



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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USDA celebrates 79th Annual National Dairy Month

CHARLESTON, W.V. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) celebrates the 79th annual National Dairy Month this June, highlighting the hard work and dedication of dairy farmers and the valuable nutrition milk and milk products add to Americans' diets.

West Virginia has 76 licensed dairy farms¹, and USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service's most recent annual data on milk cows and milk production show that 9,000 milk cows produced more than a 141 million pounds of milk, or 16 million gallons, in West Virginia in 2015. Each cow produced more than 1,800 gallons of milk last year. One million pounds of West Virginia-produced milk was used to make cream and butter.

"Dairy farming plays a role in economic activity for West Virginia agriculture, generating more than \$24 million in cash receipts to West Virginia farms in 2015," said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office, which serves West Virginia. "Farm families work tirelessly to provide a safe, healthy and plentiful source of milk and dairy products."

The American Dairy Association Mideast works with West Virginia farmers to promote dairy products and to emphasize the hard work that goes into providing a safe, high quality, tasty product to Americans.

"Most dairy farms are third- or fourth-generation farms," said Jenny Hubble, senior vice president of communications for ADAM. "These farmers are proud to do what they love. For them, dairy farming isn't just their business, it's their way of life. Producing a wholesome product is their passion."

ADAM also partners with the USDA, National Football League and others to promote the largest in-school health program, Fuel Up to Play 60. Hubble said Fuel Up to Play 60 empowers kids to be active and make healthy food choices, including foods like milk, cheese and yogurt.

"Fuel Up to Play 60 is active in more than half the counties in West Virginia," Hubble said. "We also work closely with health professional to make sure they have the most accurate, science-based dairy information to educate consumers."

Did You Know?

A gallon of milk weighs about 8.5 pounds.

An 8-ounce glass of milk contains about eight grams of protein and 275 milligrams of calcium.

According to the USDA Economic Research Service, the average American ate 8.5 pounds of ice cream in 2013, adding up to West Virginians consuming more than 15 million pounds of the frozen treat that year. That's more than 28 million ice cream sundaes!

The average American eats 8.1 pounds of cheddar cheese each year; West Virginia consumed nearly 15 million pounds in 2013.

The average American eats 10.4 pounds of yogurt, meaning West Virginians ate 19 million pounds of yogurt in 2013.

For more facts and figures about America's consumption of all things dairy, visit [http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-availability-\(per-capita\)-data-system/.aspx#26705](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-availability-(per-capita)-data-system/.aspx#26705).

To find out more about dairy farms in West Virginia, visit <https://www.drink-milk.com/>.

NASS produces a comprehensive annual dairy report due out in April each year, and quarterly milk production reports throughout the year.

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1. Information courtesy of the West Virginia Office of Environmental Health Services.