki	96	96	4	3	0.2	0.5	1801	1754	1868	1837
Hawkes Bay	74	83	16	13	11	5	67	75	57	80
Horizons	78	77	0	9	22	14	864	875	174	628
Wellington	53	72	19	24	28	4	184	181	153	178
Tasman	93	89	5	6	2	5	149	141	100	131
Marlborough	75	88	25	10	0	2	58	61	60	59
Canterbury	46	43	34	37	20	19	725	799	696	851
Otago	83	75	10	20	8	5	341	336	341	379
Southland	65	69	22	18	13	13	658	742	658	752
Weighted average (a)	64	60	25	26	12	15	10717	10682	6676	7294

(a) Weighted average is only for the compliance figures and is calculated using the Fonterra farm numbers.
(b) Farms assessed by regional councils to monitor dairy effluent management compliance.
(c) In some regions the number of farms assessed may be higher than the Fonterra farm numbers because regional councils are assessing dairy farms supplying all dairy companies.

Figure 3: Dairy farm effluent discharge compliance with resource consent and regional plan requirements during the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 seasons



2. AREAS OF FOCUS IN 2008/2009

Regional Action Plans implemented

Regional councils and Fonterra have continued to cooperate and focus on the implementation of Regional Action Plans (RAPs) over the 2008/09 season. In general, all RAPs adopt the national level Accord targets, although these can have different target dates or slightly different wording. Progress for each region is measured and reported in addition to the national Accord monitoring.

Each region is able to focus on the areas of the Accord which are of greatest significance to that region allowing dedicated programs to be developed for local issues. Examples include the recently signed RAP between Environment Bay of Plenty, Federated Farmers and Fonterra[4] with the main focus of improving the quality of Bay of Plenty waterways in farming areas, and the Taranaki region's focus on riparian vegetation with active support from Fonterra.

Fonterra is committed to extending similar approaches to other regions for the issues most pertinent to them.

Waterways exclusion

Independent auditing of the *On-Farm Environmental Assessments* was carried out in 2006 across three regions – Waikato, Manawatu and Southland. The audit report concluded that progressive fencing of waterways and overall awareness of the issue remains high with farmers. It also confirmed there has been an increase in stock exclusion as measured in the *On-Farm Environmental Assessment*.

A recent study of the riparian characteristics of the Auckland region carried out by Auckland Regional Council has indicated some inconsistency regarding the level of stock exclusion from dairy streams in that region. The study also noted a number of issues that limit direct comparison to the data collected in the *On-Farm Environmental Assessment*.

A similar riparian study is currently being undertaken by Environment Waikato and at the catchment or waterway level in other areas.

The Accord partners are considering the feasibility of an independent nation-wide survey to verify the findings of the various regional reports.

Effluent compliance

Improving compliance with resource consents and regional plan requirements for dairy farm effluent discharges remains a significant area of concern and a key focus for the Accord partners. A range of industry and council led programmes have been implemented to support farmers and continue to raise awareness in this area.

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In August 2009, Fonterra introduced the Effluent Improvement System (EIS)[5] designed to support and promote improved compliance from its shareholders. The EIS's goal is a 50 percent reduction in significant non-compliance by August 2011. Fonterra's team of Sustainable Dairy Advisors, with assistance from Area Managers, provide one-on-one advice for suppliers identified as having issues with effluent management. The advisors use the "Farm Enviro Walk" diagnostic tool (a trouble-shooting check list developed by DairyNZ), to identify problems that might result in non-compliance. Fonterra has expanded its team of Sustainable Dairy Advisors to eight full-time field staff available to offer advice and support to its shareholders.

The 2009/10 season is the year for farmers to become familiar with the new EIS, its emphasis on advice and the issuing of an "advisory deduction". This year-long delay before the EIS is fully implemented, will also allow those farmers who struggle with meeting regional council effluent compliance rules, to seek help and advice before financial deductions apply.

In the 2010/11 season any supplier subject to certain enforcement action from regional councils will incur a financial deduction by Fonterra. This will be through a two-tier system with a deduction of $1500 being incurred for infringement notices and $3000 for prosecutions. A supplier who is subject to a financial deduction can apply for the money deducted to be used for reimbursing spend on obtaining appropriate advice and/or undertaking effluent system upgrades. Fonterra will also consider non-collection of milk for consistently unacceptable environmental performance involving repeated, serious breaches on individual farms.

