1st International Seminar (Ecuador)

Designing Profitable Dairy Businesses for the Next Decade



International Competitiveness of Southern Hemisphere Dairy Businesses

David Beca March 2019

































Presentation outline

Look at performance of 4 major southern hemisphere milk exporters (New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Uruguay) and South Africa

Review a couple of major 'new' northern hemisphere factors – growing USA exports & growing China imports

Develop some ideas of the challenges from these trends

Trends in Southern Hemisphere countries

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All the trend data is for the last 15+ years
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New Zealand; good great

Australia; good terrible

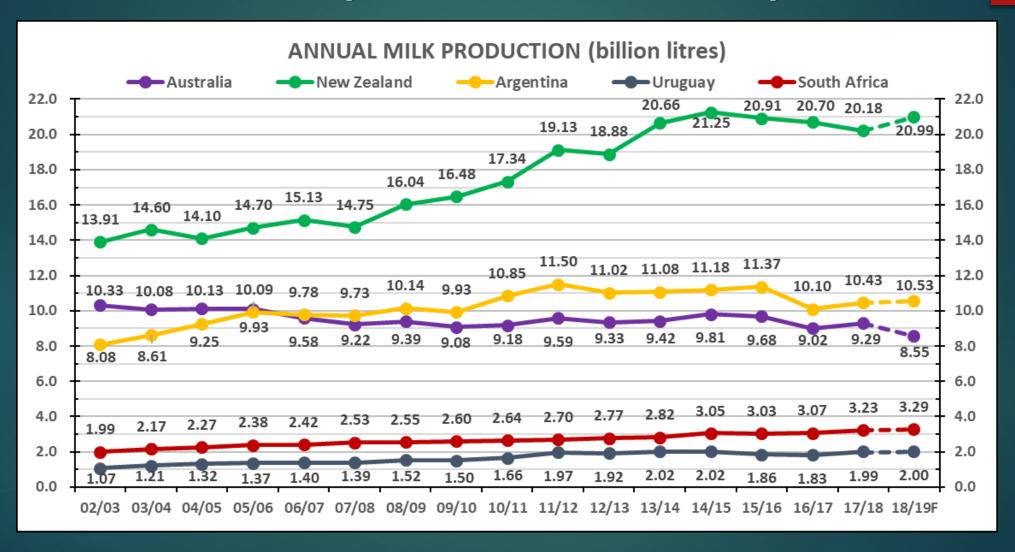
Argentina; excellent poor

Uruguay; excellent problematic

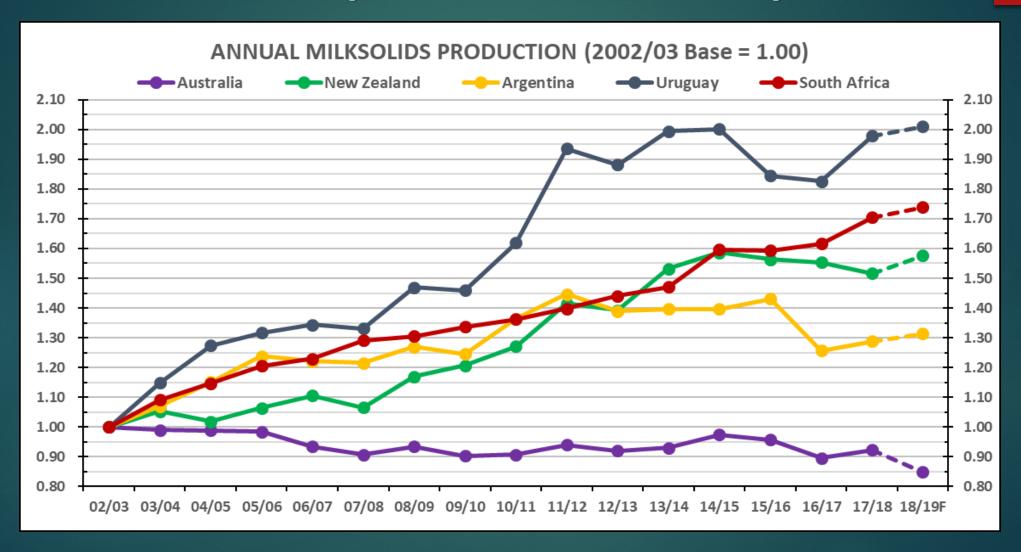
South Africa; poor good
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Ecuador; ??????

