

Nebraska Dairy Farms, Then & Now:

Innovation, Conservation & Dedication



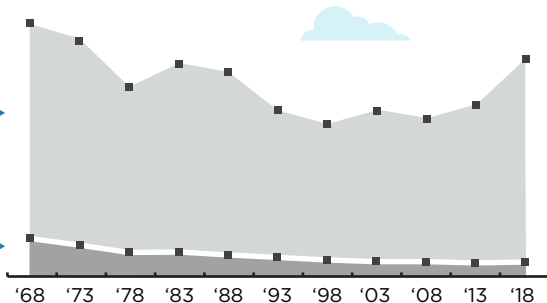
From the

1960s... 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

NE Dairy Production
(Millions of pounds of milk)

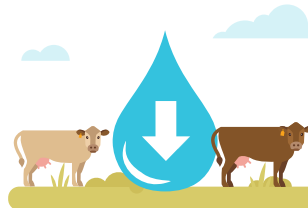
NE Cow Population
(Number of cows)



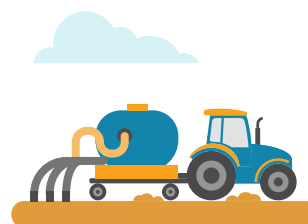
As part of a stewardship pledge to consumers, the dairy industry is pursuing a voluntary goal to cut GHG emissions for milk by 25% from 2007–2008 levels.²



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



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% of the U.S. gross domestic product.⁶



95% of dairy farms are family owned and operated ⁷



Dairy totaled \$3.8 billion

in economic impact (direct and indirect) in NE, 2018 ⁶



Dairy led to 18,066 jobs

(direct and indirect) in NE, 2018 ⁶

Discover Local Dairy: Always Real, Forever Good

Classic Dairy | Jansen, Neb.

Farm tourists traveling southeastern Nebraska's Highway 103 can scarcely miss the "Classic Dairy" sign that assures them they're in the right place. But for Brooke Engelman, it's moments — like watching her family members work together to cover a silage pile — that remind her she's where she ought to be.

Brooke and her husband, Adam, are part of a fourth generation of dairy farmers tending to the farm that previously belonged to Adam's parents, their parents before them, and so on. A fifth generation may be in sight, as the Engelmans' oldest child currently aspires to go to college for dairy management so she can become the next herdsman and take over the dairy.



Though reluctant to push any family member into the dairy long term against their will, Brooke gleams at the thought of the farm — now 3,000 acres and 1,100 cows — remaining and thriving in the family and the community.

"We do it because we enjoy it, and I'm proud that my kids enjoy it," said Brooke.

When the family invested in a new barn in 1996, they thought hard about how to recycle and maximize the use of its resources. Today, the water that cools their cows' milk is transferred to a holding tank, and then used to flush the dairy parlor clean. Then the water is recycled again to clean the free stall barn before it is stored in a basin and applied to fields to grow feed for their cows.



Also, the sand that the water rinses away from the free stalls is thoughtfully collected, dried and reused. The herd's manure is separated into solid and liquid states to maximize its worth. And in recent years, Classic Dairy has even erected a wind turbine to help supplement and offset some of its energy use.

Brooke noted that such undertakings come at a cost, but believes they demonstrate the love dairy farmers like her family have for their cows and the pride they take in their jobs. "Creating a nutritious, healthy product is the end game, but there are so many good things we do to make that happen."



Sources:

1. Milk Production. USDA Economics, Statistics and Market Information Systems. <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/h989r321c?locale=en>. Accessed October 1, 2019.
2. 2018 U.S. Dairy Sustainability Report. Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy. <http://www.usdairy.com/report>. Accessed October 1, 2019. 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 October 1, 2019. 7. Vilsack, D. U.S. Dairy Farmers: Preserving the Planet for Future Generations. *USA Today*. April 22, 2019. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/sponsor-story/innovation-center-for-us-dairy/2019/04/22/earth-day-dairy-farmer-thinking-decades-down-line/3521007002/>. Accessed October 1, 2019.