

DairyNZ[®]

Milksolids levy adjustment

Effective from 1 June 2025

New milksolids levy rate

3.6c

Since 2009

4.5c

2025/2026

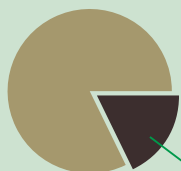
*aim to hold at no more than 4.5c for min 3 years

Following a comprehensive consultation, the DairyNZ Board based its decision on formal feedback from levy payers, the financial sustainability of DairyNZ, and the resilience of our sector. The new rate allows DairyNZ to continue supporting farmers in those vital areas that only industry-good can, including to lift profitability and sustainability through science and research, evidence-based policy advocacy, and independent extension behind the farm-gate.

Feedback received

1588

farmers



18%
by milksolids

12 consultation
events



Participation is in line with the annual Board of Directors election turnout.

Consultation options

By turnout -1588 farmers, 18% milksolids

Maintain activities [4.4-4.6 c/kgMS]

64%

[63% by milksolids]

Accelerate activities [4.7-5 c/kgMS]

14%

[20% by milksolids]

No preference

22%

[17% by milksolids]

Striking the balance



Some farmers endorsed our work and want us to do more, especially across science and research.



Others want a stronger commercial focus to keep costs down, or the levy rate unchanged.

Why now

Levy income: stable past decade.

Govt funding dropped
\$10m p.a. in past decade.

Cost inflation - DairyNZ cuts costs by **\$5.5m** in past year.

DairyNZ cash reserves low.

Levy rate review.

4.5c/kgMS
first change in 16 years.

Farmer Feedback → Changes Coming

Six key themes arose during the consultation:

- The need for greater engagement, communication and extension services.
- A clearer picture on where the levy is invested and return on investment.
- Further efficiencies and commercial rigour across DairyNZ.
- More farmer engagement in shaping research and science priorities.
- Higher degree of science translated into practical on-farm solutions.
- More coordination and partnerships to avoid sector duplication.

This feedback will influence DairyNZ's work across:

- Farmer engagement
- Transparency around levy investment and ROI
- Research and science programme