

SCOTTISH DAIRY CATTLE ASSOCIATION

Representing the Dairy Cattle Industry of Scotland

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Press Release

The Ups and Downs of Scottish Dairy Herds

Figures released by the Scottish Dairy Cattle Association, for the first six months of the year, show that herd numbers are down again to 902 herds but cow number continue to increase and now stand at 179931, an increase of 1003 from January, making the average herd size 199. The net decreases mainly effect The Lothians and Lanarkshire with a collective loss of 7 herds and Ayrshire with a loss of 4 herds. Wigtownshire lost 3 herds but also had 3 new dairies start milk production giving a net increase of 894 cows over the last 6 months.

Cows being officially milk recorded decreased by 652 but the average cows increased by 7 to 214.

Commenting on the first six months of the year Janette Mathie, the Secretary of the SDCA, said 'The wet Spring, lack of forage and the uncertain milk price proved too much for some farmers and they made the decision to sell up whilst others have made a huge investment for their future within the dairy industry and increased cow numbers accordingly.

Many dairy farmers, took advantage of the EU funded incentive scheme, to start milk recording last year, and have found the information invaluable in managing their herds, especially with added health and pregnancy services and the ability to check details of their herd by using smart phone apps or management programs. Indications are that cow numbers will continue to increase with a few new farms due to start milk production before the end of 2018".

END

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