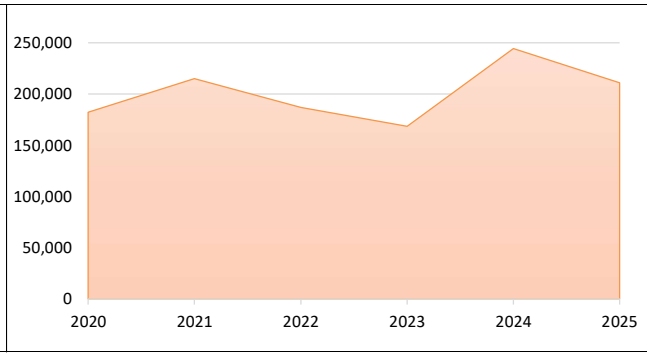
NEW ZEALAND SURVEY OF **MAIZE** AREAS AND VOLUMES: **FULL REPORT**
OCTOBER 10, 2025

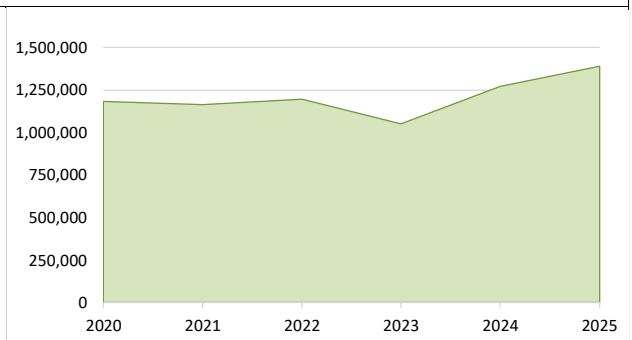
AIMI Arable Industry Marketing Initiative

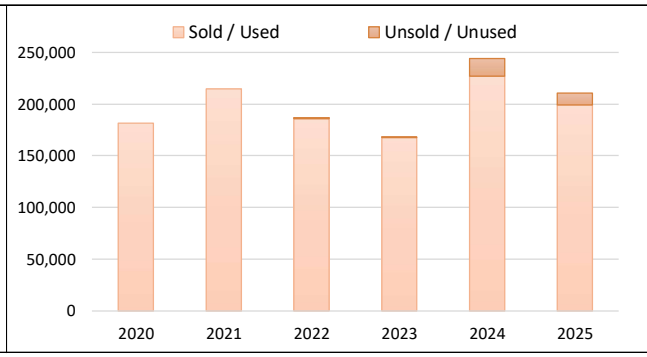
FAR NZ GROWN GRAINS

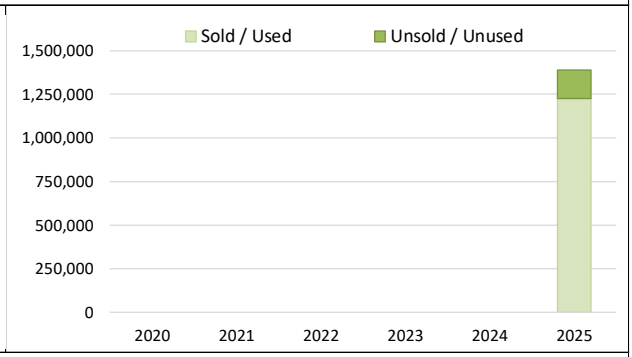
SURVEY SUMMARY - October 31th (▲▼Increase/decrease over previous year)

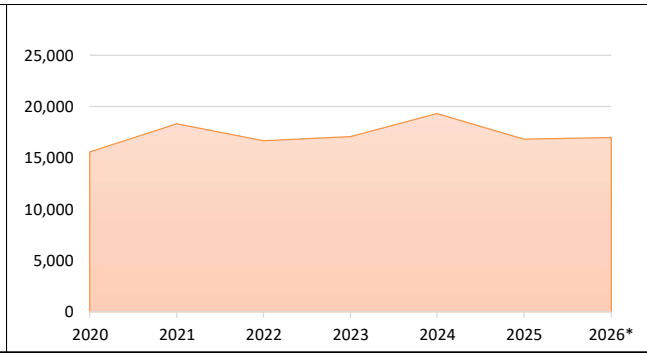
	MAIZE GRAIN	MAIZE SILAGE
PRODUCTION (tonnes or t DM)	▼ 14%	▲ 9%
SALES (tonnes unsold/unused)	▼ 34%	
SOWING (hectares)	▲ 1%	▼ 5%
FORWARD SALES (sold ha)	▲ 10%	▲ 12%

