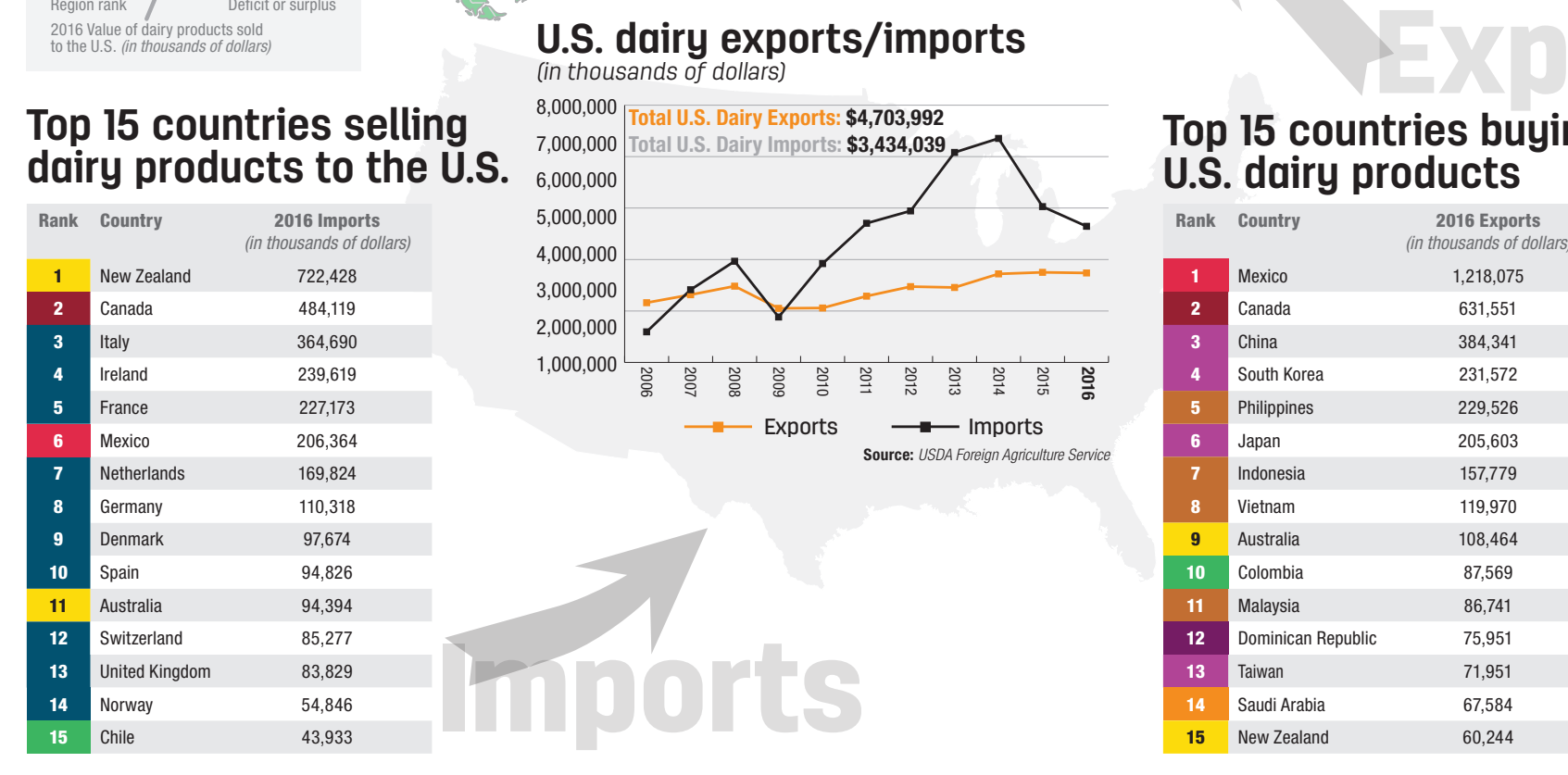