Southern Hemisphere - Annual milk production



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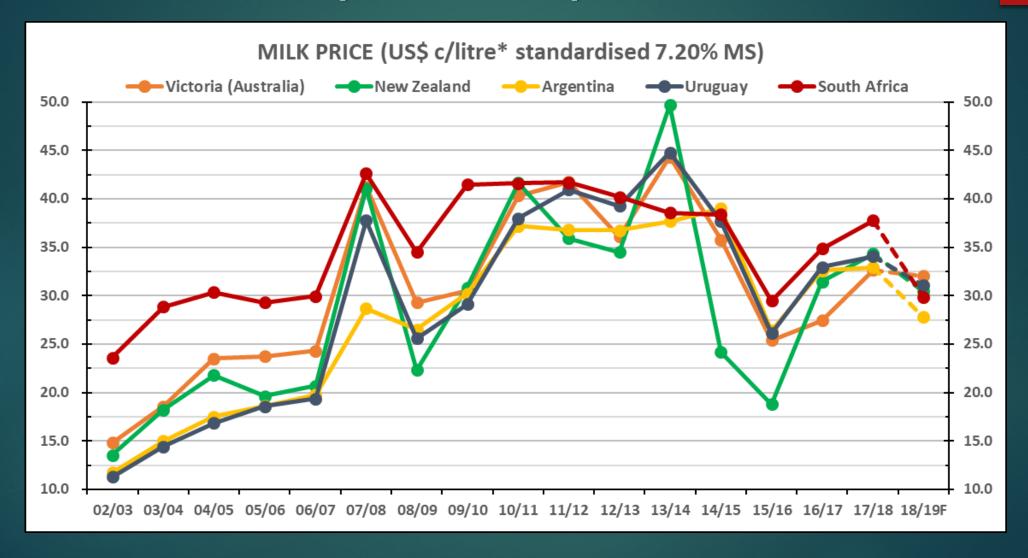


Is milk price the 'problem'?

Australian dairy farmers are complaining that the milk price is too low

Argentinian dairy farmers also believe the price is too low...

