

SCOTTISH DAIRY CATTLE ASSOCIATION

Representing the Dairy Cattle Industry of Scotland

Secretary: Janette Mathie

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Scottish Dairy Herds 750 Dairy Herds in Scotland.

As of the 1st of January 2026, dairy herd statistics for Scotland, released by the Scottish Dairy Cattle Association, show a net decrease of 14 dairy herds during 2025, bringing the total to 750. During the same period there was an increase of 1,466 cows making a total of 181,857. Kirkcudbrightshire saw the biggest rise in cow numbers, up 977 from January 2025.

The average herd size continues to increase and now stands at 242, up by 6 during the year.

Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire both saw a net loss of 5 herds.

Cows officially milk recorded are 72% of the Scottish dairy cow population with an average herd size of 254 cows.

The remaining herds are monitoring for somatic cell count and health testing, especially Johne's disease, as part of the National Johne's Management Plan. Pregnancy diagnosis, via a milk sample is a popular service as it is easy and non – invasive. Record keeping and health monitoring are valuable aids for good dairy herd management.

Commenting Janette Mathie, acting Secretary for SDCA said: "The decrease in milk price will test resilience of Scottish dairy farmers during 2026, but they still have determination and dedication to produce high quality milk and dairy products and breed superior dairy cattle".

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