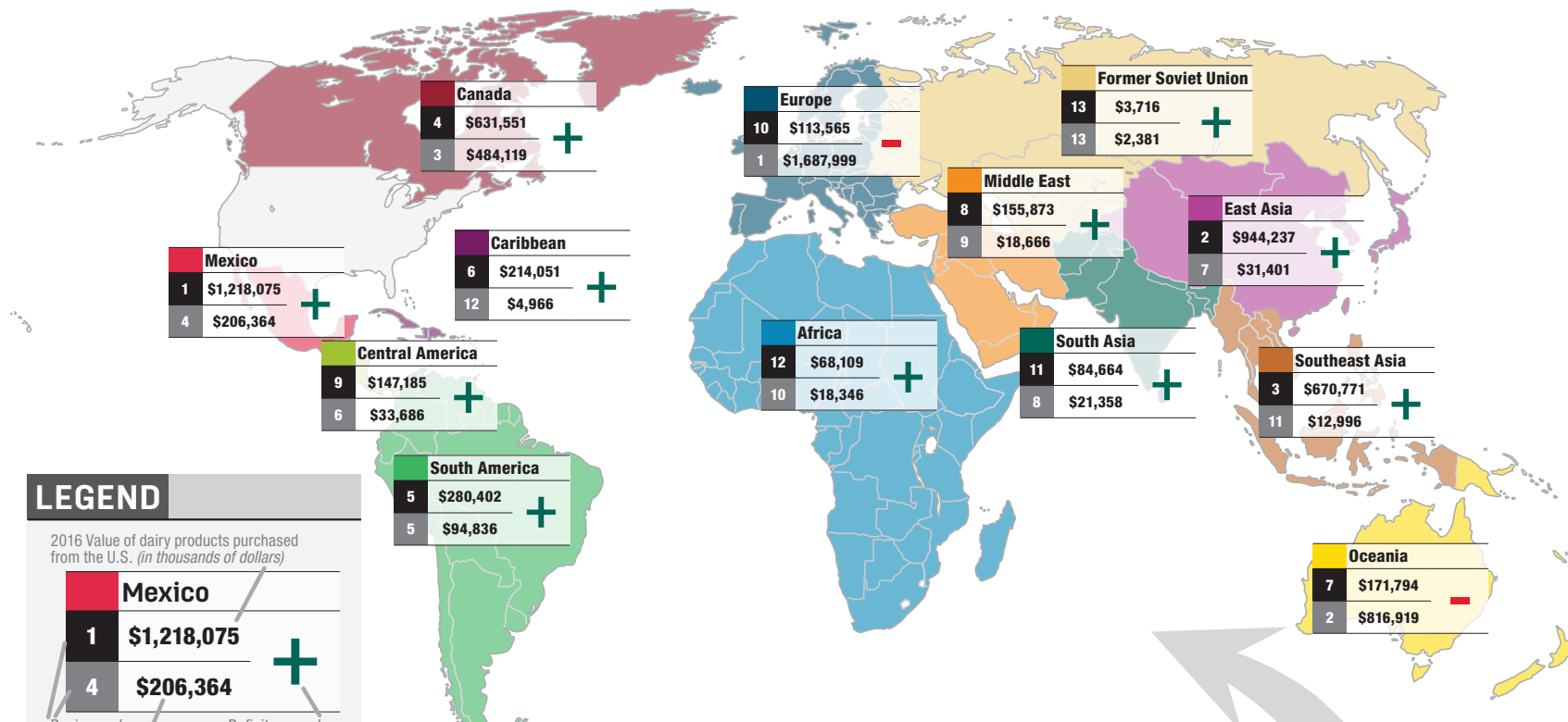