Southern Hemisphere milk prices – US\$ c/litre



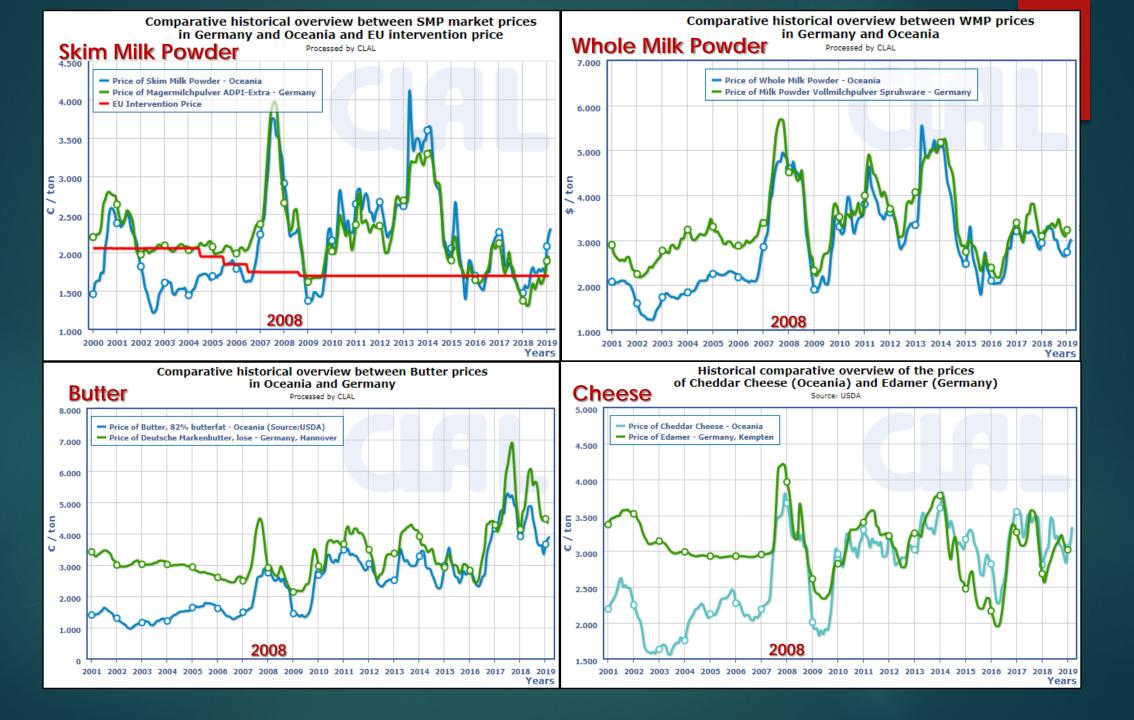
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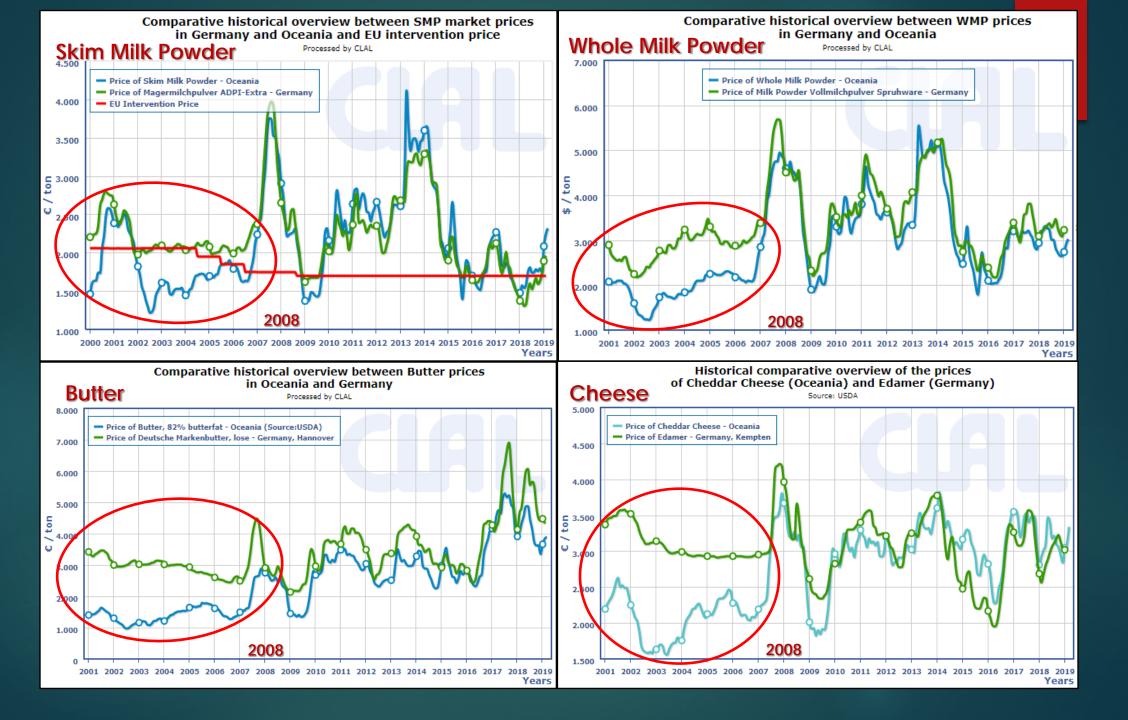
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What might the situation be for non-exporting countries?

