# 2020 U.S. dairy trade & processing



Per-capita consumption of select dairy products

(in quantity per person and number of cows required for production)

All other

**DISTRIBUTION** 

**CONSISTENCY OF FEED** 

cheese

💄 22.8 pounds/person

7.9 million cows for domestic production

👗 15.5 pounds/person

2,007,249 cows

## 2020 U.S. forage statistics

**Number of** 

processors

more than 40

Less than 5

\* Includes milk processed for fluid, soft dairy products powder and cheese; excludes on-farm creameries.

Source: 2019 Number of Dairy Plants, Dairy Products Summary, USDA, April 2020

6.2 pounds/person

1,859,804 cows

Source: USDA-ERS, USDA-NASS, 2019 data

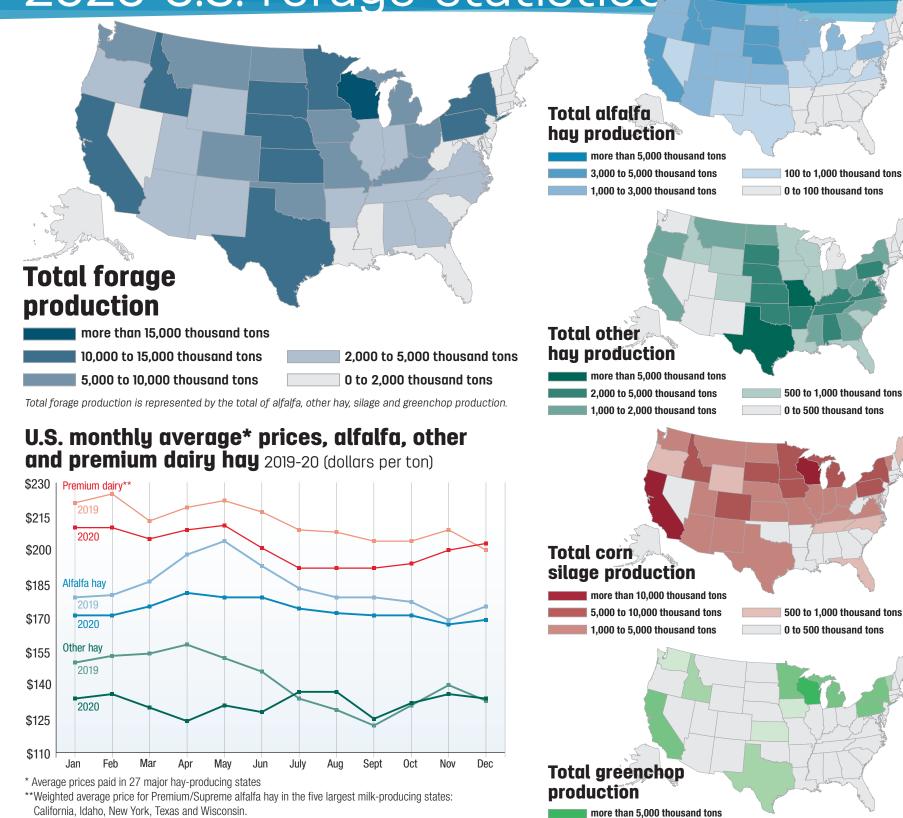
21-40

10-20

5-9

per state

dairy product



DAIRY 2020 U.S. dairy statistics

### How a pandemic influenced milk production

Progressive Dairy Editor Dave Natzke

In large part due to direct government financial assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic and indemnity payments for those enrolled in risk nanagement programs, U.S. dairy herd attrition slowed in 2020 while cow numbers and herd size grew.

### U.S. milk production

U.S. milk production rose to 223.2 billion pounds in 2020, up nearly 4.8 million pounds (2.2%) from 2019. It was the largest annual percentage and volume growth since 2013-14. Milk production has exceeded year-earlier totals in 22 of the last 25 years. (Only 2001 and 2009 were

Twenty-nine states registered annual milk production increases during 2020, up a combined 5.1 billion pounds. States posting the largest increases (volume basis) were Texas, California, Idaho, Colorado and South Dakota. On a percentage basis, largest increases were in Wyoming, South Dakota, Colorado, Texas and Indiana.