2016 U.S. dairy trade & processing



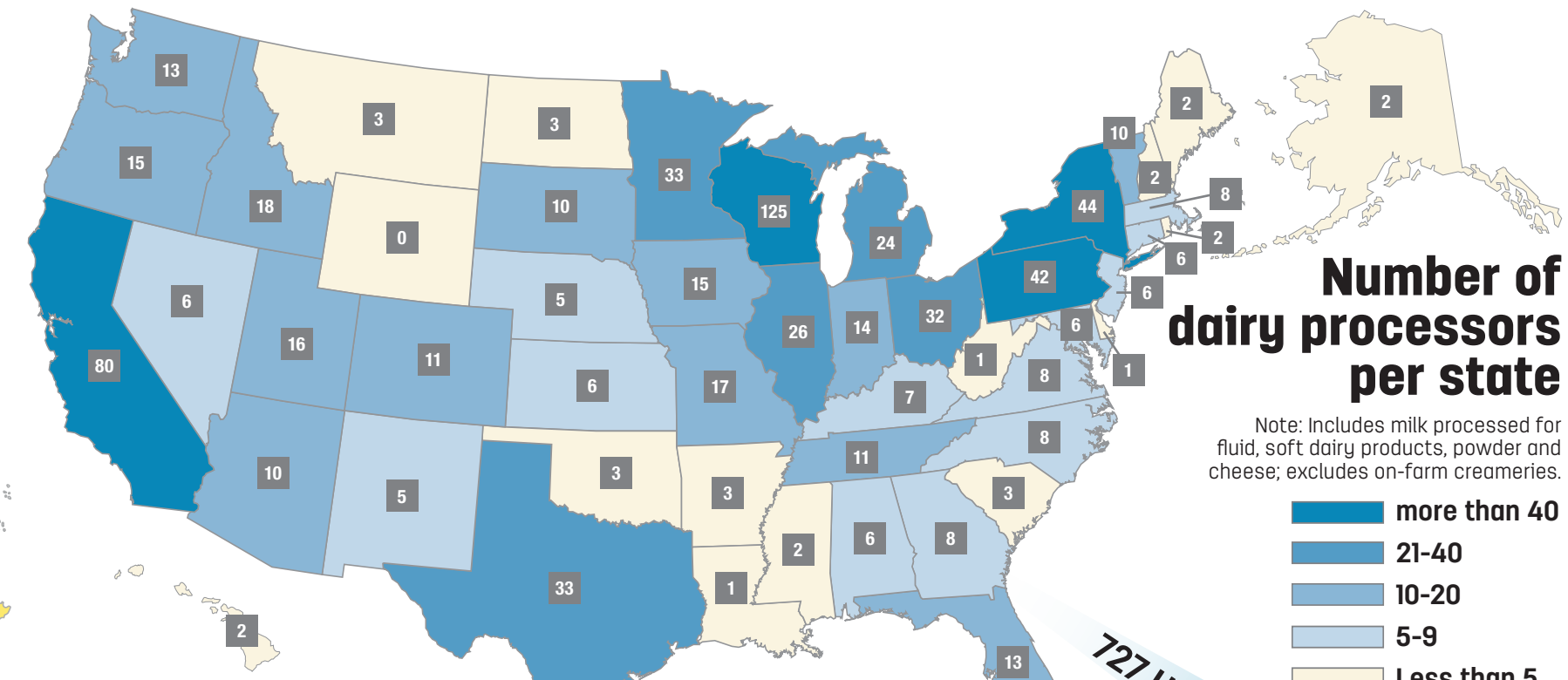
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