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From: Statistics (ACS) [SMTP:statistics@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK]
Sent: 07 May 2009 15:40
Subject: FW: Dairy herd numbers

Dear xxxxx

Sorry for the delay in responding to your query. I now have figures that I hope will be useful to you. I have attached a spreadsheet showing the number of holdings with 10 or more dairy cows as at June of each year from 1998 to 2008. Data for 2009 is not yet available as these figures are taken from our June survey. I'm afraid I am unable to provide you with the number of holdings with 1 or more dairy cows because there are a lot of holdings that only have 1 or 2 dairy cows and this skews the counts of dairy holdings. However those with 10 or more give a good indication of the number of main commercial dairy herds.

When referring to holdings who have dairy I have included all cows that are designated as dairy, such as dairy replacements as well as the dairy breeding herd. According to the Cattle Tracing system (CTS) the breed of the cattle is used to identify a breed purpose. Around 2% of all female cattle do not have an assigned breed purpose or are of dual breed. For our results, these cattle are allocated to either dairy or beef at holding level based on the other cattle on the holding. Where there are no other cattle on the holding, they are allocated on the basis of the national split between dairy and beef in that age band.

I hope this data is useful.

Kind regards

xxxxx