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For more activities refer to the Schools Corner section of the Statistics New Zealand website:

www.stats.govt.nz/schools-corner

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Curriculum links

Maths

Levels 3 and 4: Statistics

- Interpreting statistical reports
- Numbering activities.

Social Studies

Level 4: Resources and Economic Activity

Agricultural statistics in the media

One of New Zealand's best known statistics is that it once had more than 20 times as many sheep as people. However, five years ago the ratio dropped to around 10 times as many sheep as people and it has remained around that level since then.

Information about the number of sheep in New Zealand can be found in the Hot Off The Press information release *Agricultural Production Statistics (Provisional): June 2006*. It contains data from the 2006 survey on agricultural production that covered livestock and arable farming, and forestry. The release highlights patterns and trends in industries that are significant earners for New Zealand. The final results, including regional figures, will be available in April 2007.



New Zealand in Profile 2007

We have enclosed a copy of *New Zealand in Profile 2007*. It brings together selected facts and figures to provide an overview of New Zealand's government, economy and people. To order copies please call our Information Centre on 0508 525 525 or email us at info@stats.govt.nz. Up to 50 copies will be provided free of charge. Larger requests will incur a fee.

Teachers page

The new draft mathematics and statistics curriculum (see the New Zealand Curriculum: Draft 2006–2007) places greater emphasis on statistical literacy. This recognises and defines a new approach to the skills and abilities that a statistically literate citizen will need.

In our daily lives we are all consumers of statistical information and need to develop the ability to interpret, critically evaluate and communicate about statistical messages.

We have included activities that will help students develop and practise these skills. The activities use the Statistics New Zealand media release *Agricultural Production Statistics (Provisional): June 2006*.

Visit Schools Corner (www.stats.govt.nz/schools-corner) for an additional activity, *Agricultural Statistics in the Media*. This online activity uses the more detailed Hot Off The Press of the same name: www.stats.govt.nz/products-and-services/hot-off-the-press/agricultural-production-statistics-jun06-hotp.htm.

Activity answers

Activity 1: Statistics in the news

The resource used in this activity is a Statistics New Zealand media release. It requires the students to use reading skills and strategies to help them understand the factual text.

Activity 2: Match the columns

Sheep numbers	have increased
Beef numbers	are the same
Dairy cattle numbers	have increased
Deer numbers	have decreased

Activity 3: Using statistical language

numbers	increased	statistics
decreased	results	survey
declining	peak	million
percent	final	estimated

Activity 4: Millions and millions

$$39.9 \text{ million} = 39,900,000$$

$$70.3 \text{ million} = 70,300,000$$

$$33.8 \text{ million} = 33,800,000$$

$$1.5 \text{ million} = 1,500,000$$

$$5.2 \text{ million} = 5,200,000$$

$$4.2 \text{ million} = 4,200,000$$

$$1.6 \text{ million} = 1,600,000$$

Activity 5: Sorting millions

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. 1,500,000 | 2. 1,600,000 |
| 3. 4,200,000 | 4. 5,200,000 |
| 5. 33,800,000 | 6. 39,900,000 |
| 7. 40,100,000 | 8. 70,300,000 |

Activity 1: Statistics in the news

Read the headline of the media release *Agricultural Production Statistics: June 2006* on the right. Predict what it might be about:





Skim and scan the article for words that you do not know. List them below and write what you think they mean.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Use a dictionary or ask a friend to check the meanings. How many did you guess correctly?

Was your initial prediction correct?

Activity 2: Match the columns

	A	B
	Sheep numbers	are the same
	Beef numbers	have increased
	Dairy cattle numbers	have decreased
	Deer numbers	have increased

Media release

Agricultural Production Statistics: June 2006

Increase in Sheep and Dairy Cattle Numbers

Sheep and dairy cattle numbers have increased since 2005, Statistics New Zealand said today. Beef numbers have remained stable and deer numbers have decreased. These numbers are taken from the provisional results of the 2006 Agricultural Production Survey.

Sheep numbers reached 40.1 million at 30 June 2006, up from 39.9 million a year earlier. This is the first time that sheep numbers have increased two years in a row since they started declining from their peak of 70.3 million in 1982.

There were 33.8 million lambs tailed during the year to 30 June 2006, up 2 percent since 2005. The number of lambs tailed from ewe hoggets increased by 13 percent to 1.5 million, reflecting the increase in the number of ewe hoggets put to ram in 2005.

Dairy cattle numbers increased to 5.2 million in 2006. This is up 3 percent on the number estimated a year earlier. The number of cows and heifers in milk or calf was up 2 percent to 4.2 million.

Deer numbers decreased 6 percent to 1.6 million. The major contributor to this drop was the 9 percent decrease in the number of female deer mated, which fell to 745,000.

Final results from the 2006 Agricultural Production Survey will be available in April 2007.

Brian Pink
Government Statistician
 12 December 2006

Activity 3: Using statistical language

D E S A E R C N I J N J L J I
X D E T A M I T S E K A D L T
D E S A E R C E D I A Z R O N
S C I T S I T A T S V N M C E
O J U T F D E C L I N I N G C
N U M B E R S T L U S E R T R
M I L L I O N S U R V E Y V E
L A N I F G Z E V R U K A E P

The media release has a lot of statistical words in it. There are 12 of these words hidden in this word find. How many can you find?

List them below:

Activity 4: Millions and millions

The media release has many numbers in the millions. They have been shortened. Can you write them out in full like this example?

40.1 million = 40,100,000

39.9 million =

70.3 million =

33.8 million =

1.5 million =

5.2 million =

4.2 million =

1.6 million =

Activity 5: Sorting millions

Sort the numbers from Activity 4 into ascending order (lowest to highest). Include the example 40,100,000 in the list.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.