



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



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- That New Mexico and Texas combined form the third largest milkshed in the nation, behind California and Wisconsin, and produce about 8% of the national milk?
- That 75% 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 10% 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 direct economic impact (=sale of milk) to the State of New Mexico is **\$1.2 billion** and the total economic impact (milk and all other related indirect, induced and value added business) is **\$2.7 billion** annually (2006 numbers)?
- That the dairy industry provides a job for every 100 cows directly, but indirectly provides close to 18,000 jobs in New Mexico?
- That milk production is the number one Ag. Commodity in the State of New Mexico?



- That the largest cheese plant in North America calls New Mexico home?
- 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 billion cows**, due to increased efficiency per cow (Capper et al. 2008)?
- That this means we quadrupled milk productivity per cow since 1944?
- That means that the carbon footprint of a gallon of milk has been reduced by 2/3 since 1944 (maintaining less cows, collectively producing 4 times as much milk)?
- That one million cows producing 10 lbs more milk (utilizing nutrients more efficiently) would mean we would need: 334,000 fewer animals, and therefore 2.5 million fewer tons of feed, or 540,000 acres less cropland, which in turn saves enough heat to fuel 15,700 households, electricity to power 14,600 households, and water for 9,800 households. It also produces 3.0 million fewer tons of manure, and reduces the carbon footprint by 1.85 million metric tons (9%) which equals removing 391,000 cars from the road, or planting 291 trees....(Capper et al. 2008)?
- 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 anyway?



- 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?
- That an average dairy cow sees a doctor about once every 2-4 weeks, consults with a nutritionist at least once every month, and gets a pedicure at least twice a year, and more often when she breaks a nail....?