Offsetting those gains, 19 states posted production decreases during 2020, with combined production falling just 323 million pounds compared with 2019.

Based on annual milk production, there were only minor changes in dairy state rankings in 2020. The top five states are California, Wisconsin, Idaho, New York and Texas. Among others, Oregon moved ahead of Vermont into 18th place, Illinois moved ahead of Georgia into 22nd place, and Massachusetts moved ahead of South Carolina into 38th place.

The annual average number of dairy farms commercially licensed to sell milk fell to 297 cows in 2020, up 24 cows (8.6%) to 31,657 in 2020, a decline of 2,550 (about from 2019. Among leading states, the largest first time

7%) from the year before and down 21,475 (40%) since 2010.

Year-over-year declines were largest in the Midwest and East, where 2,400 herd either left the industry or were absorbed into other herds. Based on annual averages, Wisconsin lost 610 herds during the year, followed by Minnesota (-380), Pennsylvania (-300) and New York (-240). Wisconsin remains the nation's leader in the number of herds, at 7.110. The USDA data provides annual averages; according to data from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Wisconsin had 6,932 dairy farms as of Jan. 1, 2021, down 360 from the year before

### Cow numbers

The U.S. cow herd averaged 9.388 million cows in 2020, up 51,000 head from 2019. That doesn't tell the whole story, however, U.S. cow numbers bottomed out in June 2020 before beginning a surge that lasted through the end of the year. By December 2020, U.S. cow numbers grew to 9.44 million head, the highest total since th second half of 1995.

Compared to a year earlier, the largest growth in cow numbers was in Texas (+30,000), Idaho (+20,000) and Colorado (+11,000). Thirteen states had more cows than the year before.

Wisconsin (-9,000), Pennsylvania (-8,000), Vermont and California (each -4,000 head) led the 22 states with declining cow numbers, with 13 other states unchanged. California remains the national leader in cow numbers, with 1.721 million head – followed by Wisconsin, with 1.259

The national average dairy herd size grew

U.S. dairy industry 15-year overview Total milk Number of Milk per Licensed Aver

ioui	(in millions of lbs)	(in thousands)	(lbs per year)	dairy herds	herd siz
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	217,568	9,398	23,150	37,468	251
2019	218,441	9,337	23,395	34,207	273
2020	223,220	9,388	23,777	31,657	297

licensed herds

Dairy receipts

as a % of

state's tota

averaged 2,357 cows, a 29-cow jump from 2019. Texas posted the largest production per cow increased about 1.6%, up 382 pounds in to average 1,653 head. 2020. By state, top-producing The average size of Midwest cows were in Michigan, herds topped 200 cows for the Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming

Fluid milk

16.4 gallons/person

**1,047,916** cows



PCDART, the Ultimate Data System Leading the Industry in Software Interfaces



Top 15 countries buying

351,637

322,479

184.906

170,327

156,889

127,109

123,270

121,426

96.834

U.S. dairy products

**DECREASES INACCURACIES** throughout the product, into the TMR, along the feed bunk and into the cow. QLF products are an excellent method to deliver low inclusion additives like Rumensin®, Yeast Culture, Organic Trace Minerals, Amino Acids, Biotin, etc., so each animal receives their proper dose.