Might the 'premium' in milk price for fully domestic markets be disappearing?





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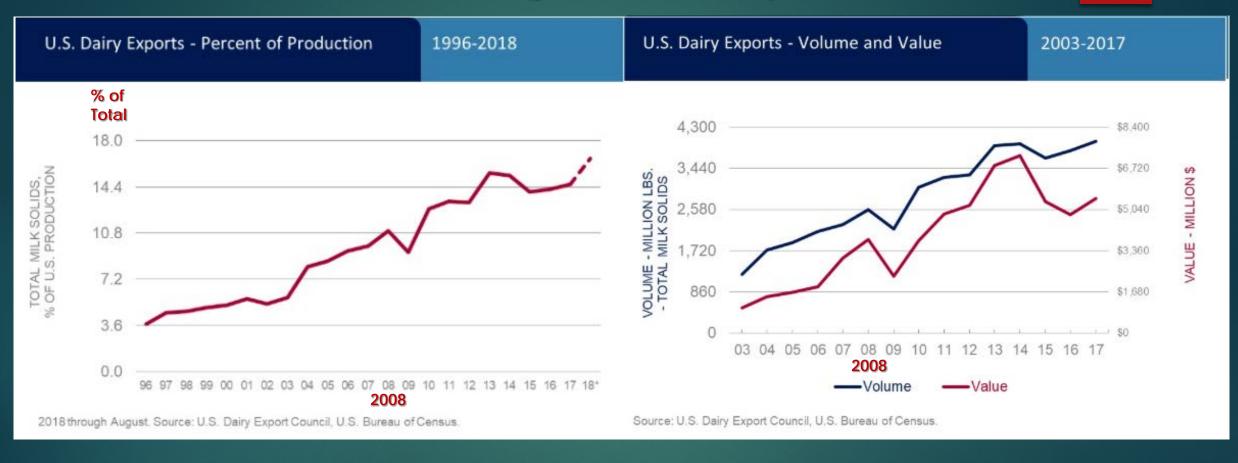
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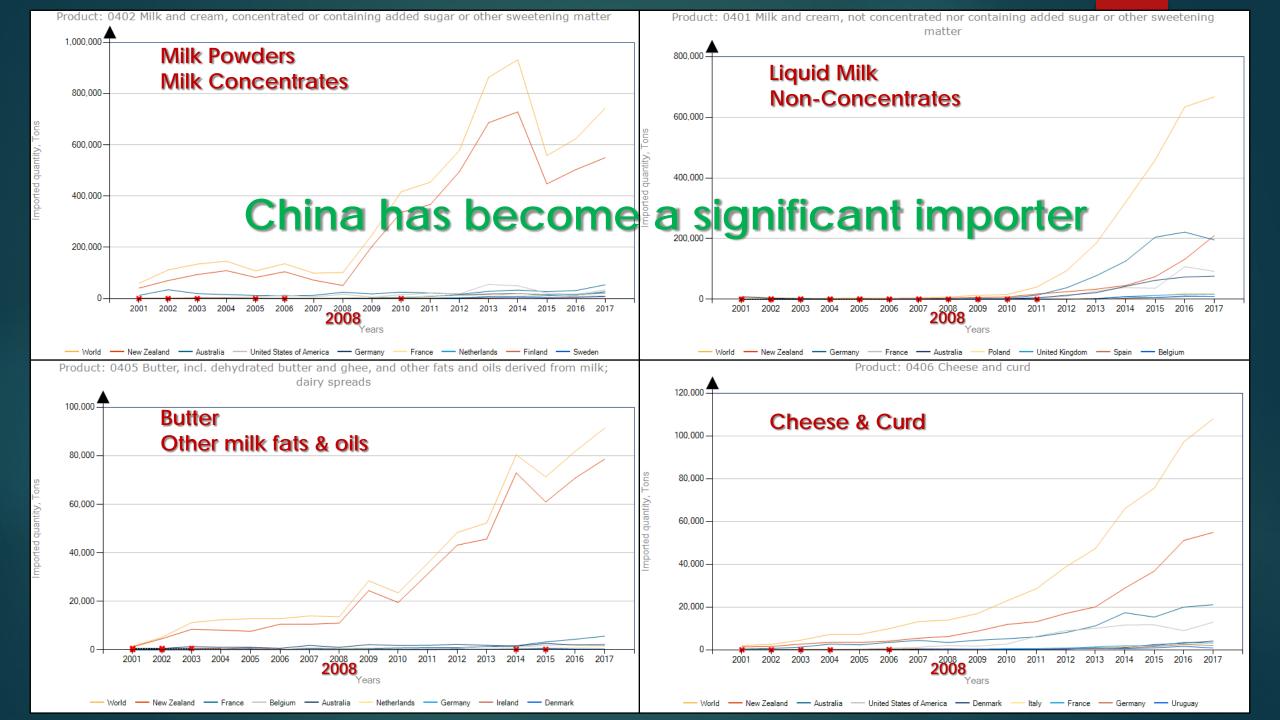
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What has changed in international dairy markets around 2006-2009?

