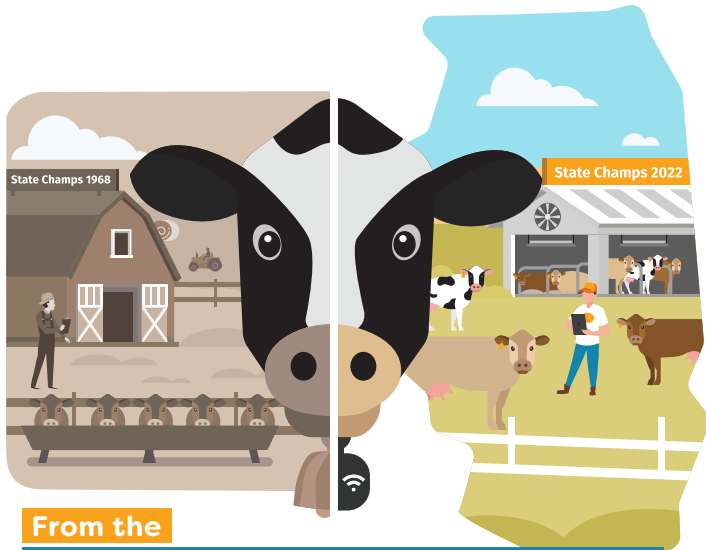


Illinois Dairy Farms, Then & Now:

Innovation, Conservation & Dedication



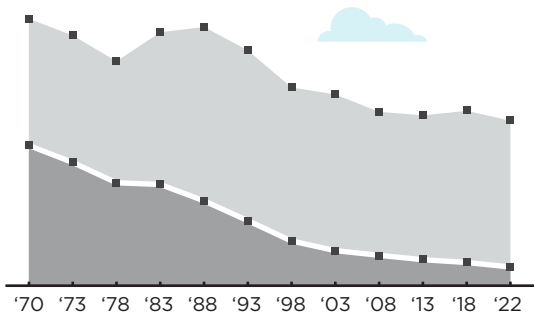
From the

1970s... to today,

dairy farmers have become more sustainable, with advances in cow care, nutrition, genetics and technology. Milk production in the U.S. has nearly doubled despite fewer cows.¹

IL Milk Production
(Millions of pounds)

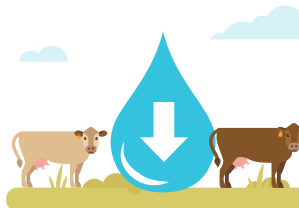
IL Cow Population
(Number of cows per 1000 head)



As part of a stewardship pledge to consumers, the dairy industry is pursuing a voluntary goal to achieve greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050.²



80% of dairy cows' diets comes from **plant fibers and feedstuffs that they can digest** but humans can't, and would otherwise go to landfills³

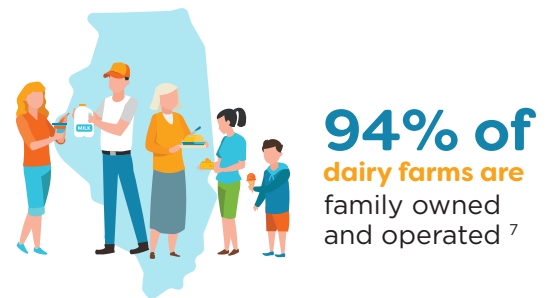


The U.S. dairy industry has **decreased its water use by 65+%** over the past decades⁴



Most dairy farm manure is incorporated into fields as natural fertilizer, **increasing soil's water-holding capacity by 20%**⁵

Made in communities across the country, dairy foods contribute 3.5% of the U.S. gross domestic product.⁶



94% of dairy farms are family owned and operated⁷



Dairy totaled \$29.14 billion

in economic impact (direct and indirect) in IL, 2021⁶



Dairy led to 117,100 jobs

(direct and indirect) in IL, 2021⁶



Sources:

1. Dairy Data. USDA Economics, Statistics and Market Information Systems. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/dairy-data/>. Accessed March 16, 2022. 2. Dairy Environmental Sustainability, US Dairy. <https://www.usdairy.com/sustainability/environmental-sustainability>. Accessed March 16, 2022. 3. de Ondarza, MB. Let's end the feed versus food debate. *Hoard's Dairyman*. January 18, 2017. <https://hoards.com/article-20263-lets-end-the-feed-versus-food-debate.html>. Accessed October 1, 2019. 4. Capper JL, Cady RA, Bauman D. The environmental impact of dairy production: 1944 compared with 2007. *J Anim Sci*. 2009; 87(suppl 6):2160-2167. 5. Dairy and the Environment. University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Research & Extension. <https://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/activities-programs/docs/Dairy%20and%20the%20Environment.pdf>. Accessed October 1, 2019. 6. Dairy Delivers: The Economic Impact of Dairy Products. International Dairy Foods Association. <https://www.idfa.org/resources/dairy-delivers>. Accessed March 16, 2022. 7. Dairy Farming History. American Dairy Association North East. <https://www.americandairy.com/dairy-farms/history/>. Accessed April 1, 2022.