

SCOTTISH DAIRY CATTLE ASSOCIATION

Representing the Dairy Cattle Industry of Scotland

Secretary Janette Mathie

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Press Release

Challenges for Scottish Dairy Herds but still cows increase.

Figures released by the Scottish Dairy Cattle Association, for the first six months of the year, show that herd numbers are down again to 888 herds, but cow number continue to increase and now stand at 180,293 an increase of 755 from January, making the average herd size 203. The net decreases mainly effect Aberdeen and, once again, Lanarkshire with a collective loss of 6 herds. Ayrshire, Dumfriesshire and Wigtownshire all saw new dairies start milk production over the last 6 months with more due to start later this year.

Milk recorded herds make up 73% of the dairy herds within Scotland with an increase of 1505 cows, since January making a total of 132,425 milk recorded cows in 607 herds with an average herd size of 218.

Commenting on the first six months of the year Janette Mathie, the Secretary of the SDCA, said "The long-term investment of some dairy farmers continues with increased cow numbers and new dairies starting milk production. There are however heightened uncertainties, especially in Kintyre and the sad loss of Arran creamery last week.

On a positive note NFUS organised meetings and continue to steer a path to get fairer milk contracts for all dairy producers. Dairy farmers, especially those with larger herds, are utilising milk recording data, and finding the information invaluable in managing their herds. Mobile apps and herd management programs make it easy to input data and share with farm consultants, vets and other industry partners to increase health, welfare and profitability of their herds".

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