

Alabama



Dairy Industry Economic Impact

Alabama ranked 42nd in milk production, 43rd in number of milk cows, 42nd in milk output per cow and 44th in number of licensed dairy operations during 2010 in the United States.

Alabama had three milk processing plants operating during 2010 that were located in Birmingham, Cowarts, and Prichard.

Total amount of milk produced in the state during 2010 amounted to 18.49 million gallons (or 159 million pounds of milk).

In Alabama, cash receipts for the sale of milk by dairy farmers amounted to \$30.8 million during 2010.

Each dairy cow in Alabama produced an average of 1,681 gallons of milk in 2010.

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

In 2010, Alabama dairy cows produced an average of 4.61 gallons of milk per day, or enough to make 3.69 pounds of cheese or 1.92 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 \$7.72 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 Alabama cost about \$1,300 per head. A typical Alabama dairy farm has a herd of 183 milking cows.

Alabama's top six ranking dairy counties according to the number of Grade A dairy farms during 2010 were:

Cullman County, with 8 dairy farms

Fayette County, with 5 dairy farms

Hale County, with 4 dairy farms

Morgan County, with 4 dairy farms

No other county with at least 3 dairy farms

Alabama's top six ranking milk producing counties for 2010 were:

Morgan County, 1.7 million pounds

Cullman County, 1.4 million pounds

Fayette County, 900,000 pounds

Hale County, 400,000 pounds

No other county with at least 3 dairy farms