2023 DairyNZ winter management farmer survey

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# 1 Introduction

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# 2 Methods

Body text:

For normally distributed continuous variables (question 52: “X amount of time before calving”), linear regression was used to test for differences between regions. For nonparametric continuous variables (all other questions), the Kruskal-Wallis test was used. For categorical variables where only one option was allowed (e.g., question 7: “Is this more or less (Ha) than last winter (2022)?”), the 2 test was used when all cell counts were >4, otherwise Fisher’s exact test was used. Pairwise comparisons were made and the p-values adjusted for multiple comparisons. Options with 0 responses in one or more regions were excluded. When there were more than two possible options, the comparisons were limited to the two most common or meaningful options. For categorical variables where more than one option was allowed (e.g., question 9: “Where do you winter your animals? (tick all that apply)”), the 2 test was also used but it was restricted to comparing regions for each response option separately, since independence between options could not be assumed. Only options with an overall national response of greater than 5% were tested.

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# 3 Results

## 3.1 2023 survey data

A total of 233 responses were collected (Table 3.1).

Table 1

| Region | Number of responses |
| --- | --- |
| BOP | 15 |
| Waikato | 2 |
| Waikato South - Te Kawa/King Country | 3 |
| Taranaki | 2 |
| Central Plateau | 5 |
| Manawatu | 2 |
| Wairarapa | 7 |
| Top of South (Tasman, Marlborough) | 7 |
| West Coast | 9 |
| Canterbury | 79 |
| Otago | 28 |
| Southland | 74 |

## 3.2 2023 results

This is more text.

Here is a figure:

Figure 1



Bullet points:

* This theme included ensuring access to gates and on/off grazing areas, transitioning cows between paddocks, access to electricity for fencing, convenience, and managing the location and access to grass paddocks. For instance, one respondent mentioned, “Access to gates for getting onto grass paddock as on-off graze and what mob suits best.”
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Numbered bullet points:

1. Several farmers mentioned their desire to implement various changes or improvements, such as wintering barns, but indicated that financial limitations were currently preventing them from doing so. Examples include “wants a wintering barn but can’t afford it atm” and “Will build a feed pad when he can afford it”.
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## 3.3 Comparison of 2022 and 2023 results

## 3.4 Comparison of all years for Otago and Southland regions

## 3.5 Proportion of dairy farmers implementing at least five good management practices

## 3.6 Association between having a written wintering plan and the number of good wintering management practices implemented by farmers