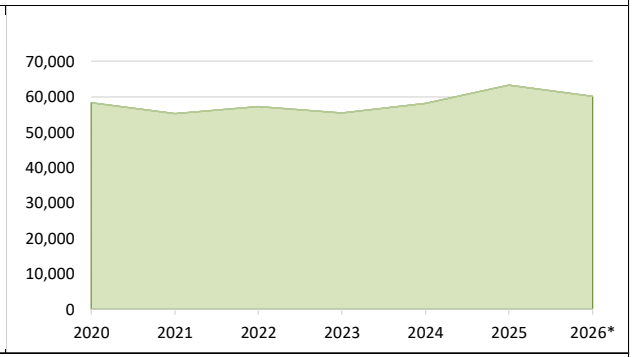


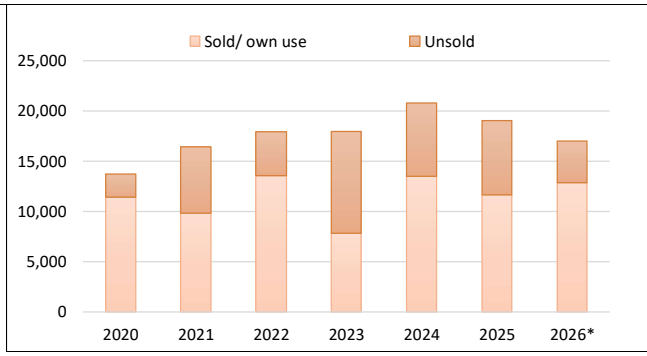


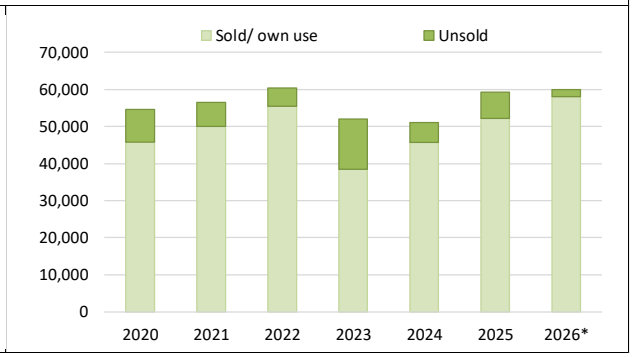












Survey details

*Data from **88 NZ survey farms** who completed each of the last two maize surveys (October 2024 and October 2025) were scaled up to the national level using the most recent, 2024, final NZ Agricultural Production Statistics (APS). These figures reflects the position at the 31st October 2025 and there may have been further changes. As with all surveys, there is a margin of error which needs to be considered in relation to this report.*
*Graph data on page 1 are from previous October AIMI Reports except from the two most recent years, which are matched data (same group of growers) from the current survey. *Sowing data represent final harvest hectares except for the final year (*) which is based on sowings and sowing predictions. The last three years data are matched from the same set of growers.*

Key Points as at 31 October 2025: (figures have been rounded to nearest 100):

- Final average yield of **maize grain** (12.5 t/ha) for the 2025 NZ harvest was similar to last season (12.7 t/ha), as was the final average yield of **maize silage** at 22 tonnes dry matter (DM)/ha) compared to 21.9 t DM/ha obtained last season. Note that these are averages across New Zealand and there will be differences across regions.
- The estimated 210,700 tonnes for the **maize grain** 2025 NZ harvest was 14% down on last season's harvest tonnage (244,400 t), due to a reduction in hectares grown (16,800 ha, down 13%). An estimated 95% of the total crop had been sold by October 31, 2025, which is similar to the 10-year average of 97%. Compared to the same time last year, the unsold tonnage was 5,800 t lower at 11,500 t (down 34%). (Note that stocks held by merchants were not considered here).
- For **maize silage** the estimated 1,389,300 tonnes DM for the 2025 NZ harvest was up 9% (119,700 t DM) compared to last season's harvest tonnage. This was a result of an increase in hectares (up 5,200 ha, up 9%). An estimated 88% of the total crop had been sold or used by October 31, 2025.
- Spring 2025 sowings and sowing intentions for **maize grain,** as at 31 October, 2025, were estimated to be 17,000 ha, which is up 180 ha (1%) on the area harvested last season. Sowing was 84% complete (as compared to a 10-year average of 69%) and an estimated 76% of the 2026 maize grain harvest had been forward sold.
- For **maize silage**, spring 2025 sowings and sowing intentions were estimated to be 60,000 ha, which is down 5% on the area harvested last season. Sowing was 59% complete (as compared to a 10-year average of 64%) and an estimated 97% of the 2026 maize silage harvest had been forward sold or for use on the growers farm.
- North Island growers reported a wet spring conditions, which have delayed paddock preparation and subsequent sowing by 2 to 4 weeks for some growers. Cut worm is an issue across all maize growing regions in the North Island, with Fall army worm recorded in the north of the North Island and causing issues in the east of the North Island. South Island growers have had a colder but drier spring.

