Dairy farms are located in 21 of Oregon's 36 counties. The top three dairy-producing counties are Morrow, Tillamook and Marion.

Oregon dairy farms produce roughly 2.6 billion pounds of milk annually. The average Oregon cow produces 65 pounds (~7.6 gallons) of milk per day.

Oregon's 228 licensed, Grade A dairy farms, 30 dairy processors and 126,000 dairy cows contribute to the health, nutrition and economic well-being of the state.

A typical Oregon dairy has between 350 to 400 milking cows on a farm size of 300 acres. Regardless of size, all are family owned and uphold high standards for good animal care, environmental stewardship, farming and employment practices.

Dairy cows first arrived in Oregon in 1838. Today, Oregon is home to: Holsteins, Jerseys, Guernseys, Ayrshires, Brown Swiss and Milking Shorthorns. Holsteins and Jerseys are the most common. Some dairies crossbreed among these breeds and others from Europe.

Milk has been the official beverage of Oregon since 1997, when a grade school class in Tillamook, Oregon petitioned the Oregon Legislature. The dairy industry has donated more than a million gallons of milk to food banks across the nation (58,000 servings in Oregon).

Dairy is Oregon's fourth largest commodity, with an on-farm value of more than $469 million in 2016. Dairy exports from Oregon totaled $69 million in 2015. The annual contribution of the industry is estimated at more than $1 billion.

Cheese is the most produced product in Oregon. But the state also boasts a wide variety of dairy products including artisan cheeses, ice cream, ice cream novelties, yogurt, frozen yogurt, whey, lactose, milk powder, cultured products, butter, fluid milk and cream.

Quality over quantity: While Oregon ranks 19th in the nation for total milk production, Oregon's milk consistently ranks among the top ten states for milk quality.

Oregon has three farmer-owned dairy cooperatives: Tillamook County Creamery Association, Northwest Dairy Association (Darigold) and Organic Valley. These cooperatives process milk and market dairy products for their members. About 70 percent of Oregon dairy farmers belong to a cooperative, while others ship their milk independently to a specific processor.

All of Oregon's licensed, Grade A dairy farms are inspected multiple times per year to ensure compliance with the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, a federal milk quality and safety program. All have Confined Animal Feeding Operation permits with an animal manure management plan and are inspected every 10 months to ensure that land and water are protected.