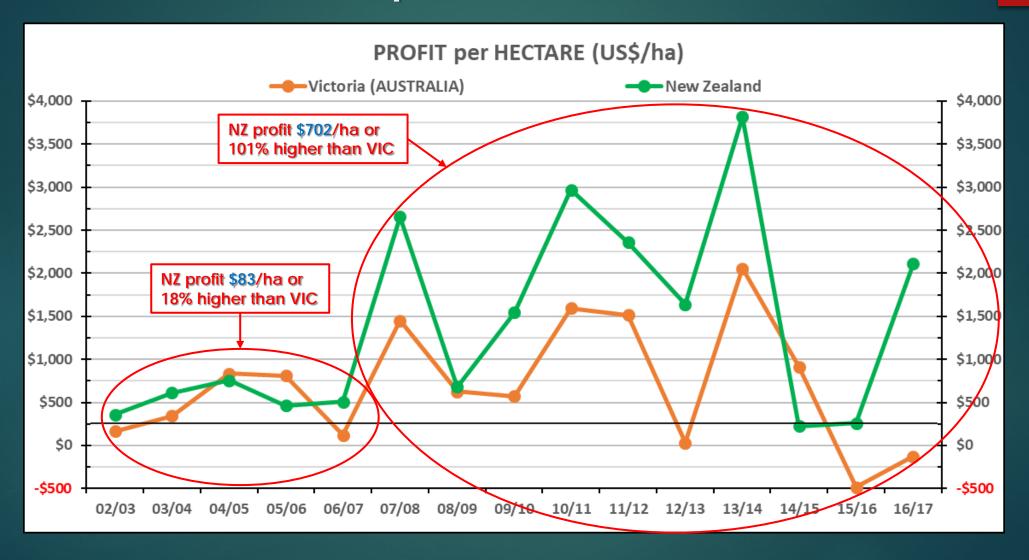
US has become a significant exporter



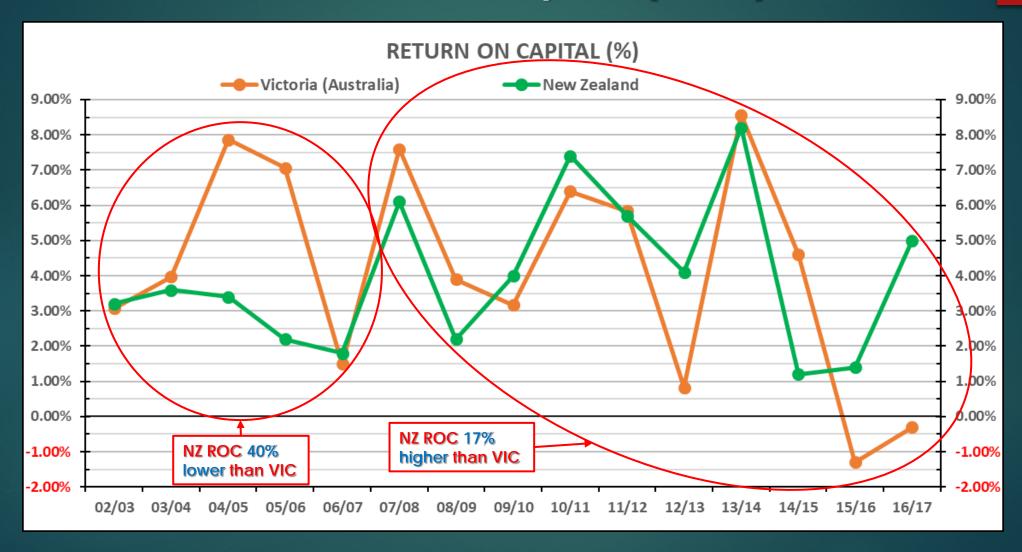


For New Zealand vs Australia it is changes in profitability...

AUS vs NZ - Profit per hectare

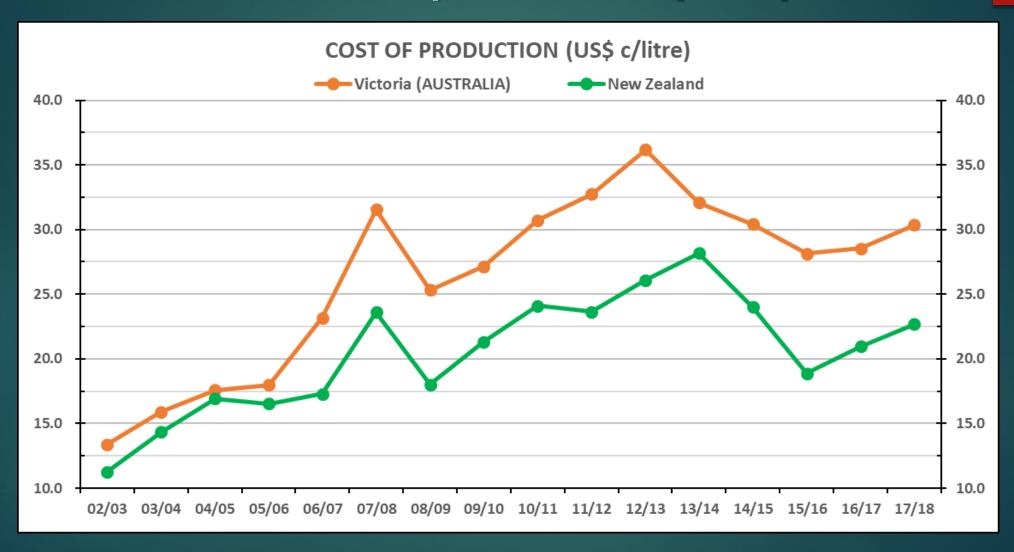


AUS vs NZ - Return on capital (ROC)