Note: This survey only accounts for sales off farm and not what may be held by merchants.

Table 1. Final estimated national NZ figures for the 2025 harvest of maize grain and maize silage crops, plus sold and unsold tonnages of maize grain, as at October 31, 2025.

		Maize grain	Maize silage
Number of farmers in the survey who harvested this crop in 2025	**Units**	**23**	**76**
2024 harvest			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2024 harvest	ha	19,300	58,070
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2024 harvest	tonnes	244,400	1,269,601
2025 harvest			
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2025 final harvest figures	**ha**	**16,801**	**63,281**
Estimated NZ total tonnes, 2025 final harvest figures	**tonnes**	**210,644**	**1,389,298**
Sold under pre-harvest contract by October 31, 2025	tonnes	151,766	614,133
Sold at spot/free price by October 31, 2025	tonnes	44,069	
Used on own farm by October 31, 2025	tonnes	3,289	612,765
Unsold/unused stocks on hand (2025 harvest only) on October 31, 2025	tonnes	11,521	162,400
Total sales (2025 harvest)			
Sold (grand total) by October 31, 2025 (includes used on farm)	tonnes	199,123	1,226,899
Unsold/unused stocks on hand (from 2025 harvest) on October 31, 2025	tonnes	11,521	162,400
% Sold (of total crop) by October 31, 2025 (includes used on own farm)	%	95	88
Comparison of hectares and tonnages between the last two harvests			
Estimated % change in hectares, 2024 to 2025 harvest	%	-13%	9%
Estimated % change in tonnes, 2024 to 2025 harvest	%	-14%	9%
Comparison of final yields (t/ha) between the last two harvests			
NZ-wide estimated yield, 2024 harvest	t/ha	12.7	21.9
NZ-wide estimated yield, 2025 harvest	t/ha	12.5	22.0
2024 harvest sales at same time last year, October 31, 2024 (based upon matched data)			
Sold under pre-harvest contract by October 31, 2024	tonnes	185,152	Not included in October 2024 survey
Sold at spot/free price by October 31, 2024	tonnes	39,230	
Used on own farm by October 31, 2024	tonnes	2,655	
Unsold/unused stocks on hand (from 2024 harvest) on October 31, 2024	tonnes	17,363	

Note: The matched comparisons in the last two sections were based upon scaling up data from the exact same survey farms for the last three AIMI maize surveys.

Statistics NZ is gratefully acknowledged for supplying final 2024 NZ Agricultural Production Statistics data on total hectares and tonnes for maize grain, and total hectares for maize silage.

Table 2. Estimated NZ sowings, sowing intentions and forward sales of maize grain and maize silage as at October 31, 2025.

	Maize grain	Maize silage
Number of farmers in survey who have sown or intend to sow this crop as at October 31, 2025	**23**	**74**
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2024 harvest	19,300	58,070
Estimated NZ total hectares, 2025 harvest	16,801	63,281
Sowings and intentions, 2025/2026 season (hectares, for harvest in 2026)		
Estimated NZ total hectares already sown by October 31, 2025	14,268	35,384
Estimated NZ total hectares intending to sow after October 31, 2025	2,714	24,637
Estimated NZ total hectares (sowings and intentions), 2026 harvest	**16,981**	**60,020**
% of predicted NZ hectares which had already been sown by October 31, 2025	84%	59%
Average over previous 10 years of % of predicted NZ hectares which had been sown by 31 October	69%	64%
Comparison of hectares between the 2024, 2025 and 2026 (predicted) harvests		
Estimated % change in NZ total sowings, 2024 to 2025 harvest	-13%	9%
Estimated % change in NZ total sowings, 2025 to 2026 (predicted) harvest	1%	-5%
"Forward sales" of 2025/2026 crop (including "for own use")		
Predicted NZ total hectares that are "forward sold", as at 31 October, 2025	12,853	58,162
Estimated percentage of NZ total hectares that are "forward sold", as at 31 October, 2025	76%	97%
Matched comparison with previous survey (2024)		
Estimated NZ total hectares (sowings and intentions), in 2024 for 2025 harvest	19,045	59,299
% of predicted NZ hectares which had already been sown by October 31, 2025	60%	64%
Predicted NZ total hectares that are "forward sold", as at 31 October, 2024	11,646	52,144
Estimated percentage of NZ total hectares that are "forward sold", as at 31 October, 2024	61%	88%

Note: The matched comparisons in the last two sections were based upon scaling up data from the exact same survey farms for the last three AIMI surveys.

In Table 2, the estimated area sown plus sowing intentions for maize grown for grain (for harvest in 2026) is up 1% this season when compared to the 2025 harvest. The estimated sowings plus intentions for maize grown for silage is down 5% on last season's harvest (2025 harvest). As at 31 October 2025, maize grain sowing was 84% complete, and maize silage sowing was 59% complete.
By comparison, as an average over the previous ten years, maize grain sowings were 69% complete and maize silage sowings were 64% complete as at 31 October. Thus, estimates of the predicted 2026 harvest area for maize silage are less reliable than usual.

