



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

27 April 2009

Dear

Request for Information – Reference 3290

I wrote to you on 21 April 2009 following your request for information sent to the Freedom of Information Officer.

In your e-mail of 9 April 2009 you asked for the following information:

- The number of populated dairy herds in Wales, which contain one or more animals, for each year from 1998 to 2009 (inclusive), and if these figures represent a snapshot in time, the month in the year to which the figures apply.

You subsequently clarified that this was correct on 21 April 2009.

I have enclosed the information you requested in **Table 1**, which can be seen below. These statistics were extracted from data sets held by the Welsh Assembly Government. The table also shows the number of dairy cattle present in Wales for each of the years you requested. I regret that we do not yet have data for 2009 as the survey data used is collected in June.

TB Team / Tîm TB
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer / Swyddfa'r Prif Swyddog Milfeddygol
Welsh Assembly Government / Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
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Ebost • Email: BovineTB@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Year	Number of Animals	Number of Holdings
Welsh Agricultural Survey Estimates (a)		
1998	276,336	4,807
1999	278,838	4,596
2000	268,591	4,307
2001	269,978	4,100
2002	267,737	4,004
2003	268,140	3,766
2004	271,470	3,658
2005	264,403	3,512
2006	280,968	3,368
Cattle Tracing System (b)		
2004	303,392	4,564
2005	299,237	4,390
2006	297,722	4,311
2007	289,134	4,153
2008	282,057	3,946

Table 1: Dairy cattle numbers and number of holdings with one or more dairy animals in Wales from 1998 to 2008 (inclusive), (a) Welsh Agricultural Survey data taken at June each year and only includes dairy females that have calved, (b) Cattle Tracing System snapshot taken at June each year for females aged at least 2 years that are of a dairy breed.

Please note:

The method for collecting cattle census information changed during this period. There was a move from estimating the number of cattle from the Welsh Agricultural Survey to drawing the data from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS).

This means that there is a consistent series of data from the Welsh Agricultural Survey from 1998 to 2006 and another from the CTS from 2004 to 2008 (with a three year overlap).

For both data sets, the figures are for holdings in Wales, and the animals on those holdings, as at 1 June each year. The holding figures do not distinguish between holdings with 1, 10, 100 or 500 animals.

The two series have different ways of defining a “dairy animal”. The Welsh Agricultural Survey looked at the purpose for which an animal was used. A question specifically asked the farmer to record animals that had calved, were in milk and were used for dairy purposes. This excluded any animals that were not yet in milk but were to be milked at a later date.

The CTS data is based around the age, breed and sex of an animal. It does not identify whether an animal is in milk. The data extracted here are for all females aged at least 2 years that are of a recognised dairy breed.

In general terms the two sets of figures are reasonably close for the total number of dairy animals. However, there is a much larger difference in the reported number of holdings. The extra holdings with dairy cattle reported by CTS data seem to be due to an increase in the number of holdings with only a small number of animals.

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Assembly Government's Disclosure Log (at www.information.wales.gov.uk).

If you believe that I have not followed the relevant laws, please contact me to request a first stage review. If, after that, you are still not satisfied you may request a second stage review by the Assembly Government. When dealing with any concerns, we will follow the Assembly Government's Code of Practice on Complaints which is available on the Internet at www.wales.gov.uk or by post.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. Normally, however, you should pursue the matter through our internal procedure before you complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 745
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: enquiries@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Also, if you think that there has been maladministration in dealing with your request then you may make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales who can be contacted at:

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed
Bridgend
CF35 5LJ

Yours sincerely

TB Team
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer