

GROW OUR SECTOR

Through Increased Livestock Production

Dairy's Impact on Illinois

Dairy farming in Illinois includes 782 dairy farm families and processing plants, whose industry generates:

- A total economic impact of \$529 million
- More than 20,000 Illinois jobs

Five farmer-owned dairy cooperatives market nearly 85% of the milk produced in Illinois.

In 2012 Illinois had:

- 101,000 milk cows
- 47,000 replacement heifers
- Nearly 2 billion pounds of milk

Additional Illinois facts:

Average dairy herd size: 135 cows
Ranks 25th in herd size in the U.S.
Ranks 21st in milk production in U.S.

Illinois imports milk to meet its needs. Illinois dairy farmers produce 152 pounds of milk per person, while the national average for dairy consumption is 638 pounds per person. Illinois brings in milk from as far as 1,500 miles away when the state could realize the jobs and economic impact by producing more milk here.

Feed makes up more than 60% of the cost of producing milk. Fortunately, feedstuffs are abundant in Illinois. Also, given the tremendous growth in ethanol facilities, dairy cattle utilize the co-products of ethanol production making for a very efficient production system.

Top 10 Dairy Counties (Ranked by Output)

1. Stephenson
2. Clinton
3. Jo Daviess
4. Washington
5. McLean
6. Effingham
7. Carroll
8. McHenry
9. Shelby
10. Bond

Top 10 Dairy Counties (Ranked by County Personal Income)

1. Washington
2. Jo Daviess
3. Clinton
4. Carroll
5. Stephenson
6. Cumberland
7. Effingham
8. Bond
9. Shelby
10. Jasper



Illinois Livestock Development Group

