

As Dairy Month arrives, Wisconsin's No. 1 in farms, but not total cows

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QUESTIONS?
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Wisconsin has retained its crown as the Dairy State with 14,158 dairy farms, according to the recently released 2007 Census of Agriculture.

One-fifth of all dairy farms in the U.S. are in Wisconsin. Pennsylvania ranked second with 8,333 and California is a distant seventh with 2,165.

However, based on the number of dairy cows, California wins with 1.8 million. Wisconsin ranks second with 1.2 million.

The market value of the milk produced by Wisconsin's dairy cows averaged an estimated \$3,660 per cow in 2007, second only to Michigan at \$3,736.

June Dairy Month

Week 1:
State rankings

California's dairy farms averaged 850 cows per farm, almost 10 times the Wisconsin average of 88. Both are exceeded by New Mexico with only 272 dairy farms, but the largest average herd size of 1,200 milk cows per farm.

The top 10 dairy states (number of farms) account for 63.2 percent of the dairy farms and 71.4 percent of all dairy cows in the U.S.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture 2007 Census contains detailed data about a variety of crops. It also includes demographic and economic data at the state and county levels. It is available free online at: www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Ranking states by their cows

State	Milk cows	Dairy farms	Cows per farm	Estimated \$ per cow
California	1,840,730	2,165	850	3,569
Wisconsin	1,249,309	14,158	88	3,660
New York	626,455	5,683	110	3,640
Pennsylvania	553,321	8,333	66	3,416
Idaho	536,463	811	661	3,437
Minnesota	459,752	5,148	89	3,210
Texas	404,399	1,293	313	3,079
Michigan	344,233	2,647	130	3,736
New Mexico	326,400	272	1,200	3,094
Ohio	271,938	3,650	75	3,170

SOURCE : USDA Census of Agriculture, 2007