

Achieved

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# We've got Beef

## AS 1.2

### Purpose of Beef Production Locally

- ▶ Beef is farmed locally for reasons like economics, historical factors, market reasons, climatic conditions and the physical environment around us. Its farmed for the economic factor because of the money the farmers receive, for the meat produced on the animal. whereas other primary productions may cost more than beef farming, affecting the money you actually receive at the end. For instance, in dairy farming there is a lot of energy costs involved, to run things like the milk shed and heavy machinery, as you don't really have any reason as the animals graze on big blocks of lands, where they eat grass and other plant material.

## Purpose continued.....

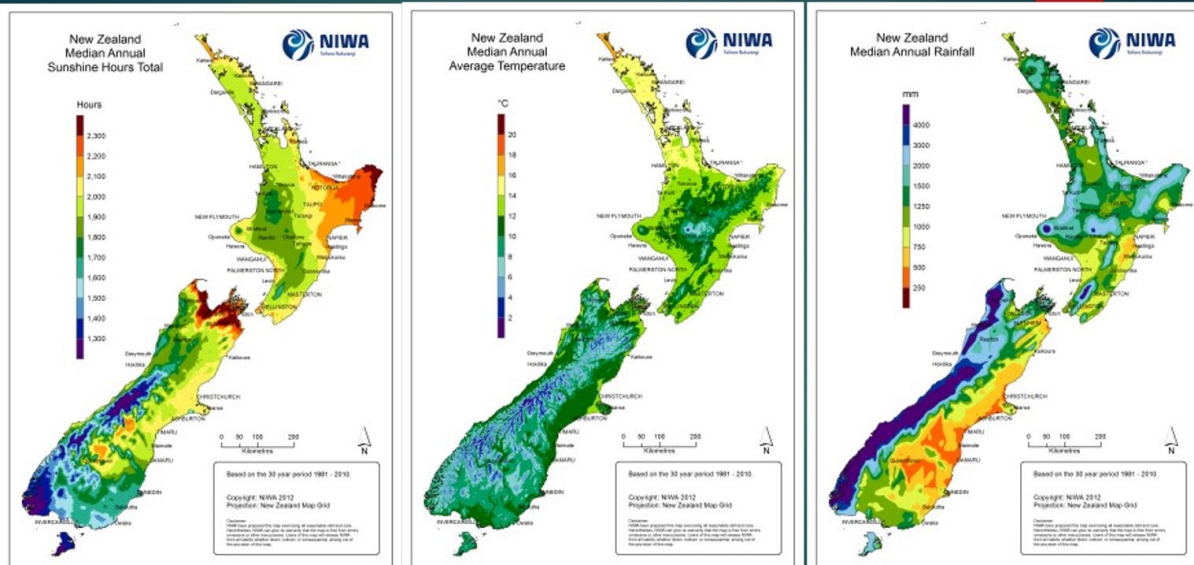
- ▶ Another reason for beef farming to be continued locally is because of the historical influence it has had on the generations of the families that own the farms. Some families have been on the farms for 50+ years, and it has been handed down through generations and the kids have taken over the farms, wanting to continued their parents/grandparents legacy. They may also keep the land due to it being the best land for the purpose, like the weather and land type effects it has on the animals that they have chosen, for example, if the land is hilly and not the best growing conditions for high quality grass, they would be better off raising beef cows or sheep, as they don't need high quality feed for production, unlike dairy cows or sheep, as they don't need better milk and more milk solids. Taranaki has both hilly and flat terrain, so we can do both dairy farming and beef farming.

## Area & Growing Condition of Beef Production

- ▶ Beef production needs certain areas of land to promote plant growth for the cows/bulls to eat. For beef farming, a lot of farmers graze the stock over hilly land that does not have the best pastoral growth, but the land amount makes up for that factor as the paddocks are large and so the cows have a more "quantity of quality" type diet. But some farmers graze the stock over flat, luscious grass filled paddocks, but this is mainly in places in Otago and southern part of Canterbury. Although there is a lot of flat land, there is very little rainfall, we can see this due to the dry and brown land on the plains of Otago, whereas in Taranaki the land has luscious green grass due to the resourceful ash produced by the mountain falling on the land and entering the soil. But Taranaki gets a good amount of rainfall, whereas Otago doesn't have a very plentiful humidity, so the pasture does not get a very even dosage of water. So, the farmers decided to add irrigation to solve this problem, with large steel watering systems that go over the flat paddocks, evenly distributing water.

# Climatic Conditions

- ▶ For pastures to grow however, we need certain climatic conditions for the plants to get an even distribution of water and sunlight for the plants photosynthesis needs. As mentioned before, Otago only gets 250 mls – 1 500 mls throughout the year, this is due to the Southern Alps and its positioning with the Tasman sea and Otago. The clouds that come from the Tasman sea are blocked by the Southern Alps, making the water get dumped on the West coast, where they get 40000+ mls annually. But in Taranaki we don't get a lack of, or abundance of rain. We get, we have a good allround temperature, being around 3000 mls. Also, Taranaki gets average annual temperature of around 14 degrees celsius (not including Mt Egmont), where Otago gets anywhere from 2 – 12 degrees celsius, making it much colder than Taranaki. This helps Taranaki primary industries due to plants benefitting from the warmth for germination and also frost protection.





## Market Factor

### Economics of supply and demand

Also, the fact that there may be a demand for the meat in the market, and the people have taken the opportunity to make money due to this level of demand or cost of beef, could also affect the overall economic factor of beef farming. Also the animals may get low cost transport due to the positioning of the farm to the meat works. Timing matters as well, if you have a large amount of beef cows and the demand for beef is low, don't sell them off then, wait a bit for the demand to rise, and sell them for a higher price for more profit.

## Any other factors..

- If you own a large farm and you are by yourself, you may need employees to help with your farm management, so people may decide to farm where there is some people looking for work.
- Transport can be a pain when farming, from trying to get the cows to the works, or transporting machinery. Optimal positions for farms would be close to a slaughterhouse or where a truck can easily collect the animals.