The 2026 maize grain harvest was estimated to be 76% forward sold to other parties. This leaves 24% as free grain, unspoken for as at 31 October, 2025. The 2026 maize silage harvest was estimated to be 97% forward sold as at 31 October, 2025, including 43% of the harvest which was estimated to be for the "own use" of the growers.

Maize Grain

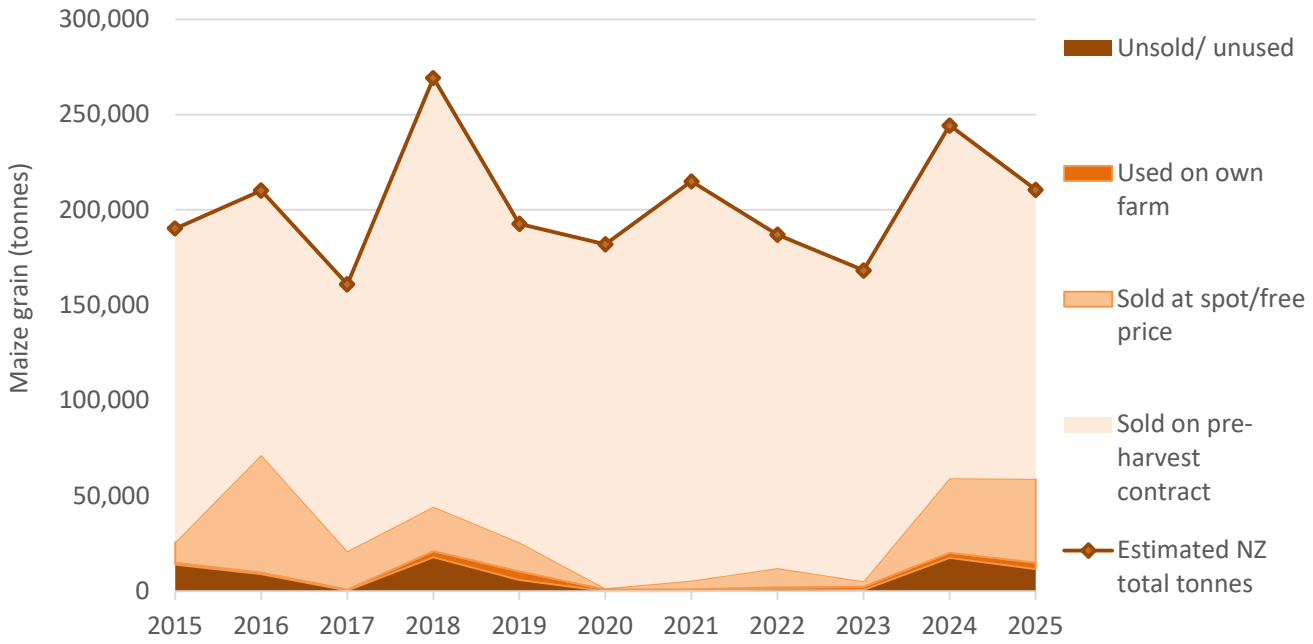


Figure 1. Maize grain final NZ harvest tonnages and sales as estimated in October each year.
Note: Historical data for 2015 to 2023 are from October AIMI Maize Reports, while data for 2024 and 2025 are matched data from the current report.