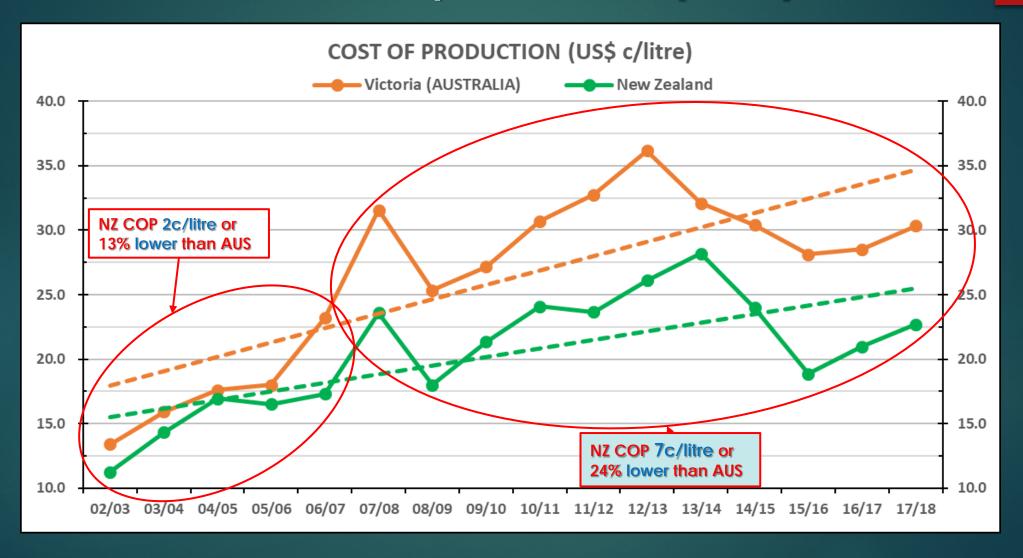


For New Zealand vs Australia it is changes in profitability...
...based on changes in cost of production

AUS vs NZ – Cost of production (COP)



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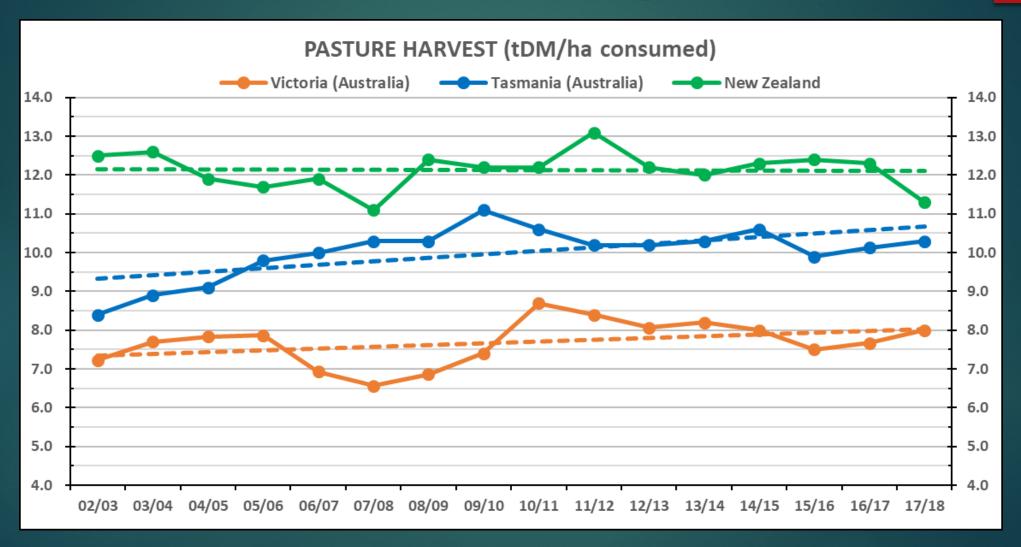


For New Zealand vs Australia it is changes in profitability...

...based on changes in cost of production

...unrelated to pasture harvest

AUS pasture harvest improving more than NZ



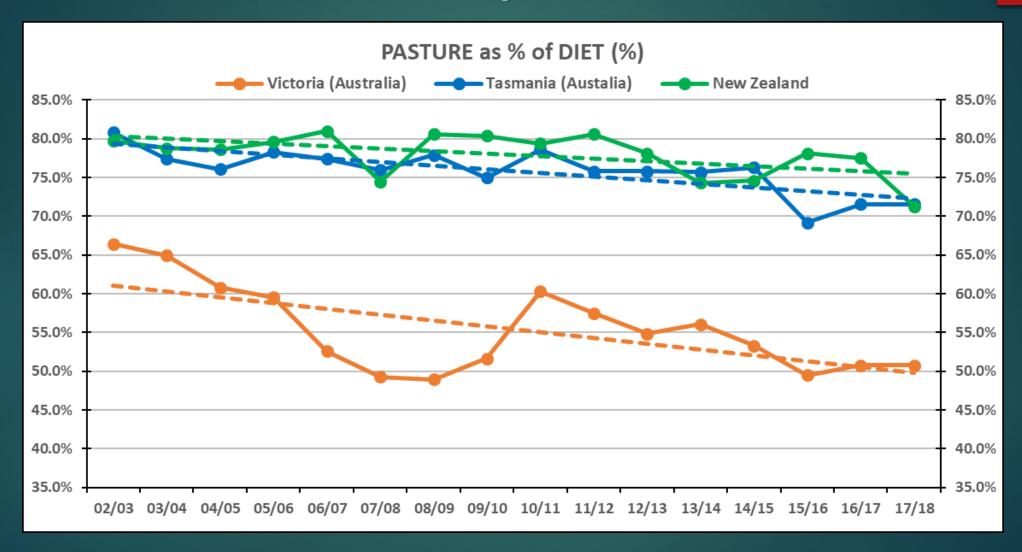
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...based on changes in cost of production

