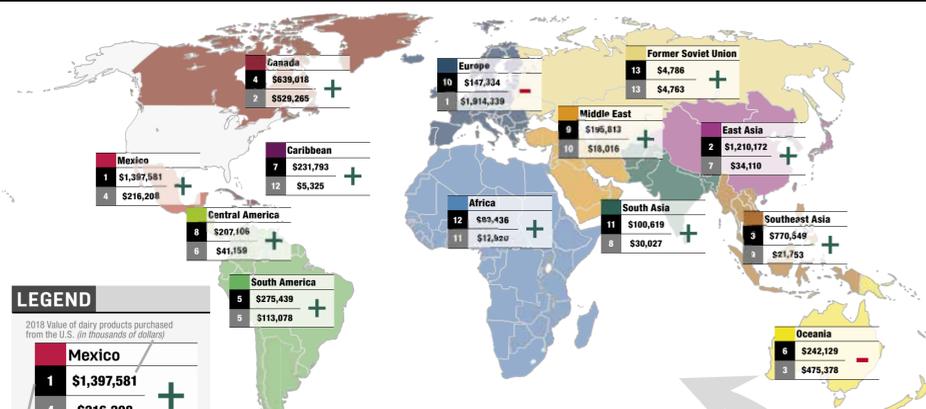


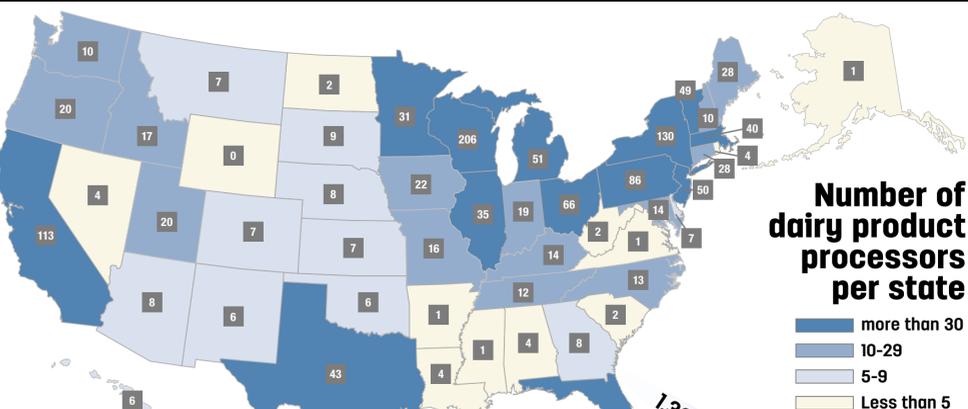
2018 U.S. dairy trade & processing



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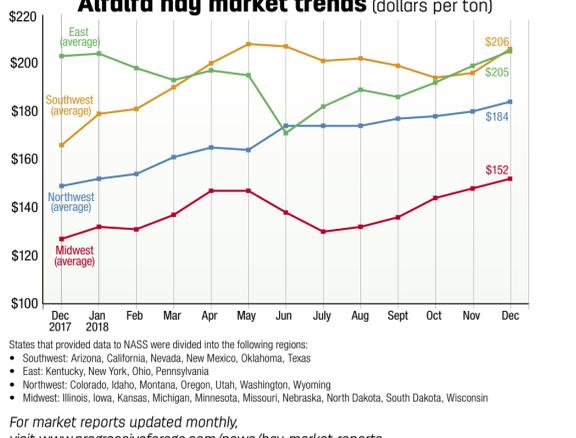
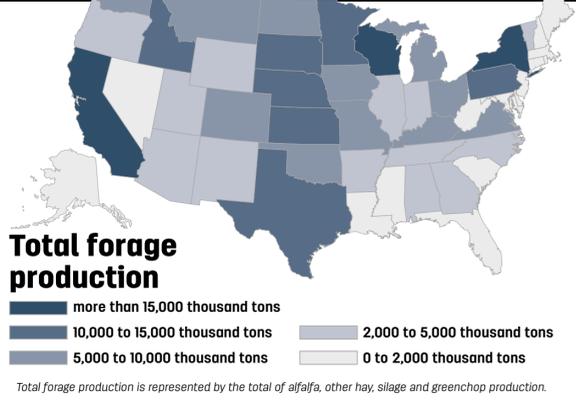
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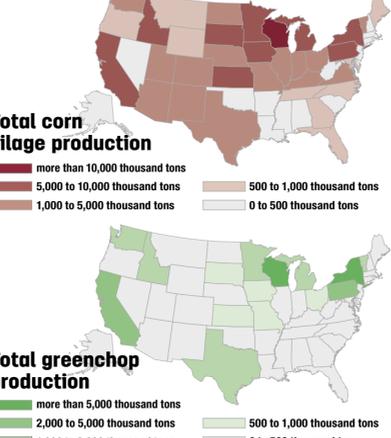
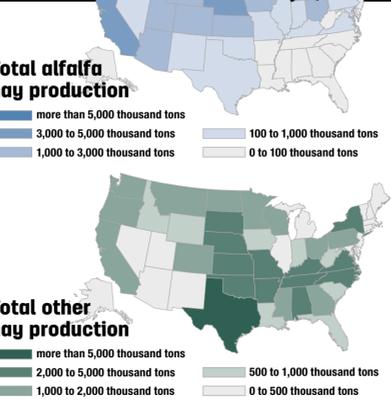
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Total corn silage production