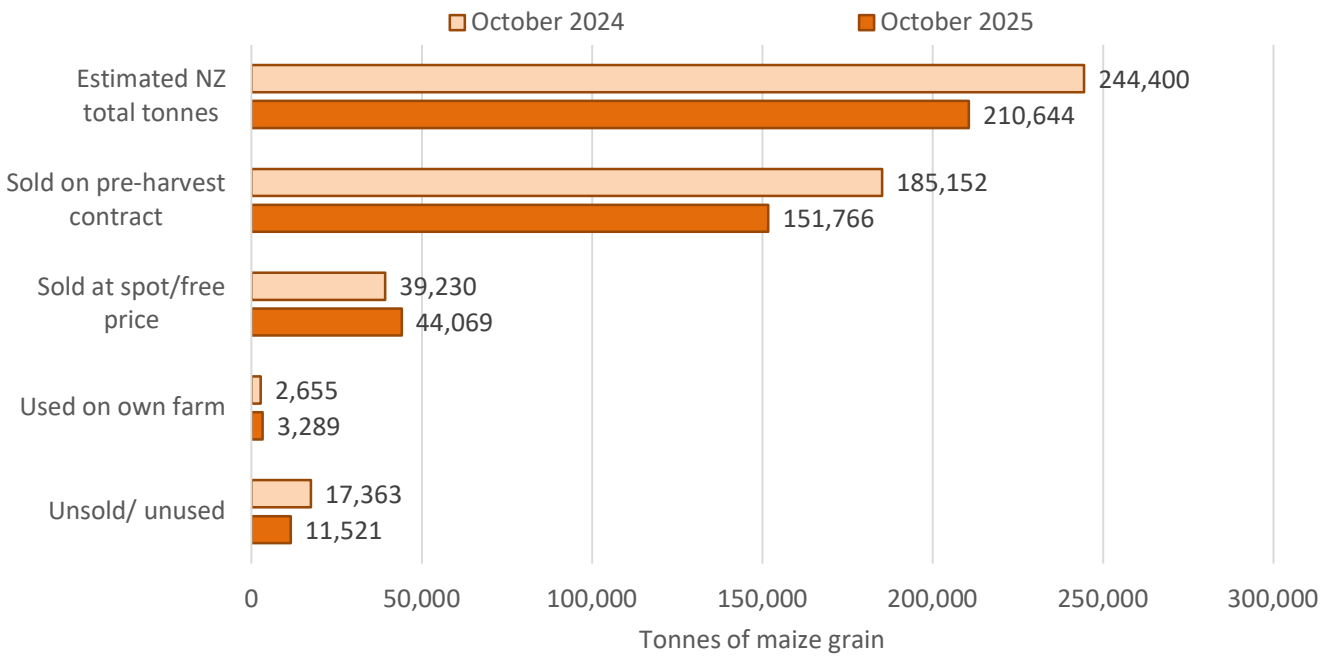


Figure 2. Comparison of maize grain tonnages and sales for NZ harvest between October 31, 2024 and October 31, 2025. These data are also reported in Table 1 and Figure 1. All estimates are based upon scaling up data from growers in the current survey sample, so provide a precise, matched comparison.

Maize Silage

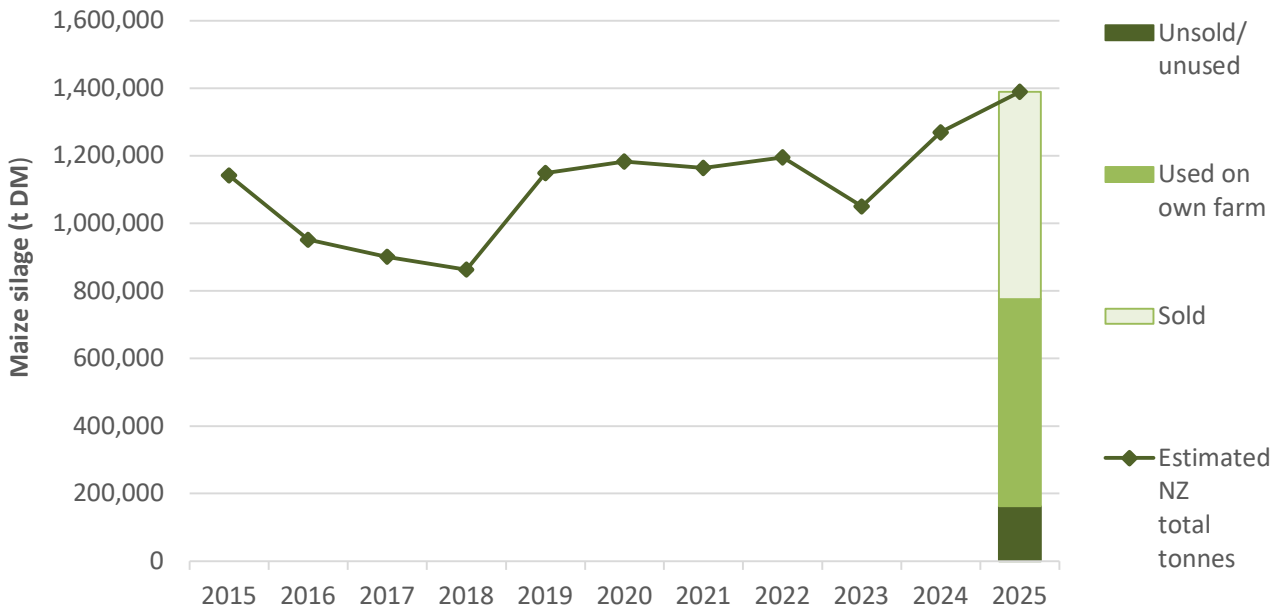


Figure 3. Maize silage final NZ harvest tonnages (dry matter (DM)) and sales as estimated in October each year.
Note: Historical data for 2015 to 2023 are from October AIMI Maize Reports, while data for 2024 and 2025 are matched data from the current report. Collection of October sales data began in October 2025, previously this was collected in the June survey which has now been discontinued.

