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JUNE DAIRY MONTH 2012

North Carolina Dairy Facts

The North Carolina dairy industry generated an estimated \$450 million in economic activity in 2011.

North Carolina ranked 30th in milk production, 31st in number of milk cows, 22nd in milk output per cow and 23rd in number of licensed dairy operations during 2011 in the United States.

North Carolina had five milk processing plants operating during 2011 that were located in Asheville, High Point, New Bern and Winston-Salem.

Total amount of milk produced in the state during 2011 amounted to 103.7 million gallons!

There were 290 licensed commercial dairy farms operating in North Carolina during 2011.

In North Carolina, cash receipts for the sale of milk by dairy farmers amounted to \$165 million during 2011.

The average 2011 “mailbox” price received by North Carolina dairy farmers for their milk was an estimated \$21.65 per hundredweight, or approximately \$1.88 for each gallon of milk.

There were an estimated 45,000 milk cows on dairy farms in the state during 2011.

Each dairy cow in North Carolina produced an average of 2,304 gallons of milk in 2011.

In North Carolina, about 100 percent of the milk produced in 2011 was used and consumed in the form of fluid milk dairy foods.

In 2011, North Carolina dairy cows produced an average of 6.3 gallons of milk per day, or enough to make 5.5 pounds of cheese or 2.3 pounds of butter. To produce this much milk, an average cow consumes 50 gallons of water, 20 pounds of grain and feed concentrates, and 55 pounds of corn silage.

The average value of a day’s milk was \$11.90 per cow during 2011.

In 2011, a dairy cow in North Carolina cost about \$1410 per head. A typical North Carolina dairy farm has a herd of 155 milking cows.

North Carolina’s top ranking dairy county according to the number of licensed dairy farms during 2011 was: Iredell County, with 6 dairy farms

North Carolina’s top ranking milk producing county for 2011 was: Iredell County, 3.3 million pounds