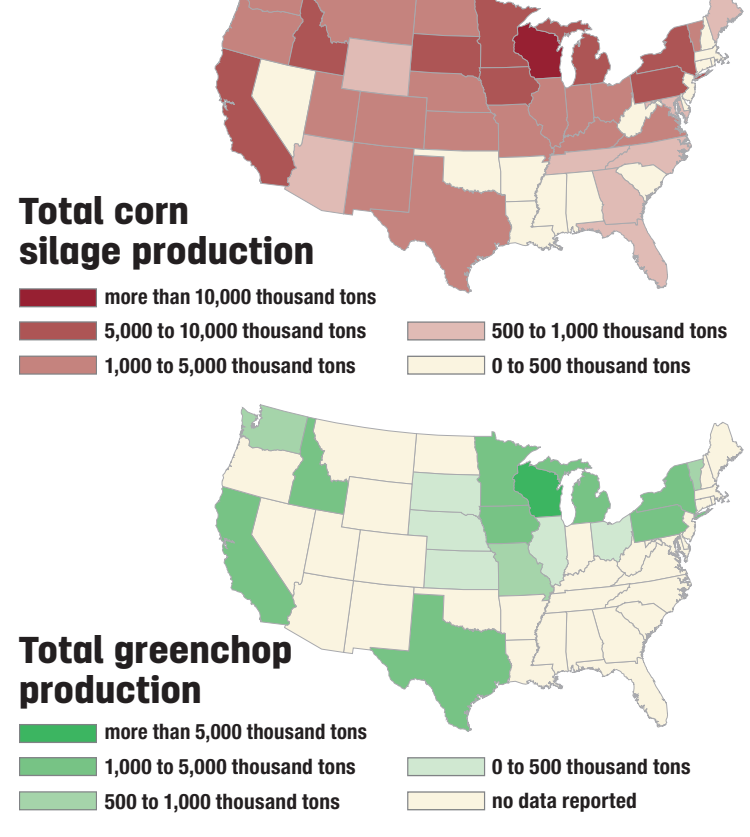
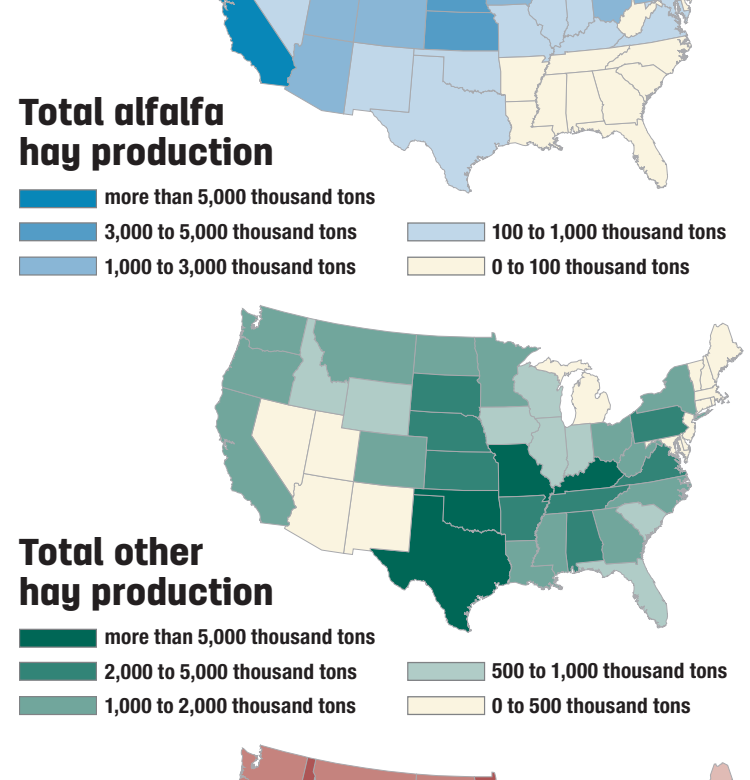
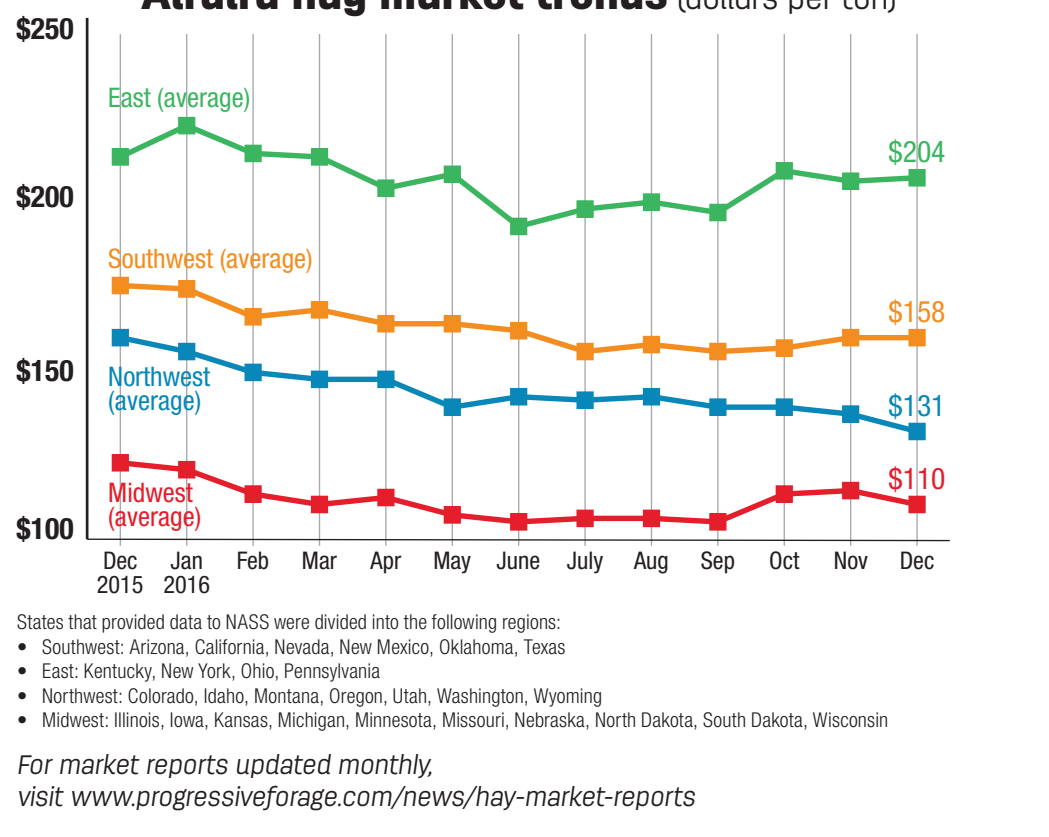
