

## Dairy Industry Economic Impact

# Tennessee

**FUEL UP  
WITH MILK**  
JUNE DAIRY MONTH

The Tennessee dairy industry generated an estimated \$817.4 million in economic activity in 2008.

Tennessee ranked 30th in milk production, 28th in number of milk cows, and 41st in milk output per cow during 2008 in the U.S.

Tennessee had 8 milk processing plants operating during 2008 that were located in Athens, Covington, Kingsport, Memphis, Murfreesboro, Nashville (2) and Powell.

Total amount of milk produced in the state during 2008 amounted 112.86 million gallons (or 948 million pounds of milk).

There were 550 licensed commercial dairy farms operating in Tennessee during 2008.

In Tennessee, cash receipts for the sale of milk by dairy farmers amounted to \$194.6 million during 2008.

There were an estimated 59,000 milk cows on dairy farms in the state during 2008.

Each dairy cow in Tennessee produced an average of 1,913 gallons of milk in 2008.

In Tennessee, about 65 percent of the milk produced in 2008 was used and consumed in the form of fluid milk dairy products.

In 2008, Tennessee dairy cows produced an average of 5.24 gallons of milk per day, or enough to make 4.45 pounds of cheese or 2.10 pounds of butter. To produce this much milk, a cow consumes 35 gallons of water, 20 pounds of grain and feed concentrates and 55 pounds of corn silage.

The average value of a day's milk was about \$9.04 per cow during 2008. Sales of other products associated with the dairy may add another \$2.30 per cow per day.

In 2008, a dairy cow in Tennessee cost about \$1,750 per head. A typical Tennessee dairy farm has a herd of 107 milking cows.

The top ranking dairy counties according to the number of Grade A dairy farms during 2008 were:

Greene County, with 49 dairy farms  
Washington County, with 36 dairy farms  
Marshall County, with 31 dairy farms  
McMinn County, with 30 dairy farms  
Monroe County, with 28 dairy farms

The top ranking counties for milk production during 2008 were:

Loudon County, 77.8 million pounds  
Monroe County, 64.7 million pounds  
McMinn County, 49.7 million pounds  
Greene County, 49.3 million pounds