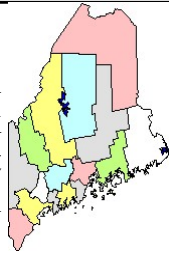


Dairy Farming in Maine

January 2021

Maine has **196 dairy farms** located in 15 counties, from Kittery in York County to Woodland in Aroostook County, from Embden in Somerset County to Edmunds in Washington County, through all corners across Maine's over 35,000 square miles of land.



Maine milk is valued for its freshness and high quality. Maine dairy farmers take pride in caring for their animals and making healthy, good tasting milk and dairy products.

40% of Maine's dairy farms produce organic milk— However, those 78 farms make less than 5% of all the milk produced in Maine.

Over 90% of Maine milk is processed & packaged for drinking



There are over **28,000 cows** in Maine making **600 million pounds** of milk per year, which is the same as **70 million gallons** of milk a year.

Maine's dairy farms range in size from 8 cows to 1700 cows and 99% are family owned & operated. (The exceptions are 1 dairy herd at the University of Maine in Orono, and 2 dairy herds owned by non-profit educational organizations.)



The most common breed of dairy cow found in Maine is the Holstein, which is black and white.

Other popular breeds are Jerseys and Guernseys, which range in color from tan to reddish brown, as well as Ayrshires, Brown Swiss, & Milking Shorthorns.



Maine has over 150 dairy processors – of which four processors package fluid milk for drinking (H.P. Hood & Oakhurst Dairy in Portland, Smiling Hill Dairy in Westbrook, & Houlton Farms Dairy in Houlton), and at least 25 processors are making ice cream/gelato. While there are at least 5 creameries making cheese, butter, or specialty products on a commodity scale, the remaining processors are making specialty cheeses, yogurt & butter, and ice cream on an artisanal scale. A few dairy farmers take their milk and make and sell their own butter, cheese and ice cream right on the farm. Some bottle & sell raw milk, and others pasteurize their milk on the farm and sell directly to consumers.



Dairy farms are good for the Maine economy.



The Maine dairy industry generates **over \$570 million dollars** a year for the state's economy.



The Maine dairy industry contributes **over \$25 million per year** to the state and municipal government in taxes.

Maine's dairy farms are small businesses.

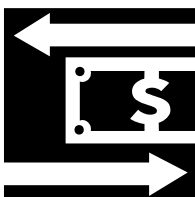


The farmers often are the bookkeepers, supervisors, human resource directors, spokespeople, government rules & regulations experts, mechanics, veterinarians, breeders, and financial planners for the farm, all in addition to taking care of the animals, raising the crops, and milking the cows



Maine's dairy farmers work closely with other businesses, like grain dealers, equipment dealers, milk truck haulers, veterinarians, cattle dealers and other cattle or dairy specialists.

Maine's dairy farms provide over 1300 jobs.



When you add the processors and other local agri-businesses, Maine's dairy industry provides **over 4000 jobs** for Maine people.

Dairy farms are good for Maine people.

Dairy farmers manage **700,000 acres of open spaces** in Maine (fields/pastures, crop lands, and small woodlots).



All this open space is extremely important to the state's number one industry – tourism—and are needed for hunting and fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, riding ATVs, horseback riding, and being able to see Maine's beautiful mountains, fields and forests.

Dairy farms are good for Maine.



**Maine
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Serving Maine's Dairy Farm Families



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