



WISCONSIN AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

P.O. Box 8934 Madison, WI 53708-8934

In cooperation with WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection



July 2005

Wisconsin Dairy Grazing Operations 2004 and 2009

Grazing Dairy Cows in Wisconsin

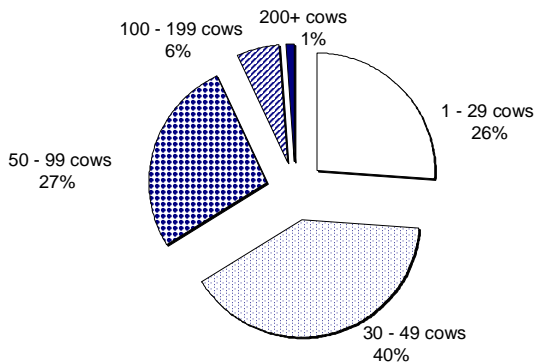
There are about 2,200 management intensive rotational grazing dairy operations in the state. For this publication, the terminology 'management intensive rotational grazing' was individually defined by each farmer.

In the fall of 2004, Wisconsin dairy operators were surveyed on current management decisions and future plans for their farm. Over 60% of the selected dairy operators responded to this voluntary survey.

Wisconsin Dairy Herds

Herd Size	2004	2004	2009	2009
	All Herds	Grazing Herds	All Herds	Grazing Herds
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1-29	2,200	26	1,150	31
30-49	3,900	22	2,300	27
50-99	6,500	9	4,700	11
100-199	1,900	7	1,930	8
200+	900	2	1,220	1
All	15,400	14	11,300	15

Wisconsin Management Intensive Rotational Grazing Operations, by Herd Size, 2004



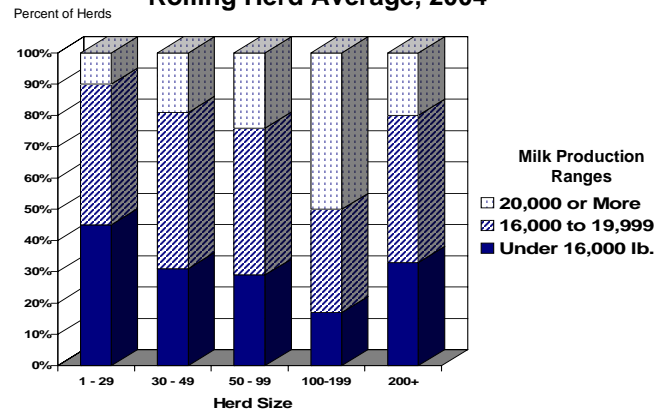
Wisconsin Management Intensive Rotational Grazing Operations

- ❖ 115,000 acres used for rotational grazing
- ❖ 48 cows per operation in 2004, rising to 58 cows per herd in 2009

Milk Cows Moved to Fresh Pastures

Herd Size	Every Day	Every 2 - 3 Days	Once a Week	Other (less often)
	Percent			
1-29	26	24	38	12
30-49	32	17	34	17
50-99	43	23	22	12
100-199	53	21	21	5
200+	80	0	20	0
All Grazers	35	21	31	13

Wisconsin Grazing Operations Rolling Herd Average, 2004



Management Intensive Rotational Grazing Factors

Management intensive rotational grazers were 14% of the returned responses. Those who use this method of farming were primarily milking between 1 and 99 cows. The top five factors for adopting grazing were: farm profitability, lower animal health or veterinary costs, quality of life for self and family, type of feed source available, and location of land close to the milking facility.

The four most common reasons not to adopt grazing were: farm profitability, changing their farm management system, installing fencing or watering systems, and location of land close to milking facility.

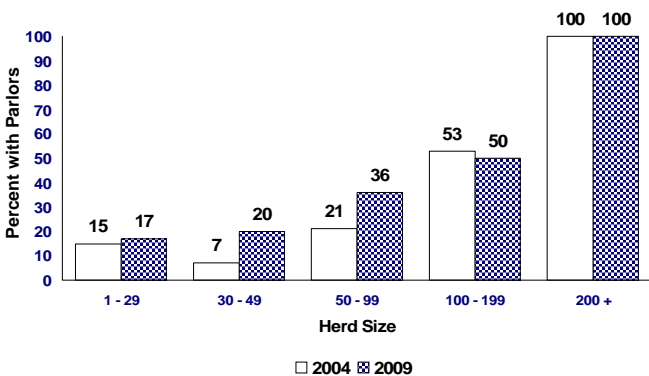
Top Reasons to Adopt Management Intensive Rotational Grazing

- 1) Farm profitability
- 2) Animal health or veterinary costs
- 3) Quality of life for me and my family
- 4) Type of feed source available
- 5) Location of land close to milking facility

Wisconsin Grazing Farms with Parlors 2004 and 2009

In 2004, there were about 360 grazing farms with parlors, compared to 470 predicted for 2009. Most of the increase in parlor usage on grazing operations is expected to occur in two herd size groups -- 30 to 49 and 50 to 99 head. The majority of 200+ cow grazing operations had parlors in 2004.

Wisconsin Grazing Farms 2004 and 2009



Wisconsin Dairy Producers Management Decisions, 2000 – 2004 1/

	Produce Organic Milk	Use a Feed Nutritionist	Have a Business Plan
	Percent		
All Herds	2	75	43
Grazing Herds	9	55	41

1/ 2004 Wisconsin Dairy Survey Results

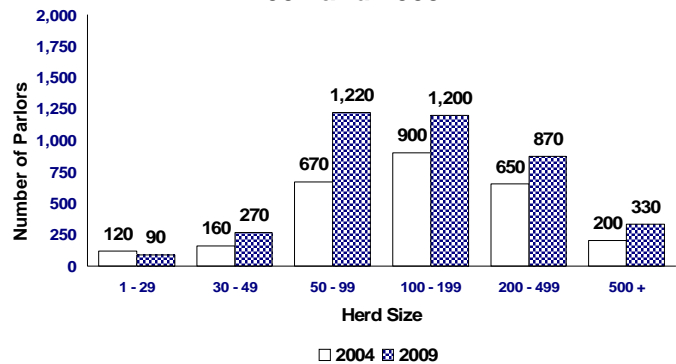
Wisconsin Dairy Operations with Parlors 2004 and 2009

In the next five years, both grazers and non-grazers plan to add parlors. About two-thirds of the overall increase is expected to occur in two herd size groups -- 50 to 99 and 100 to 199 head.

Respondents using milking parlors in 2004 include both farmers with plans to continue milking cows in 2009, as well as farmers who think they will no longer be milking in five years.

Operations expecting to use a parlor in 2009 include only those farmers with plans to continue milking until 2009 and beyond. The graph does not include new dairy operators who would build new parlors, nor does it include existing parlors where the farmer plans to exit the industry and another farmer may begin using the parlor in the future.

Wisconsin Milking Parlors 2004 and 2009



Wisconsin Dairy Farms 2004 and 2009

- ❖ 22.2 billion pounds of milk to 24.5 billion in 2009
- ❖ 17,900 rolling herd average to 19,400 in 2009
- ❖ 18% with milking parlors to 35% in 2009
- ❖ 14% grazing dairy farms to 15% in 2009
- ❖ 2% organic dairy farms to 4% in 2009
- ❖ 1% organic grazing dairy farms to 3% in 2009

Results from the survey can also be found on the web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>