



COOPERATOR FACT SHEET



ABOUT THE MEMBER

Name of member

U.S. DAIRY EXPORT COUNCIL

Date of foundation

1995

Web Address

<https://www.thinkusadairy.org/> (customer focused)

<https://www.usdec.org/> (member/industry focused)

Social media handles

LinkedIn:

- Think-USA-Dairy
- USA Cheese Guild
- U.S. Dairy Export Council

Instagram: @CheeseFromTheUSA @ThinkUSAdairy

Facebook: @CheeseFromTheUSA

X (formerly twitter): @USDairyExporter @ThinkUSAdairy

ABOUT THE SECTOR

Brief description

U.S. Dairy is recognized for having the world's lowest emissions intensity per liter of milk produced by the UN FAO and is the largest single-country producer of cow's milk. The U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) stands as a prominent advocate and facilitator for the U.S. dairy industry's global presence, aiming to enhance market access, foster international partnerships, and promote the export of high-quality U.S. dairy products worldwide. With a commitment to sustainability, innovation, and responsible practices, USDEC plays a pivotal role in positioning U.S. dairy as a key contributor to global food systems.

The U.S. dairy sector represents a multifaceted and dynamic industry, comprising over 29,000 farms-95% of which are family owned, housing 9 million cows across 6 million hectares of land. The U.S. dairy community has forged a legacy of dairy stewardship characterized by a continuous pursuit of excellence and sustainability.

Estimated acres farmed (if relevant)

6 million hectares

Number of businesses

Approximately 28,000 licensed dairy herds

People employed [directly/indirectly]

TBC

Annual output

102.7 million MT

Value of sector

TBC

% of global market

22% (2022)

Export value (\$)

9.7B USD (2022)

ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY

Vision/mission statement

USDEC's mission is to enhance demand for U.S. dairy products and ingredients by securing access and assisting suppliers to meet market needs that facilitate sales. We accomplish this through research and collaboration with members, government, academia and numerous related organizations whose common goal is to ensure the health and vitality of the U.S. dairy industry.

The dairy producers, cooperatives, processors and traders that USDEC represents are collectively taking steps now to reduce environmental impact while consistently

delivering high quality nutrition to people around the world through international food trade. Efforts that demonstrate how agriculture and food trade are climate solutions while putting nutrition at the heart of sustainable food systems are something that USDEC supports.

Key areas of focus

- Environmental Stewardship
- Sustainable Food Systems
- Social Responsibility
- Economic Profitability
- Expanding Rules-based International Food Trade

Accomplishments with historic/trend data

Conducted the first full life cycle assessment (LCA) at a national scale in 2008. From that LCA, which focused on fluid milk, it was estimated that U.S. dairy accounts for approximately 2% of total GHG emissions, 5.1% of water use and 3.7% of U.S. farmland.

U.S. dairy reduced emissions intensity, water use, land use, and carbon footprint between 2007 and 2017. Per FAO, North America (primary dairy producer: U.S.) increased milk production while reducing absolute emissions, achieving the lowest GHG intensity globally. Set aggressive environmental sustainability goals in 2020.

Comparison of standards with rest of world

North America increased milk production while reducing absolute emissions, achieving the lowest GHG intensity globally. According to FAO, North America reduced emissions intensity by 2.2% per year, even as milk production increased 2.1% over the period and absolute emissions decreased by 5% over the period 2005-2015.

Animal care is essential to efficient production. The FARM Animal Care Program was the first livestock animal care program to be ISO (International Organization for Standardization) certified. It also has PAACO (Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization) certification. 99% of U.S. dairy is produced on farms that are FARM certified.

Current & future activities

U.S. dairy's 2050 sustainability goal aims for greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050. This includes a specific focus on reducing enteric and manure-based methane emissions.

The U.S. dairy industry has launched its Net Zero Initiative, centralizing industry-wide efforts to implement new technologies, adopt economically viable practices, and improve water quality and quantity.

The U.S. dairy supply chain is working together to spur new technology and incentivize science-based research.