The Survey of Rural Decision Makers is a biennial survey of New Zealand's primary sector conducted by Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research since 2013. In 2021, there were 6700 respondents representing commercial and lifestyle farms, forests and growing operations from Cape Reinga to Rakiura.

## Rural Decision Makers

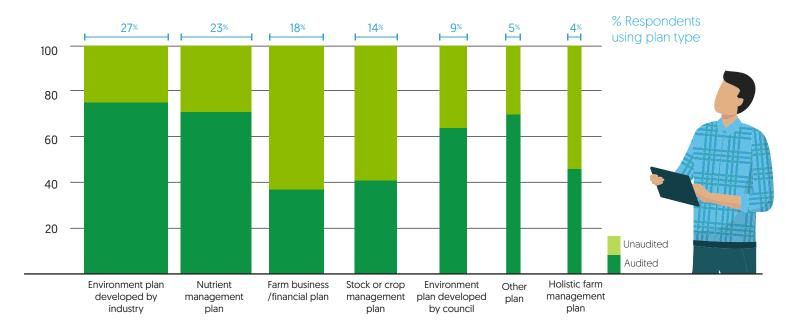
### Aspects of

## Farm environmental management

Farmers, foresters, and growers follow many pathways to achieve better environmental outcomes.

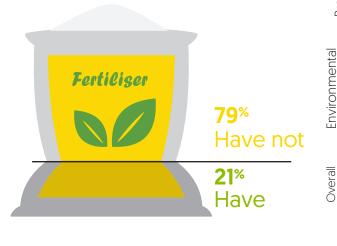
#### **Farm plans**

Formal written plans used by farmers, foresters, and growers.



#### Fertiliser use

% of commercial farmers and growers that have **reduced or eliminated** the use of **synthetic fertilisers**.

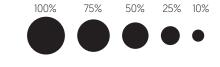


#### **Outcomes of fertiliser use**

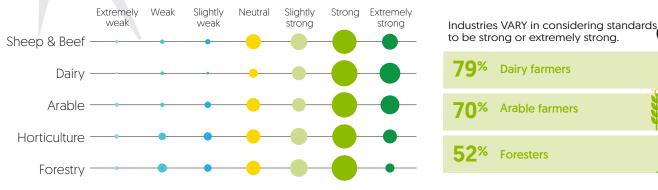
Anticipated outcome of NOT reducing or eliminating synthetic fertilisers Reported outcome of reducing or eliminating synthetic fertilisers

Profitability	76%					18%	5%
	Lower				No	change	Higher
	Lower		No change			Higher	
	23%		58 <sup>%</sup>			19%	
performance	24%	60%					
	Lower	No change			Higher		
	Lower No change			Higher			
	2% 41%			57%			
over all management	67%				29	9%	4%
	Lower				No change		Higher
	Lower No change			Higher			
	7% 55%			38%			

# Environmental standards, regulations and performance



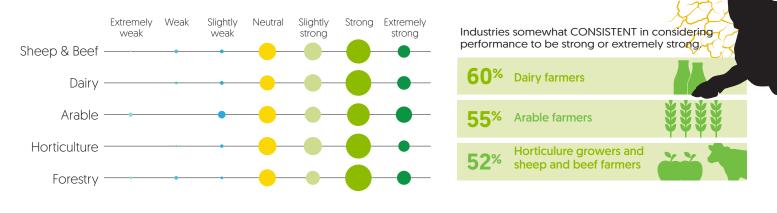
KEY



The current environmental regulations from council and central government are...



#### The environmental performance of my operation over the last 12 months was...



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The Survey of Rural Decision Makers is designed to build a better picture of decision making at the farm level, tackling topics that cannot be easily addressed in official statistics or directly by organisations. It is a valuable resource for policy makers, regional councils, industry groups and businesses.

For further information, please contact Christine Harper: harperc@landcareresearch.co.nz or Pike Stahlmann-Brown: brownp@landcareresearch.co.nz

Further results will be added to our website as they become available: www.landcareresearch.co.nz/srdm-2021



Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research