Legend:
 - more than 10,000 thousand tons
 - 5,000 to 10,000 thousand tons
 - 1,000 to 5,000 thousand tons
 - 500 to 1,000 thousand tons
 - 0 to 500 thousand tons

2018 U.S. dairy statistics

2018 took a toll on most

Progressive Dairy Editor Dave Natzke

A fourth year of lower milk prices took a toll on 2018 U.S. dairy herds, held dairy cows numbers in check and resulted in U.S. milk production growth of less than 1 percent compared to 2017.

U.S. milk production

U.S. milk production hit nearly 217.6 billion pounds in 2018, up about 2 billion pounds (0.95 percent) from 2017. Milk production has exceeded year-earlier totals in 20 of the last 22 years. (Only 2001 and 2009 were exceptions.)

Sixteen states registered annual milk production increases during 2018, up a combined 3.35 billion pounds. States posting the largest increases (volume basis) were Texas, California, Idaho, Colorado and Wisconsin. On a percentage basis, largest increases were in Colorado, Texas, Kansas and Utah.

Thirty-four states posted production decreases during 2018, with combined production falling 1.3 billion pounds compared with 2017. Largest year-to-year declines were in Pennsylvania, Florida and Virginia.

State ranking

Based on annual milk production, there were changes in dairy state rankings in 2018. The top five states are California, Wisconsin, Idaho, New York and Texas. Among the top 25 states, Idaho moved ahead of New York into third place, Colorado moved ahead of Indiana into 14th place, and South Dakota moved ahead of Vermont into 18th place.

Licensed herds

The average number of dairy farms commercially licensed to sell milk fell to 37,468 in 2018, a decline of 2,731 (7 percent) from the year before and down 19,659 (34 percent) since 2008. Year-over-year declines

U.S. dairy industry 15-year overview

Year	Total milk production (in millions of lbs)	Number of cows (in thousands)	Milk per cow (lbs per year)	Licensed dairy herds	Average herd size
2004	170,832	9,010	18,960	66,830	135
2005	176,931	9,050	19,550	64,540	140
2006	181,782	9,137	19,895	62,070	147
2007	185,654	9,189	20,204	59,130	155
2008	189,982	9,315	20,395	57,127	163
2009	189,334	9,203	20,573	54,942	168
2010	192,848	9,119	21,148	53,132	172
2011	196,164	9,194	21,336	51,291	179
2012	200,537	9,233	21,720	49,281	187
2013	201,231	9,224	21,816	46,975	196
2014	206,054	9,257	22,259	44,809	207
2015	208,597	9,314	22,396	43,534	214
2016	212,405	9,325	22,778	41,819	223
2017	215,466	9,392	22,941	40,219	234
2018	217,575	9,399	23,149	37,468	251

Cow numbers

The U.S. cow herd averaged 9,399 million cows in 2018, down 7,000 head from 2017. Compared to a year earlier, the largest growth in cow numbers was in Texas (+2,000), Colorado (+14,000), Idaho (+9,000) and Kansas (+7,000). Just nine states had more cows than the year before.

California (-15,000 head), Pennsylvania (-6,000) and Ohio and Minnesota (each -5,000 head) led decliners. In all, 30 states had fewer cows than the year before; 11 states were unchanged.