...unrelated to pasture harvest

...due to changes in farm systems

AUS vs NZ - Pasture as percent of diet



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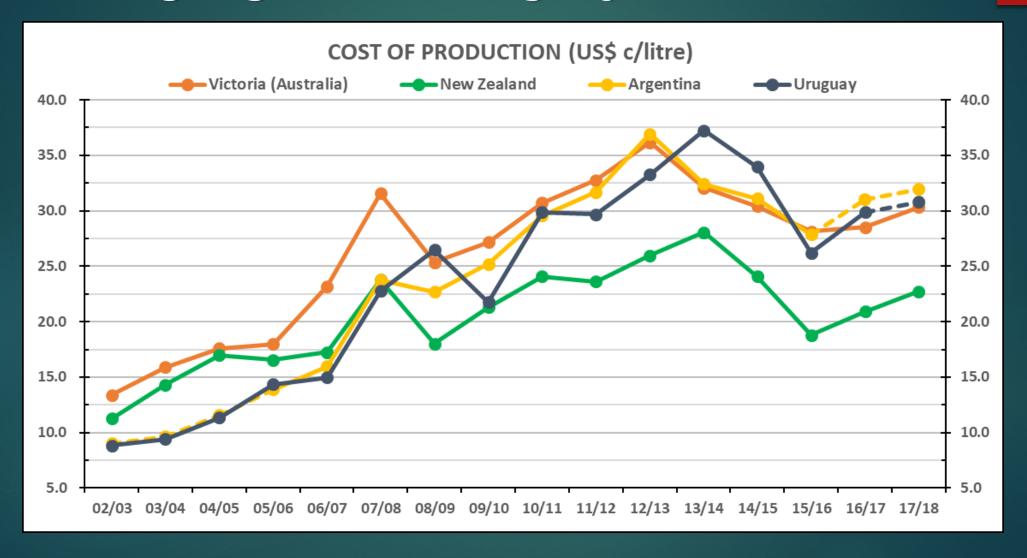
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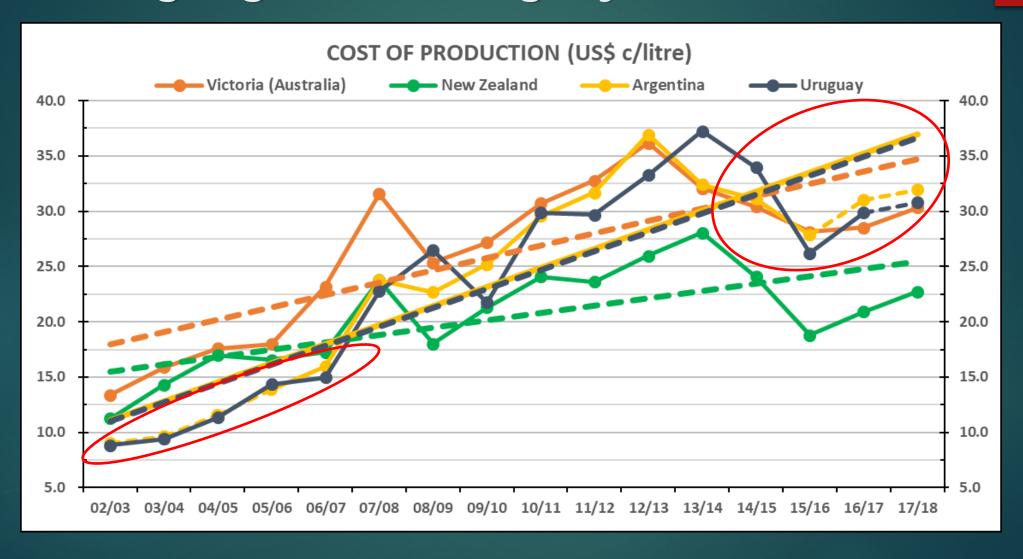
...related to larger US-type cows, higher concentrate feeding rates, and all the impacts related to these changes

What about Argentina and Uruguay?