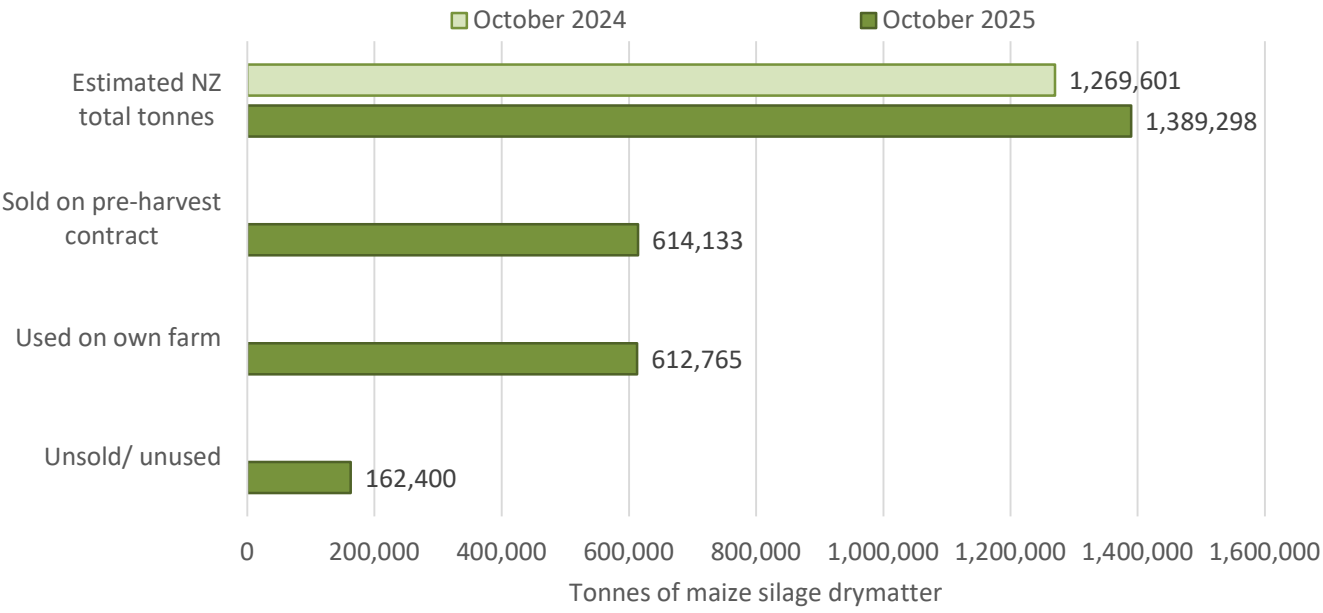


Figure 4. Comparison of maize silage tonnages (DM) and sales for NZ harvest between October 31, 2024 and October 31, 2025. These data are also reported in Table 1 and Figure 3. All estimates are based upon scaling up data from growers in the current survey sample, so provide a precise, matched comparison.
Note: Collection of October sales data began in October 2025, previously this was collected in the June survey which has now been discontinued.