California remains the national leader in cow numbers with 1,734 million head, followed by Wisconsin with 1,274 million head.

Herd size

The national average dairy herd size grew to 251 cows in 2018, up 17 cows (7.2 percent) from 2017. The seven-state Southwest region showed the largest growth in cows per herd, up 49 head to 1,343. Within that region, herds in New Mexico averaged 2,357 cows, a 164-cow jump from 2017. Dairy herds now average more than 1,000 head in nine states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas. (A large herd dispersal in Hawaii

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Milk per cow (lbs of milk)

Top 10	Value
Michigan	26,340
Colorado	25,892
New Mexico	25,106
Idaho	24,875
Washington	24,318
Wisconsin	24,002
Nebraska	24,000
Iowa	23,945
Arizona	23,933
Texas	23,933

Number of licensed herds

Top 10	Value
Wisconsin	8,500
Pennsylvania	6,200
New York	4,190
Minnesota	2,980
Ohio	2,200
Michigan	1,520
California	1,335
Iowa	1,120
Indiana	965
Missouri	920

Dairy receipts as a % of state's total farm receipts

Top 10	Value
Vermont	62%
New York	52%
Wisconsin	48%
New Mexico	45%
Idaho	35%
Pennsylvania	30%
Michigan	25%
New Hampshire	24%
Utah	22%
Nevada	19%

