National Livestock Reporting Service
National Dairy Cow Indicator

The National Dairy Cow Indicator is a seven-day rolling average of eligible cows from all NLRS reported saleyards across Australia. It is expressed in cents per kilogram live weight (¢/kg lwt) and is rounded to two decimal points.

What is a seven-day rolling average?

At any point in time, a seven-day rolling average includes data from the past seven calendar days. In the case of the National Dairy Cow Indicator, the dataset takes the average ¢/kg lwt of an animal matching the specifications of the indicator per day for the past week, adds them up and divides the figure by seven. This figure is updated daily to create a rolling average value for this specification of animal.

National Dairy Cow composition

The National Dairy Cow Indicator includes dairy cows with a live weight from 0 – 400, 400 – 520 and 520kg + (Table 1). The sales included in the National Dairy Cow Indicator are outlined in Table 2.

Table 1: Cattle categories in the National Dairy Cow Indicator

Classification	Muscle and fat score	Live weight (kg)	Sales prefix[+]
Cows	A,B,C,D,E 1,2,3,4,5	0 – 400 400.1 – 520 520+	Dairy

Table 2: Prime sales in the National Dairy Cow Indicator

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday	
Forbes	NSW	CTLX Carcoar	NSW	Casino	NSW	Armidale*	NSW
TRLX Tamworth	NSW	Gunnedah	NSW	Moss Vale	NSW	Dubbo	NSW
Wagga Wagga	NSW	IRLX Inverell	NSW	HRLX Singleton	NSW	SELX Yass	NSW
Toowoomba	QLD	Scone	NSW	Charters Towers	QLD	Blackhall	QLD
CVLX Ballarat*	VIC	Roma Store	QLD	CQLX Gracemere	QLD	Emerald	QLD
Mortlake	VIC	Warwick	QLD	Dalby	QLD	Bairnsdale	VIC
Pakenham	VIC	Camperdown	VIC	Leongatha	VIC	Swan Hill*	VIC
Muchea	WA	Shepparton	VIC	NVLX Wodonga	VIC	Mount Barker	WA
		Naracoorte	SA	Mount Gambier	SA		
		SA Livestock Exchange	SA				
		Powranna	TAS				

[+] Dairy – Dairy purchased.
* Fortnightly.

How is the National Dairy Cow Indicator calculated?

The National National Cow Indicator is the average price of cattle meeting the specifications for the past seven calendar days. It is calculated as follows, using the average live weight (lwt) price and number of head for individual pens:

1 **The average price for each pen is weighted by the number of head in the pen. This is done by calculating the pen value.**

$$\text{Pen value} = \text{lwt price} \times \text{head in pen}$$

2 **The National Dairy Cow Indicator (¢/kg lwt) is obtained by dividing the sum of all pen values by the total number of cattle meeting Indicator specifications and rounding to two decimal points.**

$$\text{National Dairy Cow Indicator} = \frac{\text{Sum of all pen values}}{\text{Total head in National Dairy Cow Indicator}}$$

The purpose of the National Dairy Cow Indicator

The National Dairy Cow Indicator is designed to be applicable to a wide range of beef industry participants across the supply chain. It describes what dairy producers are selling stock at after productive milking years. Dairy cows are usually purchased by processors at the end of the supply chain.

Expected performance

Typically, demand for dairy cows is highly dependent on the supply of finished milking cows. Destocking in dryer years within the dairy industry will result in increase supply on the market, and pricing pressures on the indicator. For any backdated data please contact Meat & Livestock Australia at nlrs@mla.com.au

You can access MLA's interactive National Dairy Cow Indicator reports at:
https://www.mla.com.au/prices-markets/cattle/dairycow/

Price movements

It is important to note that price movements in individual saleyards and livestock categories are likely to be much more volatile than the National Dairy Cow Indicator, while still subject to the same underlying price trends.

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www.mla.com.au or email us at: insights@mla.com.au