

Virginia



Dairy Industry Economic Impact

Virginia ranked 23rd in milk production, 22nd in number of milk cows, 33rd in milk output per cow and 14th in number of licensed dairy operations during 2010 in the United States.

Virginia had five milk processing plants operating during 2010 that were located in Lynchburg, Mount Crawford, Richmond, Winchester and Wirtz.

Total amount of milk produced in the state during 2010 amounted 199.88 million gallons (or 1,719 million pounds of milk).

In Virginia, cash receipts for the sale of milk by dairy farmers amounted to \$331.9 million during 2010.

There were an estimated 95,000 milk cows on dairy farms in the state during 2010.

Each dairy cow in Virginia produced an average of 2,104 gallons of milk in 2010.

In Virginia, 100 percent of the milk produced in 2010 was used and consumed in the form of fluid milk dairy foods.

In 2010, Virginia dairy cows produced an average of 5.76 gallons of milk per day, or enough to make 4.61 pounds of cheese or 2.40 pounds of butter. To produce this much milk, an average cow consumes 50 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 \$9.62 per cow during 2010. Sales of other products associated with the dairy may add another \$1.65 per cow per day.

In 2010, a dairy cow in Virginia cost about \$1,510 per head. A typical Virginia dairy farm has a herd of 135 milking cows.