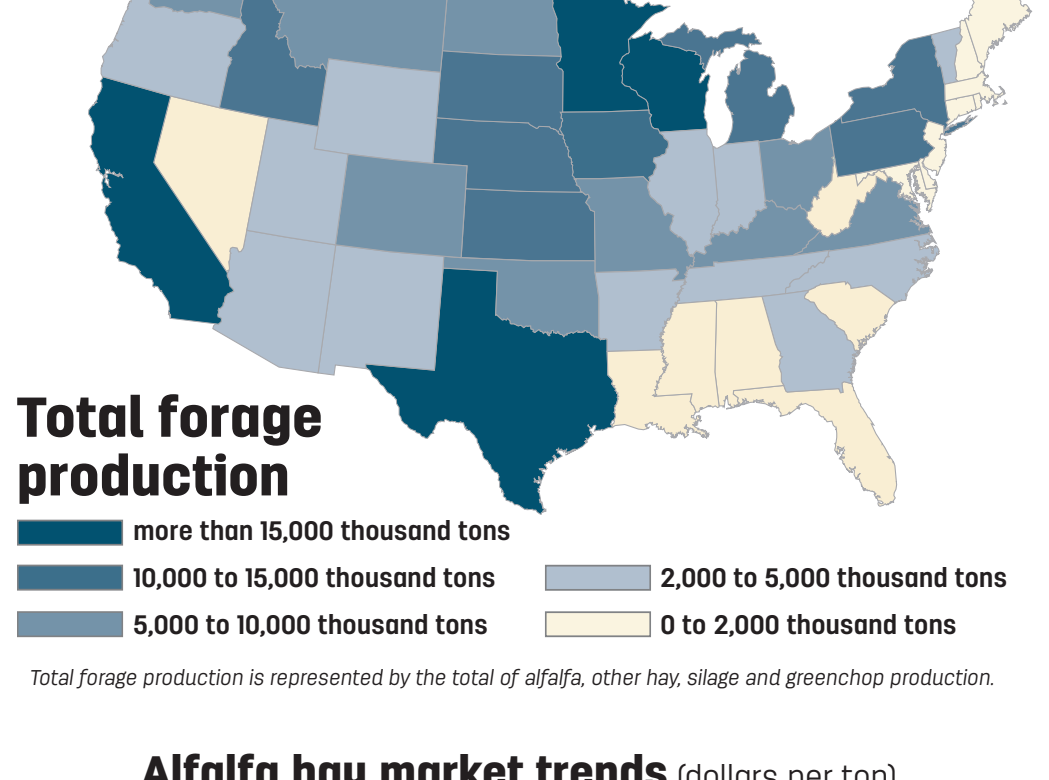
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2016 U.S. forage statistics



