

# Fact Sheet: Dairy



- There are approximately 7,000 dairy cows in Alabama on 35 farms.
  - Alabama dairy cows produce over 10.7 million gallons of milk annually, ranking the state 45th in U.S. milk production.
  - The top milk-producing counties are Houston, Morgan, Fayette and Cullman.
  - One dairy cow provides about 1,528 gallons of milk per year, or 5 gallons of milk daily.
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- A cow must give birth before she can produce milk.
  - A cow that is milking eats about 100 pounds of feed daily. The feed is a combination of hay, grain, silage, proteins, vitamins and minerals.
  - Raw milk is pasteurized to extend shelf life and kill harmful bacteria. During this process, the milk temperature is raised to at least 161 F for 16 seconds and then rapidly cooled.
  - June is National Dairy Month.
  - It typically takes less than 48 hours for milk to reach grocery shelves from the time it leaves the dairy farm.
  - The value of all milk products sold from U.S. dairy farms is nearly \$37.2 billion annually.
  - The dairy production and processing industry accounts for over 900,000 jobs in the U.S.
  - Seventy percent of the calcium needs of the U.S. population are supplied by milk and dairy products.
  - The U.S. dairy industry contributes less than 2 percent of total environmental "greenhouse gasses" and has reduced its carbon footprint by 60 percent the in past six decades.
- Sources:  
*CornandSoybeanDigest.com*  
*Farmflavor.com*  
*Southeastdairy.org*
- In 2016, a dairy cow in Alabama cost about \$1,760.
  - The average value of a day's milk per cow was \$7.52 in 2016.
  - An average dairy cow weighs 1,400 pounds.
  - It takes 12 pounds of whole milk to make one gallon of ice cream.
  - Most dairy cows are milked two to three times per day.