

# Minnesota Dairy Farms, Then & Now:

## Innovation, Conservation & Dedication



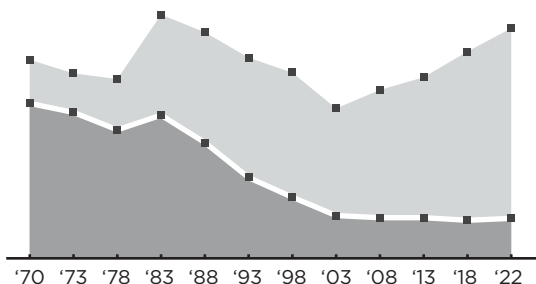
From the

### 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.<sup>1</sup>

**MN Milk Production**  
(Millions of pounds)

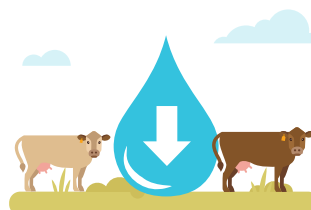
**MN Cow Population**  
(Number of cows per 1000 head)



As part of a stewardship pledge to consumers, the dairy industry is pursuing a voluntary goal to achieve greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050.<sup>2</sup>



**80%** of dairy cows' diets comes from **plant fibers and feedstuffs that they can digest** but humans can't, and would otherwise go to landfills <sup>3</sup>



The U.S. dairy industry has **decreased its water use by 65+%** over the past decades <sup>4</sup>



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

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



**94% of dairy farms are family owned and operated** <sup>7</sup>



**Dairy totaled \$35.45 billion**

in economic impact (direct and indirect) in MN, 2021 <sup>6</sup>



**Dairy led to 115,600 jobs**

(direct and indirect) in MN, 2021 <sup>6</sup>



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**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.