

1970

First Deer farm

(DINZ, n.d.)

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Deer Industry New Zealand
New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association
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About the NZDFA

The first licence to farm deer was issued in New Zealand in 1970 and the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association ('NZDFA') was formed five years later in 1975 from 25 inaugural members.

The NZDFA was formed to assist in maximize sustainable benefits for all deer farmers and provide a linkage to the agricultural industry and the public.

With the passing of a Commodity Levies (Deer Products) Order in September 2001, farmers producing venison and/or velvet for sale became members of the Association and contribute by levy on the basis of the weight of venison and/or velvet sold.

With the change from the NZ Game Industry Board to Deer Industry New Zealand effective from 1 October 2002, the Deer Industry New Zealand office now carries out the administrative operations of the NZDFA. This change in organisational structure has provided new strength at the Branch level, and has resulted in the Commodity Levy being set to nil from 1 October 2002.

The Council has been reduced to a four person Executive Committee, serviced in turn by a full time professional executive, the Producer Manager. The Executive Committee Members are directly elected by members for a two-year term. The Deer Industry New Zealand Producer Manager manages the associations' programmes and provides the link between the branches and the Executive Committee.

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