Adding Argentina & Uruguay – COP



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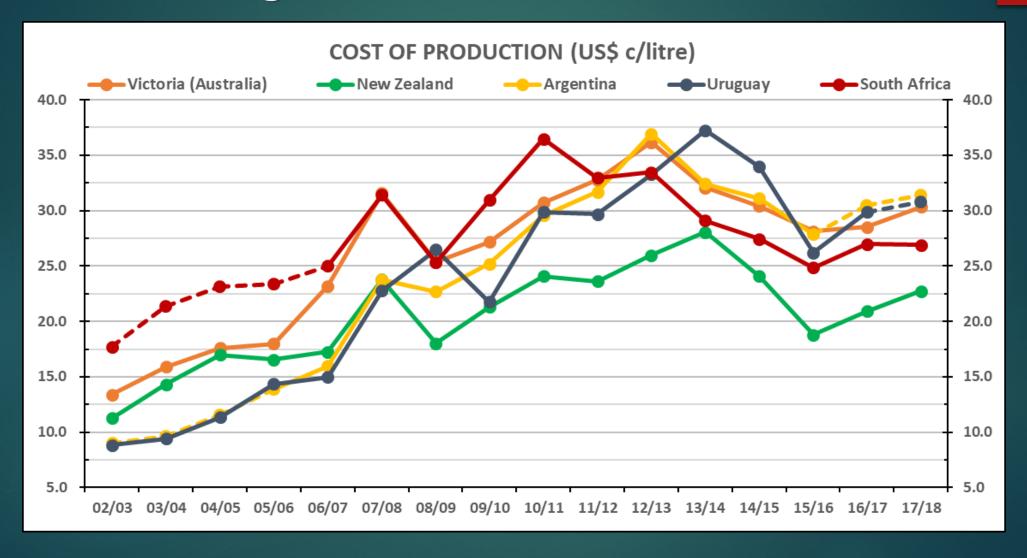
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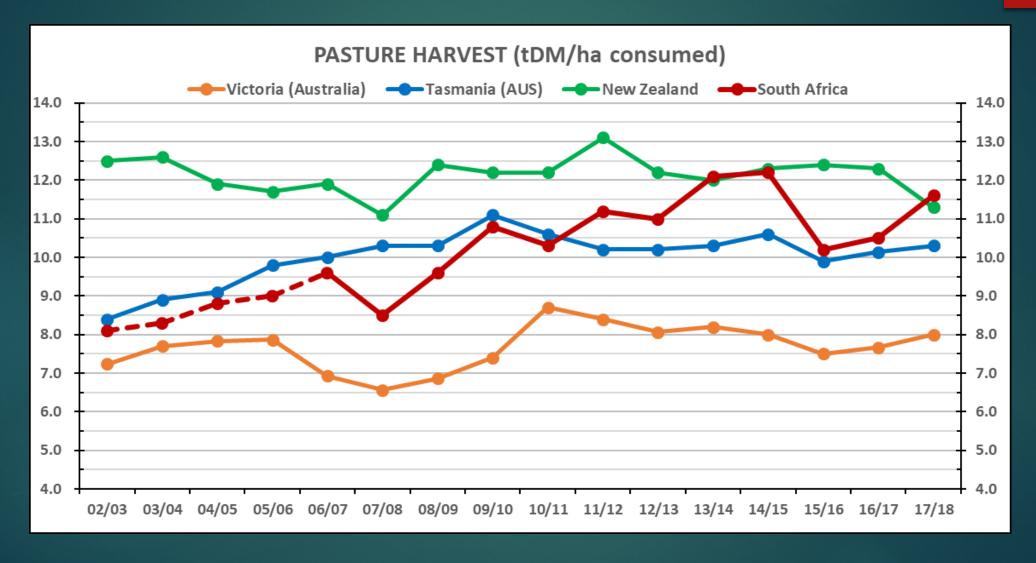
What about Argentina and Uruguay?

Might South Africa show some other countries the way to recover?

Now adding South Africa - COP



AUS vs NZ vs South Africa - Pasture harvest



What did South African dairy farmers do

Some leading farmers determined that:

- Cost of production must be driven down
- Farming system must match the conditions (financial and environmental)
- 3. Pasture harvest must be increased
- 4. Operating costs must be decreased

Total focus required on these issues to change farmers pattern of behaviour

Over a 10-12 year period the industry was transformed

Summary...

Major disparities in dairy industry performance and growth evident across the Southern Hemisphere

All countries need to focus on internal comparative advantage and external international competitiveness if they want to secure long term success and sustainability

Huge opportunities for individual dairy farmers anywhere to develop low cost of production, high profit businesses IF temperate pastures can be grown and consumed



MUCHAS GRACIAS!