Hectares

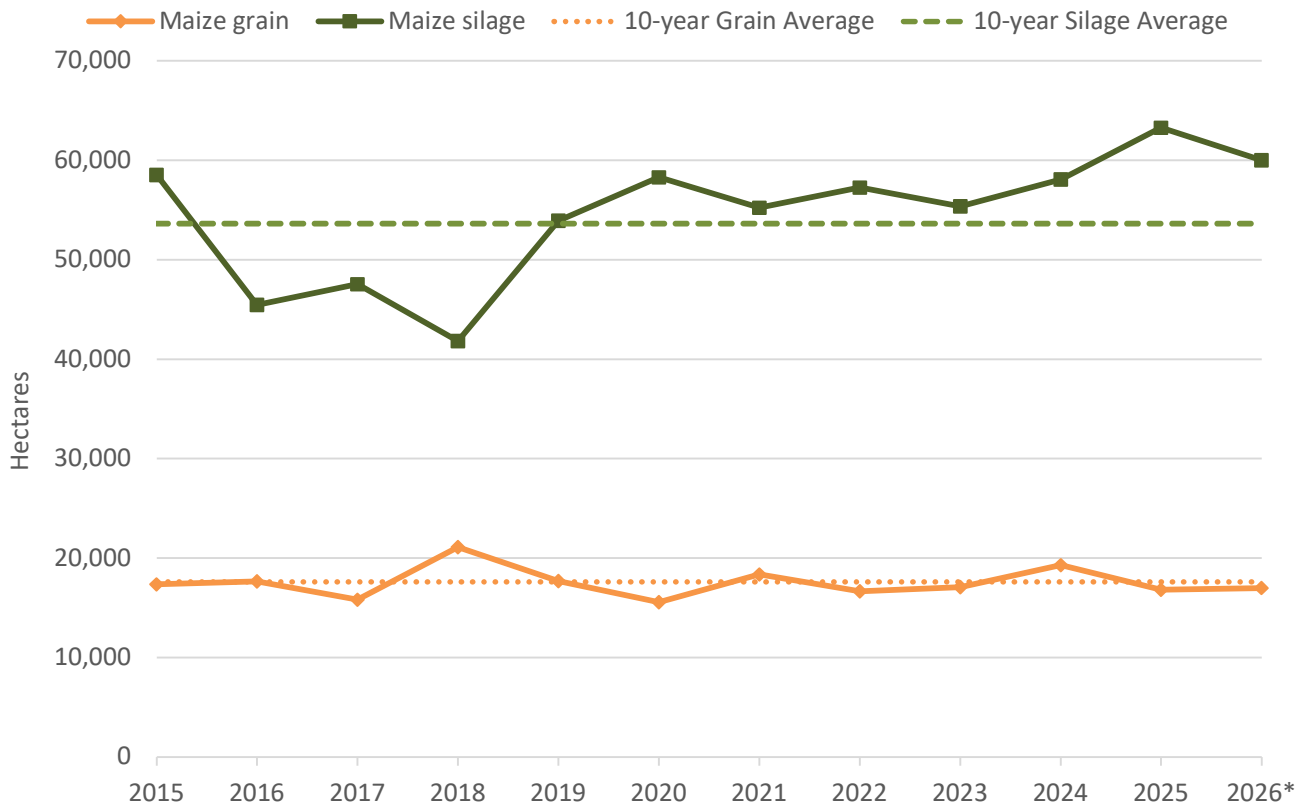


Figure 5. NZ harvest hectares estimated in October each year, from 2015 to 2025, and predicted hectares for harvest in 2026. Long-term means (10-years averages) are included as dotted (maize grain) and dashed (maize silage) lines. Note: Figures for 2024, 2025 and 2026 (* predicted) are matched data from the current report (Table 2). Other figures are sourced from previous October AIMI Maize Reports.

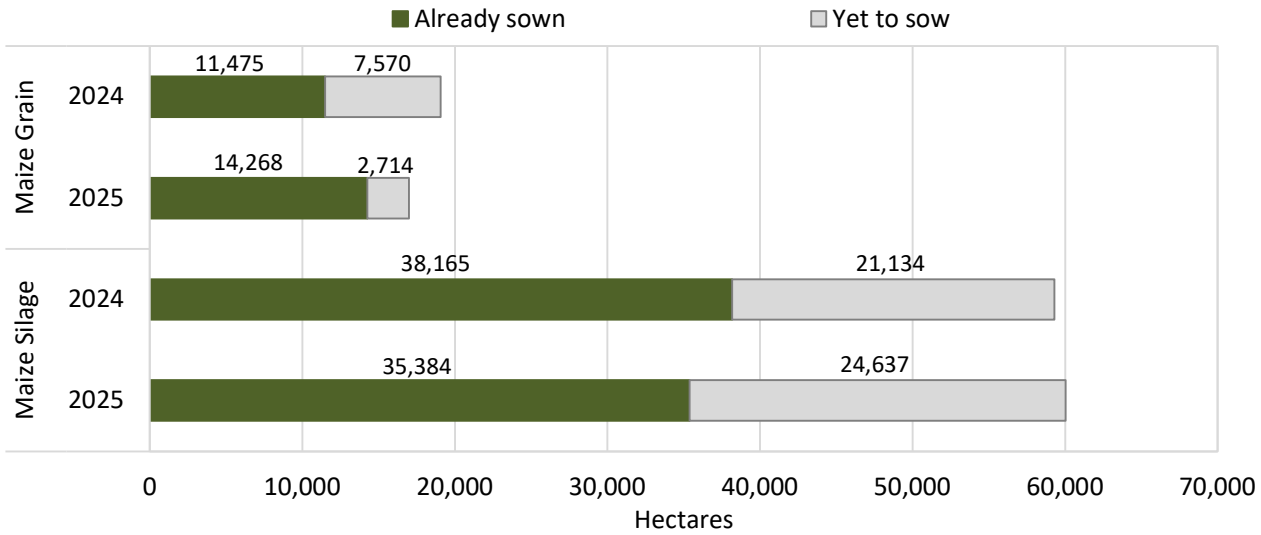


Figure 6. Estimated NZ hectares of maize already sown in spring 2025, together with NZ hectares yet to be sown (spring intentions) for harvest in 2026, based on data collected on October 31, 2025. For comparison, the corresponding 2024 estimates (for harvest in 2025) are also given, based on data collected on October 31, 2024. A ll estimates are based upon scaling up data from growers in the current survey sample, so provide a precise, matched comparison.

