New Mexico Dairy Facts....
Did You Know?

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- That from 1990 to 2010 the share of milk produced in the Southwest (NM, AZ, TX and OK) increased from 6.7 to 11.3 % of total U.S. production?
- In this time span, the dairy processing share of the region increased from 6.1 to 8.9 % of the total value of U.S. dairy processing. The value of processed dairy products during 2009 was $7.6 billion.
- That 77.5% of the milk in New Mexico is produced on the East side of the State (Curry, Roosevelt, Chaves, Eddy & Lea), 15% in the South (Dona Ana, Sierra, Luna), and 7.5% around Albuquerque?
- That despite the increase in dairy cow numbers in New Mexico, there is only 5% more cows today than there were in 1920?
- That the total economic impact to the State of New Mexico is $1.6 billion and the total economic impact, which milk generates another $2.8 billion impact annually in processing that milk to nutritious, quality dairy products (2009 numbers)?
- That the dairy industry (production & processing) provides 56 jobs for every 100 cows, totaling about 18,000 jobs in the state?

- That dairy in the Southwest generates almost $17 billion and creates almost 60,000 jobs?
- That the largest cheese plant in North America calls New Mexico home (Southwest Cheese, Clovis)?
- That despite the size and despite some of the stories 95% of the nation’s dairies are family owned and operated either in the form of an individual doing business or a partnership (NAICS, 2002)?
- That in 1944 we produced 117 billion lbs. of milk with 25.6 billion cows, while today we produce 186 billion lbs. with 9.2 million cows, due to increased efficiency per cow (Capper et al. 2008)?
- That in NM we since 2006 produce 12.5% more milk with 6.5% less cows? How’s that for efficiency converting feed to valuable product!
- That means that the carbon footprint of a gallon of milk has been reduced by 2/3 since 1944 by maintaining less cows which collectively produce 4 times as much milk?
- That the “The Innovation US Center for Dairy” completed its Carbon Footprint for Fluid Milk Study (“Cradle to Grave”) and confirmed that “U.S. dairy accounts for approximately 2% of total U.S. GHG emissions. This is far less than the often misused 18% which is the Food and Agriculture Organization’s estimate for global livestock.
- That according to NMOSE numbers total water diversion to dairies is about 2-3%, which are water rights that are allocated and would be used for other purposes?

- That most dairies recycle and utilize that same water 3-5 times for cooling, sanitation of equipment, flushing of feed lanes, and ultimately as fertilized irrigation water? Or directly to feed the cows where the water doesn't disappear but ends up in your fridge as milk?
- That about 30-50% of the cows ration exists of by-products of human food and fiber production that otherwise would have to be burnt or take place in a landfill?
- What does that mean? Well, to put it plain and simple: in 1800, one family farm could only supply food for one other family on average while in the US today farmers make up only 2% of our population, but each can feed, on average, 125 other people!