Implementation of the EIS will not impact or replace the enforcement role of the regional councils. Instead, Fonterra is taking the steps needed to improve compliance rates, minimise dairying's

4 Environment Bay of Plenty (2008) "Bay of Plenty set for cleaner streams"; *Backyard* July 2008, Issue 12.

5 Fonterra (2009) *Fonterra announces measures to lift effluent compliance*. Media release 6 March 2009. http://www.fonterra.com/wps/wcm/connect/fonterracom/fonterra.com/our+business/news/media+releases/fonterra+announces+measures+to+lift+effluent+compliance

impact on the environment and protect the integrity of New Zealand dairy farming's reputation.

Individual regional councils also have a range of programmes aimed at education and reducing the rate of non-compliance. These include:

- Environment Waikato coordinating on-farm workshops that provide practical actions farmers can take to manage effluent in order to utilise the nutrient content. These are run together with DairyNZ, Fonterra, Federated Farmers and effluent system suppliers. A range of topics are covered, including how to set up an effluent system, the latest developments in effluent management, effluent storage, deferred irrigation, staff training and Environment Waikato regulations for dairy effluent.
- Environment Southland having a dairy farmer-funded staff member dedicated to assisting farmers in setting up systems that work and helping with problems of effluent management on their properties.
- In Wellington, all dairy farms were inspected once for effluent compliance and, in some cases, additional inspections were undertaken. Greater Wellington staff also helped organise a dairy effluent workshop for consent holders in conjunction with DairyNZ. The decrease in non-compliance is a positive reflection of more intensive monitoring of resource consents and workshops. Additionally, Greater Wellington's compliance team has been working hard towards creating a framework for Greater Wellington's Compliance Strategy document.
- In Canterbury, a combined industry-regional council group (comprising Environment Canterbury, DairyNZ, Federated Farmers, Fonterra, NZ Dairies, and Synlait members) was formed in October 2009 and is working collaboratively to improve the level of dairy effluent compliance in the region. The group is developing a range of initiatives such as working more closely with effluent system suppliers, improved training for dairy farm staff, attending farmer events to demonstrate how to avoid non-compliance, direct communication to farmers about compliance issues, an advertising campaign promoting good dairy effluent practice, as well as reviewing consenting requirements and compliance methodology.

In addition, the Agriculture Industry Training Organisation runs "Dealing with Dairy Effluent," a course that has been developed in consultation with Fonterra, regional councils and farming experts. The aim of the course is to improve awareness amongst all farm staff of effluent as a valuable farm resource, and their role in its effective management. It caters to all levels of dairy work and experience.

Interesting Accord facts and figures

- Between the 2003/04 and 2008/09 seasons, the total number of Fonterra farms has decreased by 12 percent from 12,076 to 10,682. The trend towards fewer, larger farms is consistent across most regions. The main exceptions are Canterbury and Southland where farm numbers have increased by 20 percent and 24 percent respectively over the same period.
- The proportion of Fonterra farms with Accord-type waterways has remained relatively constant at approximately 67 percent since 2003. Southland in 2008/09 has both the highest percentage of farms with waterways (88 percent) and the highest rate of stock exclusion (96 percent).
- The Tasman region has the longest average waterway length at four kilometres per farm. Southland region also has a high average length of waterway at 3.4 kilometres per farm.

Nutrient management

Nutrient management continues to be a key focus for the dairy industry. Currently, the dairy industry is partnering with the fertiliser industry and regional councils to deliver nutrient management plans in priority catchments and regions. These include Rotorua Lakes, the Upper Waikato (hydrolakes) catchment south of Lake Karapiro and the Horizons region. Other regions will be included as resources allow or regulatory pressure dictates.

A number of regional councils also have catchment-based projects focused on raising farmer awareness of the economics and environmental impacts of nutrient loss. For example, Environment Waikato has been running an Integrated Catchment Management project in the Little Waipa and Waipapa catchments since 2006. As a pilot project this assessed what on-farm changes were necessary to improve nutrient efficiency and what policy mix would be required to engage farmers in changes to lower nutrient loss from farm systems. Approximately half of the farmers have so far worked through whole farm planning focused on nutrient loss.

The Little Waipa and Waipapa project has recently sparked a wider study of nutrient loss and farm profitability carried out with DairyNZ, Ballance Agri-Nutrients, Environment Waikato and Fonterra in the upper Waikato (hydrolakes) catchment. This project was a study of nutrient efficiency and the economic impacts of meeting a theoretical target. The project was an excellent example of collaboration between council and industry, and the large amount of work required to ensure farmers have the support, skills and tools required to reduce nutrient loss and maintain a sustainable economic position.