2018 U.S. dairy statistics



10-year changes by state

State rank-2018	State	Total milk production (in millions of lbs)	Total milk production (in millions of lbs)	Change in total milk from 2008-2018	Number of cows (1,000 head)	Number of cows (1,000 head)	Change in number of cows 2008-2018	Milk per cow (lbs. per year)	Milk per cow (lbs. per year)	Change in milk per cow 2008-2018	Number of licensed dairy herds	Number of licensed dairy herds	Change in licensed dairy herds 2008-2018	Average herd size	Average herd size	Change in average herd size from 2008-2018
2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008	2018	2008
1	California	41,203	40,413	-790	1,844	1,734	-110	22,344	23,306	+962	1,905	1,335	-570	968	1,299	+331
2	Wisconsin	24,472	30,579	+6,107	1,252	1,274	+22	19,546	24,002	+4,456	13,730	8,500	-5,230	91	150	+59
3	Idaho	12,315	15,149	+2,834	549	609	+60	22,432	24,875	+2,443	635	480	-155	865	1,269	+404
4	New York	12,432	14,882	+2,450	626	623	-3	19,859	23,888	+4,029	5,620	4,190	-1,430	111	149	+37
5	Texas	8,416	12,852	+4,436	418	537	+119	20,134	23,933	+3,799	670	400	-270	624	1,343	+719
6	Michigan	7,763	11,168	+3,405	350	424	+74	22,180	26,340	+4,160	2,390	1,520	-870	146	279	+133
7	Pennsylvania	10,575	10,665	+90	549	519	-30	19,262	20,549	+1,287	7,670	6,200	-1,470	72	84	+12
8	Minnesota	8,782	9,868	+1,086	464	453	-11	18,927	21,784	+2,857	4,865	2,980	-1,885	95	152	+57
9	New Mexico	7,865	8,285	+420	338	330	-8	23,269	25,106	+1,837	160	140	-20	2,113	2,357	+245
10	Washington	5,896	6,736	+840	244	277	+33	23,344	24,318	+974	500	410	-90	488	676	+188
11	Ohio	5,130	5,532	+402	280	259	-21	18,321	21,359	+3,038	3,360	2,200	-1,160	83	118	+34
12	Iowa	4,319	5,268	+949	216	220	+4	19,995	23,945	+3,950	2,020	1,120	-900	107	196	+89
13	Arizona	4,349	4,978	+629	186	208	+22	23,382	23,933	+551	120	100	-20	1,550	2,080	+530
14	Colorado	2,935	4,557	+1,622	128	176	+48	22,930	25,892	+2,962	140	120	-20	914	1,467	+552
15	Indiana	3,287	4,161	+874	167	184	+17	19,683	22,614	+2,931	1,670	965	-705	100	191	+91
16	Kansas	2,415	3,708	+1,293	117	159	+42	20,641	23,321	+2,680	425	280	-145	275	568	+293
17	South Dakota	1,796	2,705	+909	90	121	+31	19,956	22,355	+2,399	490	215	-275	184	563	+379
18	Vermont	2,576	2,680	+104	140	127	-13	18,400	21,102	+2,702	1,100	730	-370	127	174	+47
19	Oregon	2,254	2,531	+277	114	123	+9	19,772	20,577	+805	300	220	-80	380	559	+179
20	Florida	2,060	2,381	+321	120	120	0	17,167	19,842	+2,675	140	95	-45	857	1,263	+406
21	Utah	1,776	2,322	+546	85	100	+15	20,894	23,220	+2,326	260	180	-80	327	556	+229
22	Illinois	1,894	1,878	-16	102	90	-12	18,569	20,867	+2,298	960	600	-360	106	150	+44
23	Georgia	1,355	1,766	+411	76	82	+6	17,829	21,537	+3,708	270	160	-110	281	513	+231
24	Virginia	1,726	1,635	-91	98	83	-15	17,612	19,699	+2,087	725	565	-160	135	147	+12
25	Nebraska	1,083	1,440	+357	58	60	+2	18,672	24,000	+5,328	320	155	-165	181	387	+206
26	Missouri	1,615	1,194	-421	110	83	-27	14,682	14,386	-296	1,760	920	-840	63	90	+28
27	Kentucky	1,210	1,009	-201	90	55	-35	13,444	18,345	+4,901	1,060	540	-520	85	102	+17
28	North Carolina	892	937	+45	47	44	-3	18,979	21,295	+2,316	300	180	-120	157	244	+88
29	Maryland	1,029	925	-104	56	45	-11	18,375	20,556	+2,181	570	380	-190	98	118	+20
30	Nevada	559	734	+175	27	32	+5	20,704	22,938	+2,234	35	20	-15	1,080	1,600	+520
31	Oklahoma	1,061	725	-336	64	40	-24	16,578	18,125	+1,547	310	150	-160	206	267	+60
32	Tennessee	948	634	-314	59	37	-22	16,068	17,135	+1,067	550	250	-300	107	148	+41
33	Maine	603	618	+15	33	30	-3	18,273	20,600	+2,327	330	230	-100	100	130	+30
34	Connecticut	364	427	+63	19	19	0	19,158	22,474	+3,316	150	110	-40	127	173	+46
35	North Dakota	418	334	-84	26	15	-11	16,077	22,267	+6,190	255	80	-175	102	188	+86
36	Montana	313	274	-39	17	12	-5	18,412	22,833	+4,421	80	60	-20	213	200	-13
37	New Hampshire	299	249	-50	15	12	-3	19,933	20,750	+817	130	100	-30	115	120	+5
38	South Carolina	322	242	-80	18	14	-4	17,889	17,286	-603	80	50	-30	225	280	+55
39	Massachusetts	254	202	-52	15	11	-4	16,933	18,364	+1,431	180	130	-50	83	85	+2
40	Louisiana	319	152	-167	26	11	-15	12,269	13,818	+1,549	200	90	-110	130	122	-8
41	Wyoming	136	142	+6	7	6	-1	19,386	23,700	+4,314	25	10	-15	280	600	+320
42	Mississippi	291	129	-162	20	9	-11	14,550	14,333	-217	160	65	-95	125	138	+13
43	West Virginia	181	111	-70	12	7	-5	15,083	15,857	+774	110	75	-35	109	93	-16
44	New Jersey	169	110	-59	10	6	-4	16,900	18,333	+1,433	110	50	-60	91	120	+29
45	Delaware	110	92	-18	7	5	-2	16,923	19,063	+2,140	55	25	-30	118	192	+74
46	Arkansas	186	74	-112	15	6	-9	12,400	12,333	-67	150	50	-100	100	120	+20
47	Alabama	184	73	-111	12	5	-7	15,333	14,600	-733	65	30	-35	185	167	-18
48	Hawaii	19	34	+15	2	2	0	10,882	17,000	+6,118	2	2	0	850	1,000	+150
49	Rhode Island	20	12	-8	1	1	0	18,091	16,714	-1,377	20	10	-10	55	70	+15
50	Alaska	7	3	-4	1	0	0	12,000	9,333	-2,667	5	1	-4	120	300	+180
U.S. total		189,982	217,575	+27,593	9,315	9,399	+84	20,395	23,149	+2,754	57,127	37,468	-19,659	163	251	+88

Source: February 2018 Milk Production Report, USDA
Statistical ties are represented by the same numerical ranking.

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