
MILK Michigan Dairy

MEANS MORE Facts

United Dairy Industry of Michigan

Michigan's dairy industry provides nutritious foods produced and processed locally while making a significant economic impact on communities across the state.

Here are some fun facts about one of our state's largest agricultural industries:

- Michigan's dairy industry provides jobs, employing local veterinarians, equipment dealers, and farm employees. One dollar spent locally generates twice as much income for the local economy.
- Michigan has over 1,200 dairy farm families who care for over 424,00 cows.
- The average dairy herd in Michigan has just over 300 cows. Just like businesses grow to support more families, herd sizes increase to allow the next generation to continue farming.
- 97% of Michigan dairy farms are family owned, many by multiple generations of the same family.
- In 2019, Michigan ranked 6th place in milk production in the U.S. Dairy cows in Michigan produced 11.4 billion pounds of milk.
- The average Michigan cow produces about 26,000 pounds of milk each year. That's just over 3,000 gallons of milk!
- Milk in Michigan is local! Michigan's nearly 1,200 dairy farms produce more than enough milk to supply the entire state. Surplus milk is exported to help meet demand in other states.
- In supermarkets and local farmers markets, you can find milk, cheese, and yogurt produced by milk from Michigan dairy farmers. When you buy Michigan dairy foods, you not only "buy local" and support area farmers... you buy quality.
- Only 1.7 % of the U.S. population produces food for all of us, plus millions worldwide.

Industry statistics updated in April 2020, sourced from <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1103>