There are a wide range of initiatives throughout the country that aim to improve water quality through increasing awareness of nutrient runoff, and identifying and implementing best management practices[6]. While these projects are not directly focused on the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord targets they provide critical information and tools for the targets to be attained.

Regionally significant wetlands

Fonterra will continue to work closely with councils to ensure that where regionally significant wetlands have been identified but not protected, that this work is completed. Fonterra will also encourage those remaining councils to complete identification of regionally significant wetlands.

6 A review of the key initiatives in the environmental area that have a relationship to the dairy industry and to the Accord can be found in: Harris Consulting (2008) Dairying and Clean Streams Accord: Mid-Term Stocktake. http://www.maf.govt.nz/mafnet/rural-nz/sustainable-resource-use/resource-management/dairy-clean-stream/stocktake-08.pdf

3. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Strategy for New Zealand Dairy Farming 2009–2020

The Strategy for New Zealand Dairy Farming has been developed to guide the investment and activities of the industry from 2009–2020. It updates and replaces the *Strategic Framework for New Zealand's Dairy Farming Future*. The Strategy's development was led by DairyNZ with the involvement of DCANZ (the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand), Federated Farmers, Fonterra, the wider farming community and many other stakeholders. It aims to provide a sustainably produced, internationally competitive milk supply giving the best returns to farmers.

The unifying theme of the Strategy is the need for a systems approach to dairy farming to achieve the industry's desired outcomes. A systems approach integrates farm production and resource use with the farm business and its people, all in the context of the environment in which the farm operates. The next step will be for the industry to work together to determine the action plan including which organisations are responsible for delivering results.

The Strategy can be accessed at http://www.dairynz.co.nz/file/fileid/16856.

Monitoring water quality

In July 2009, the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) published the first in a planned series of reports that aim to provide a national overview of changes in water quality in selected dairy catchments over time. The objective was to help understand the catchment scale effects of implementing best management practices, including Accord actions. This first report identified 14 catchments from around the country where dairying is the predominant land use and summarised baseline water quality, land use and farm practice in each catchment. Monitoring data was provided by regional councils, NIWA and Fonterra. Monitoring results indicated that water quality was generally degraded in the selected dairy catchments, particularly with respect to faecal and nutrient contamination. However, the extent and pattern of degradation is variable both within, and between, catchments.

MfE is currently working with councils, industry and science providers to review the existing catchment monitoring programmes and determine whether any improvements are needed. After 2012, MfE intends to report again on the selected catchments with a focus on trends in water quality and how they relate to progress in adoption of best practice management since the baseline was established.

The baseline report is available at: http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/land/water-quality-selected-dairying-farming-catchments/index.html

New Start for Fresh Water

In September 2009, the Government agreed to a new strategic direction for fresh water management – New Start for Fresh Water. The work programme is led jointly by the Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry, and for the Environment. The aim of the programme is to work with key stakeholders to find enduring ways to manage fresh water that reflect economic, environmental, social and cultural values.

The New Start for Fresh Water programme encompasses three core strands of activity, occurring in parallel:

- The Land and Water Forum; a stakeholder-led collaboration forum that will develop shared goals, desired outcomes and long-term strategies for fresh water management.
- Ongoing engagement between Ministers and Iwi Leaders in respect to iwi interests in fresh water management.
- The Officials Programme to scope policy options and the development of tools for better fresh water management. Ten projects fall into the areas of allocation, quality, infrastructure, science and monitoring, and governance.

More information on the New Start for Fresh Water can be found at: http://www.mfe.govt.nz/cabinet-papers/implementing-new-start-for-fresh-water.html

Land and Water Forum

The Land and Water Forum is made up of a broad range of stakeholders who represent the views of many fresh water users. Its aim is to discuss stakeholder views in a constructive and collaborative manner to achieve a consensus for change. The Forum is to provide a report and recommendations to the Government by July 2010 on shared outcomes, goals and long-term strategies, for fresh water management in New Zealand.

Membership of the Land and Water Forum comprises stakeholders outside of government with a major interest in fresh water. These include iwi, agricultural, industrial, urban, and environmental organisations with interests in water management. Local and central government representatives are involved in the project process as "active observers".

More information on the Land and Water Forum can be found at: http://www.landandwater.org.nz

FOR MORE INFORMATION


Photo: Bob Zuur.

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