

17th April 2004

Wairiri Buffalo Farm



The farm has 60 water buffalo which have been bred for milk production. It is the only South Island buffalo farm and there are only 3 in the whole country. They are milked by an automatic machine twice a day. Each animal produces 4-5 litres and it takes 4 litres to make one litre of cheese. The animals are docile, decide when to come in for milking, and the machine reads their ear tag to identify them. It detects any problems



with the animal or milk, cleans them and attaches the suction cups. The milk is used every second day to make a variety of soft cheeses which we were able to taste and buy. They sell on line, at Lyttelton Market, Piko and Liberty Market.