



Licensed Dairy Herds

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Licensed Dairy Operations Decreased 5 Percent in 2003

The number of licensed dairy operations in the United States during 2003 decreased 5 percent from the previous year. Total operations, including both Grade A and Grade B dairies, averaged 70,410 during 2003, down from 74,110 in 2002. Grade A dairies accounted for 63,385 of the total operations, down 2,835 from last year while Grade B operations average 7,025 compared to 7,890 in 2002.

The licensed dairy operations in this report represent the average number of dairy farms licensed to sell milk in each State. Data were compiled from information collected by State and other regulatory agencies.

The current NASS data series is based on the definition of a milk cow operation as any place having one or more head of milk cows, excluding cows used to nurse calves, on hand at any time of the year. These operations may not necessarily sell milk. The average number of licensed operations are comparable to the current dairy operation data series in that both represent the number of operations during the year. However, the licensed dairy counts, by definition, more closely describe commercial dairy operations.

California and New Mexico were the only States to show an increase during 2003. States with the largest decreases were Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, New York, and Kentucky, respectively.

We extend a special thanks to the State agencies that supplied the data necessary to compile this report.

Special Note

This is the first time that NASS is publishing the number of licensed dairy herds in the United States. The collection and publication of these numbers were done at the request of the dairy industry. Starting next year, this information can be found in the February issue of "Milk Production" along with the number of operations by State that NASS has historically published. NASS will continue to publish both data series due to the different needs of the data users.

Milk Cows: Licensed Dairy Operations by State and United States, 2002-2003

State	2002 <i>Number</i>	2003 <i>Number</i>
AL	120	110
AK	10	10
AZ	160	160
AR	320	290
CA	2,030	2,060
CO	180	180
CT	210	200
DE	95	90
FL	210	190
GA	380	360
HI	10	10
ID	815	775
IL	1,340	1,295
IN	2,150	2,010
IA	2,760	2,500
KS	565	530
KY	1,835	1,630
LA	380	340
ME	430	400
MD	735	715
MA	250	230
MI	3,040	2,840
MN	6,775	6,235
MS	300	270
MO	2,110	1,980

Milk Cows: Licensed Dairy Operations by State and United States, 2002-2003

State	2002 <i>Number</i>	2003 <i>Number</i>
MT	120	110
NE	540	500
NV	35	35
NH	170	150
NJ	140	130
NM	160	170
NY	6,930	6,700
NC	420	395
ND	510	440
OH	4,100	3,960
OK	440	440
OR	350	350
PA	9,240	9,130
RI	20	20
SC	120	120
SD	860	780
TN	860	820
TX	890	850
UT	405	365
VT	1,480	1,390
VA	940	910
WA	660	640
WV	170	160
WI	17,300	16,400
WY	40	35
US	74,110	70,410

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