New Mexico Dairy Facts…

Did You Know?

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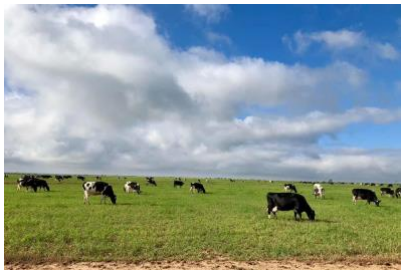
Economic:

- That dairy production in NM and TX combined is the third largest production area after California and Wisconsin?
- That NM is the 4th leading state in cheese production, producing 7.4% of the U.S. cheese?
- That NM is the 9th leading state in milk production: 3.2% of the milk with 3.2% of the cows on ±100 NM dairy farms?
- That 85% of the milk in New Mexico is produced on the East side of the State (Curry, Roosevelt, Chaves, Lea and Eddy), 10% in the Southwest (Dona Ana, Sierra, Luna), and 5% around Albuquerque (Valencia)?
- That despite the increase in dairy cow numbers in the 80's and 90's, there is only 5% more cows today then in 1920?
- That the total economic impact to the State of New Mexico is $2.2B direct, and $4.2B indirect annually converting milk to nutritious quality dairy products (NMDA).
- That dairy farms provide roughly 1 job for every 100 cows, and an average dairy will employ almost 30 employees. That creates about 6,000 direct dairy jobs while affiliated industries like cheese plants generate another16,000 jobs?

- That the largest cheese plant in North America calls New Mexico home?
- That Southwest Cheese has the ability to process 300 tanker loads per day?
- That translates to 5.1B lbs milk 588M lbs cheese and 37M lbs whey/year?
- That is 10% of the U.S. cheese market, or 1 out of every 10 slices of cheese?
- That it takes the milk of 175,000 dairy cows daily to fill 300 tanker loads?
- That milk is cooled and tested and picked up immediately for processing?
- That despite the size and despite some of the stories 95% of the nation's dairies are still family owned and operated?

Environmental:

- That New Mexico dairy production analysis shows a 33% increase in production efficiency in the last 25 years?
- That producing more dairy products while utilizing fewer resources to do so greatly improves a sustainable industry?
- That Capper and Cady (2020) reported that between 2007 and 2017: industry GHG emissions declined 19% per gallon of milk, while milk production increased by 25%, and total GHG emissions from milk increased by only 1%?



•That using Capper and Cady's 2017 numbers we can conclude that U.S. dairy met its 2020 goal of reducing GHG with 25%?
•That in comparison a 2017 gallon of milk was produced: with only 80% of the manure, 83% of the nitrogen, and 86% of the phosphorus excreted?
•That in NM with a stable herd size and increased efficiency, the GHG footprint per gallon has declined 8 to 12%?
•That says that dairy farming in NM is an environmental solution!

•That NMSU Dairy Extension is working with leading experts to develop models which describe the nature and extend of emissions from our typical open lot dairies to establish baseline emissions through the FARM ES program.

- That open lot dairies have an inherent environmental benefit over dairies with other manure management systems.
- That once appropriate baseline scenarios are established, an established toolbox of solutions will allow producers to elect management practices to fit their operations to further reduce GHG emissions to the 2050 Net Zero goals.
- That research shows if we eliminated dairy cows in the US, GHG reductions would only be 0.7% of total US GHG?
- That according to NMOSE numbers total water diversion to dairies is about 2-3%?
- That NM dairies recycle and utilize water 3-5X for cooling, sanitation, flushing, and ultimately as irrigation water?
- That part of the water that cows drink doesn't disappear but ultimately ends up in your fridge as milk?
- That about 43% of a cow's ration exists of by-products which otherwise would be burnt (GHG) or go to 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, while in the US today farmers make up only 2% of our population, but each can feed 125 other people!

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For additional info see NMDA Stats at:
https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/media/pdf/2021-NM-Ag-Statistics.pdf