

Agriculture Fact Sheet

Dairy 2023

- In 2023 Mississippi had 55 Grade A dairy herds, made up of 6,000 milk cows.
- The value of milk production in 2023 was \$17 million.
- There are approximately 7,000 milk cows in the state.
- The most common dairy breeds in the U.S. are Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey and Milking Shorthorn.
- Cows are milked at least twice a day using sanitary milking machines.



- Dairy cows provide 90 percent of the world's milk.
- Annual milk consumption in the U.S. averages 17 gallons per person.
- Milk is the only commodity that is harvested daily.
- Most cows average about 70 pounds of milk per day, which is about eight gallons.
- Dairy products are the primary source of calcium in the American diet, accounting for 76 percent of the calcium in food.
- It takes 21.2 pounds of whole milk to make one pound of butter, 12 pounds to make one gallon of ice cream and 10 pounds to make a pound of cheese.



Source: Mississippi State University & USDA-NASS

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