



New Mexico Dairy Facts....



Did You Know?

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- That dairy production in NM, TX and AZ combined is the third largest production area after California and Wisconsin?
- 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 then there were in 1920?
- That the total economic impact to the State of New Mexico is \$1.8 billion (2014) and the total economic impact, which milk generates another \$2.8 billion impact annually in processing that milk to nutritious, quality dairy products (2009 IMPLAN data)?



- That the dairy industry provides about 1 job directly for every 100 cows, which makes that a 3,000-cow dairy provides 30 jobs directly?
- 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 (SWC, Clovis)?
- That between the two largest cheese plants in the world In Clovis and Dalhart TX, 450 tanker loads of milk are needed daily to keep the plant operating?
- That this requires over 300,000 cows to produce that kind of milk daily?
- 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 (2012 Census)?

- 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% fewer cows? How's that for efficiency converting feed to dairy!
- 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!

