Our Dairy Farm Families

In a word, Oregon’s dairy community is resilient.

The strength of the state’s dairy farms is built on a 185-year heritage of producing some of the nation’s, and even the world’s, highest quality milk, cheese and other dairy foods. Some dairy farm families run five or more generations deep.

According to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, there are some 192 licensed Grade A cow’s milk dairy producers in the state. Dairy farms are located in 20 of Oregon’s 36 counties. The top three counties in milk volume are Morrow, Tillamook and Marion.

And, even with a diverse mix of dairy farms large and small, organic and conventional, well-established and new, all share a common belief of upholding high standards for animal care, environmental stewardship and farming practices.

Oregon’s dairy processors mirror a similar heritage and adhere to the same values of sustainability and product quality. Indeed, Rogue Creamery of Central Point, Ore., won top honors in 2019 in Bergamo, Italy, where it was awarded World’s Best Cheese out of 3,800 entries from 42 countries. This was the first-ever American cheese in the award’s 32-year history to have received that honor. Other Oregon creameries also gained national recognition for their quality products.

With these advances and more, Oregon holds a growing potential to further its reputation for quality, collaboration and the values of sustainable working farms.

BY THE NUMBERS

Dairy farms: approximately 192 licensed, Grade A farms

Average small- to medium-sized herd: 350 to 400 milking cows

Average farm size: 300 acres

Dairy cows statewide: 123,000 cows

Cow breeds: Holsteins, Jerseys, Guernseys, Ayrshires and Brown Swiss

Milk production: 2.53 billion pounds annually, 19th in the nation

Milk quality: 8th in the U.S.

Among the nation’s top 100 counties for milk production: Tillamook County and Morrow County

Average cow milk production: 65 pounds (~7.6 gallons) per day

Value annually of milk per cow: $3,848

Value of milk per average operation: $2.15 million

13th in the nation

Average farmer age: 59.6 years

Cooperatives: 70% of Oregon farms belong to Tillamook, Darigold or Organic Valley
Economic Contribution

Oregon’s dairy industry is a vital contributor of jobs and economic benefits for communities statewide. **Dairy is Oregon’s fifth largest commodity** (on-farm revenue) after greenhouse and nursery products, cattle, hay and grass seed. Further, **dairy farms create a ripple effect in both the agricultural economy and the economic well-being of rural communities.** When a dairy farmer spends money locally, it creates a multiplier effect of more than two and a half times the original dollar spent.

Oregon is also home to more than 30 dairy food processors ranging from small independent and artisanal creameries serving niche markets to household name cooperatives. **Oregon’s robust processing community covers every major dairy product category** with every class of milk represented.

Dairy manufacturing jobs pay above-average wages compared to the food manufacturing industry group. These jobs are typically located in employment-challenged communities. On average, **jobs in dairy food processing pay the best of all jobs in the food processing sector.**

**BY THE NUMBERS**

Dairy food processors: **34**
Milk production value: **$469.3 million**
Economic Impact: **$2.6 billion**
Federal Tax: **$486 million**
State Tax Revenues: **$254.8 million**

Oregon Dairy Exports

About 20 percent of dairy products made in Oregon are consumed in Oregon. The remainder is shipped to other domestic and international markets. **Increasing demand in global markets points to solid potential for growth of the industry.** Currently, dairy products are Oregon’s sixth most valuable agricultural export commodity after seeds, fruits and nuts, vegetables, wheat and beef.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

Jobs: **764 Oregon jobs** supported by dairy exports
Value: **$57 million in dairy exports**
Impact: **$113 million Oregon economic impact from dairy exports**
Top five markets are: **Mexico, Southeast Asia, Canada, China and Japan**
Focusing on growth in: **SE Asia - including Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam**

Industry Development and Product Innovation

The dairy industry is ever-evolving. In addition to exploring new dairy markets, there is great potential for new dairy products through innovation and market development:

**Food Innovation Center** - Supporting processors bringing new and improved products to market
**Arbuthnot Dairy Center** - Research, training, food safety, Beaver Classic cheese
**OSU Dairy Pilot Plant** - $6 million investment to create a foundation for innovation, training and student development
**Processor Facility Investments** - TMK Creamery, Tillamook, Umpqua Dairy, Face Rock Creamery
Notable Awards and Accolades

2019 WORLD CHEESE AWARDS, Bergamo Italy
World Champion Cheese - Rogue Creamery, Rogue River Blue. Silver Medal - TMK Creamery, Garlic Dill Cheddar Curds. Bronze Medal - Tillamook, One-Year Aged White Cheddar

2019 WORLD DAIRY EXPO
Best Fat Free Chocolate Milk - Lochmead Dairy
Best Regular Cottage Cheese - Umpqua Dairy
Best Open Class Ice Cream - Umpqua Dairy (Butter Toffee Crunch)

U.S. DAIRY SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

SEATTLE BUSINESS MAGAZINE GOLD COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD
Sustainability Category - Darigold (2018)

OREGON AGLINK AG CONNECTION AWARD
Oregon Dairy Women (2018)

OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD - Tillamook County Wellness (2018)

NATIONAL MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATIONS CHAIRMAN’S AWARD - Tillamook (2018)

SPOTLIGHT AWARD, PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Oregon Chapter - Scoop it Forward - Oregon Dairy and Nutrition Council (2018)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Tillamook County Wellness (2019)

Processors
Albertsons/Safeway
Alpenrose Dairy
Bennett Family Farm
Briar Rose Creamery
Columbia River Processing
Crushpad
Darigold
Eberhard’s Dairy Products
Face Rock Creamery
Fred Meyer/Kroger Swan Island Dairy
Helvetia Creamery
Keto Pint
La Mariposa
Lady Lane Farms
Larsen’s Creamery
Lochmead Family Farms
Lulubelle’s Creamery
Nestucca Bay Creamery
Ochoa’s Queseria
Oregon Ice Cream Company
Oregon State University, Beaver Classic
Organic Valley
Pacific Foods
Rogue Creamery
Royal Riverside Farm
Schoch Dairy and Creamery
Springfield Creamery
Tillamook County Creamery Association
TMK Creamery
Umapine Dairy Products
Valley Crest Foods
Walla Walla Cheese Company
Willamette Valley Cheese
YoCream/The Dannon Company

Your local and national dairy checkoff, trade associations and allied partners are working together to keep Oregon dairy relevant, vital and irreplaceable - now, and in the future.