2016 U.S. dairy statistics

Midwest continues to generate the country's new milk production

Progressive Dairyman Editor Walt Cooley

World
For the second consecutive year, U.S. dairy exports hovered at 14.2 percent of total production. That was a slight increase from the previous year's total of 14 percent but down from 2013's peak of 15.5 percent. With the exception of Mexico and Canada, the country's top two dairy trading partners, nearly all other countries that purchase U.S. dairy products were buying about half what they did just a few years ago.

Nation
The U.S. added 14,000 cows to the national milking herd in 2016. Growth continued throughout the year. As of the first of 2017, the USDA reported milking cow inventory at 9.349 million cows, the highest number of cows in production since 1996. Milk production per cow grew 1.7 percent last year, as cows produced on average 378 pounds more milk than the previous year. Overall, U.S. milk production was up year-over-year 1.8 percent. The number of dairies that went out of business in 2016 was 1,725. And the average dairy size grew to 223 cows.

Midwest
Several notable changes occurred in the top 10 milk-producing states in 2016. New York reclaimed the No. 3 spot in milk production in 2016, surpassing Idaho. This is the fourth time in the last decade the two states have traded spots. Idaho had been the No. 3 milk-producing state for the prior two years (2014-2015). New York's surge came mostly from an increase in milk per cow, as the state only added 3,000 cows. The average cow in the Empire State produced 1,009 pounds more in 2016 than in 2015. Meanwhile, Idaho dairies did their best to hold onto the No. 3 spot but fell short. The Gem State added 10,000 cows and increased per-cow production by more than 500 pounds. The gap between the two states remained narrow; the annual production of less than one 5,000-cow dairy separates the two states.

Michigan jumped up to the No. 5 milk-producing state, passing both Texas and Pennsylvania. The Wolverine State added 11,000 cows and grew year-over-year milk production 6 percent. Now-No. 7 Texas added the most dairy cows of any state in 2016 at 12,000 cows. The three states remain closely grouped together in milk production as, again, only the annual production from one 5,000-cow dairy separates the three.

Oregon moved into the No. 18 spot, and South Dakota climbed to the No. 19 spot. South Dakota added 9,000 cows and had an overall increase in milk production of 3.9 percent. Florida fell to No. 20. The Sunshine State was one of only three states, including California and Utah, to post declines in milk per cow, cow numbers, number of dairies and total milk production. Nebraska surpassed Missouri to become the No. 25 milk-producing state.

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
2002	170,063	9,139	18,608	74,110	123
2003	170,394	9,083	18,760	70,375	129
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	212,436	9,328	22,774	41,809	223

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