Figure 7. Comparison of hectares of total NZ maize crop (spring sowings plus spring intentions) that had been forward sold as at October 31, 2024 (for predicted 2025 harvest) and October 31, 2025 (for predicted 2026 harvest). (Includes crops grown for use on own farm.) Data is a matched comparison.

AIMI
Arable Industry Marketing Initiative

APPENDIX & REGIONAL DATA

NEW ZEALAND SURVEY OF MAIZE
AREAS AND VOLUMES: OCTOBER 31, 2025

Maize survey panel	101
Number completing current survey	91
Report group (must complete Oct 24 & current survey)	**88**

NNI	Northern North Island
ENI	Eastern North Island
SWNI	South & West North Island
NSI	Northern South Island
MC	Mid Canterbury
SCNO	South Canterbury, North Otago

Regional Breakdown

Maize Grain 2025 Harvest (data scaled up to NZ figures):

Region	Number harvesting	Hectares harvested	Tonnes harvested	Average yield (t/ha)	Number sowing	Hectares sown	Hectares yet to sow	Total ha's for harvest in 2026
NNI	8	9,537	112,636	11.8	8	5,915	2,546	8,461
ENI	8	4,546	64,692	14.2	8	5,408	-	5,408
SWNI	6	2,600	31,845	12.2	7	2,945	167	3,113
NSI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MC	1	118	1,471	12.4	-	-	-	-
SCNO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**23**	**16,801**	**210,644**	**12.5**	**23**	**14,268**	**2,714**	**16,981**

Maize Silage 2025 Harvest (data scaled up to NZ figures):

Region	Number harvesting	Hectares harvested	Tonnes harvested	Average yield (t/ha)	Number sowing	Hectares sown	Hectares yet to sow	Total ha's for harvest in 2024
NNI	46	39,102	869,537	22.2	47	20,265	15,465	35,730
ENI	6	3,721	76,526	20.6	5	415	2,954	3,368
SWNI	18	16,095	346,729	21.5	17	11,968	6,218	18,186
NSI	2	2,228	49,124	22.0	1	1,140	-	1,140
MC	3	1,824	40,543	22.2	3	1,285	-	1,285
SCNO	1	311	6,840	22.0	1	311	-	311
Total	**76**	**63,281**	**1,389,298**	**22.0**	**74**	**35,384**	**24,637**	**60,020**

Grower comments:

Grain price too low, some growers replacing grain hectares with silage crops. Grain price has hardly moved over the last 15 years, but the cost to grow it keeps increasing. Too many alternative feed crops available undercutting the price.

North Island growers reported a wet spring conditions have delayed paddock preparation and subsequent sowing by 2 to 4 weeks. Cut worm is an issue across all maize growing regions in the North Island, with Fall army worm recorded in the north of the North Island and causing issues in the east of the North Island. South Island growers have had a colder but drier spring.

Calculation of scale-up factors

To scale the 88-farmer survey totals up to NZ national totals, Final 2024 APS statistics for maize grain and maize silage were used (Table A.1).

Table A.1 Scaling up from survey totals to NZ-wide totals using Final 2024 Agricultural Production Statistics (APS)

	Maize grain	Maize silage
Total hectares on survey farms, 2024 harvest	1,959	2,802
Total tonnes on survey farms, 2024 harvest	23,929	61,252
Total hectares for 2024 harvest (Final APS statistics for silage and grain)	19,300	58,070
Total tonnes for 2024 harvest (Final APS statistics for maize grain only)	244,400	-
Multiplier for scaling up from survey farms to APS statistics		
Hectares	9.850	20.727
Tonnes	10.213	20.727
Comparison of yields between survey and APS statistics		
Survey farms, 2024 harvest (t/ha)	12.2	21.9
APS statistics, 2024 harvest (t/ha)	12.7	-

Statistics New Zealand is gratefully acknowledged for supplying final 2024 NZ Agricultural Production Statistics data on total hectares and tonnes for maize grain, and total hectares for maize silage.

For maize grain, the 2024 harvest yields in tonnes/ha are also included in the table, to give an indication of how the survey farms compared with the APS figures; overall, survey farm yields were lower than APS yields (12.2 versus 10.7 tonnes/ ha). For maize silage, the average 2024 harvest dry matter (DM) yield on the survey farms was 21.9 tonnes DM/ ha.

From the scale-up factors, we can see what percentage of the area of each 2024 harvest crop was on the survey farms. For maize grain, it was 10.2%, while for maize silage it was 4.8%. A higher percentage of the maize grain area was sampled than for maize silage, and the reason may be that maize grain growers are better represented in the FAR levy list than maize silage growers, so a higher percentage of the population of maize grain growers was selected for the survey than of the population of maize silage growers.

Report prepared by CropRight Ltd.

ISSN 2744-5755