**Source:** USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service



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**U.S.** dairy exports/imports

\$3,333,706

2020 2019 2018 2018 2017 2016 2016 2015 2017 2011 2011

, 1 \$1,401,150

4 \$310,589

Top 15 countries selling

dairy products to the U.S

310,589

The Benefits of

245.560



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STABLISH™**⊼** 

**ACTOShield** 

CalfBEL<sup>T</sup>

# 2020 U.S. dairy statistics

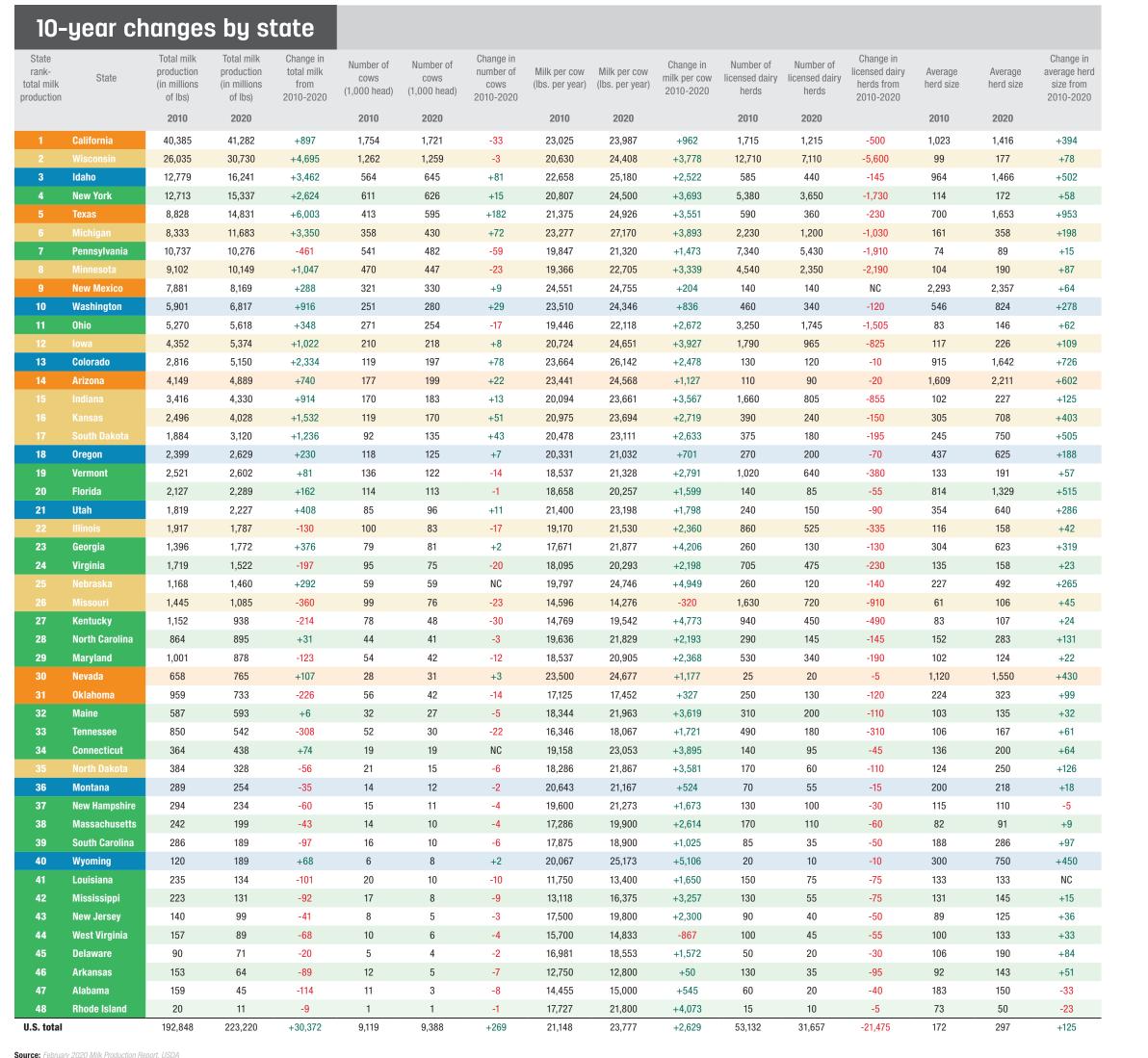


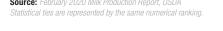


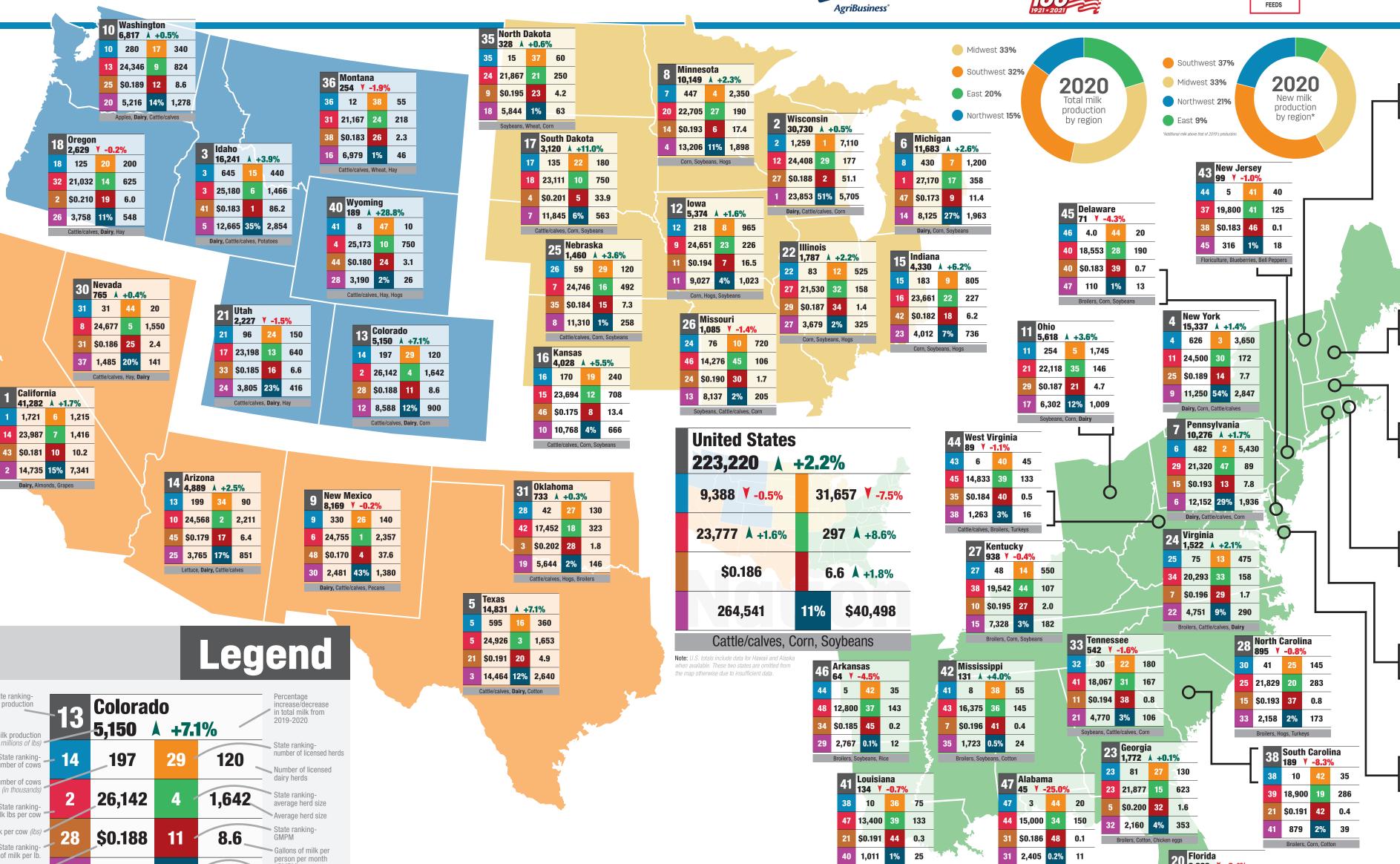












All information is from 2020, unless otherwise noted

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