



Center for Dairy Excellence
2011 PA Future Dairy Planning Questionnaire
Mineral Rich Regions in Pennsylvania
Executive Summary

Objective of the Questionnaire:

- To gain a clear understanding of plans for the future of dairy production in different regions of PA that have been affected by the Marcellus Shale gas initiative
- To gain a clear understanding of interest for next generation of dairy production in those regions of PA that have been affected by the Marcellus Shale gas initiative

Counties sent Questionnaires:

Armstrong, Bradford, Cambria, Clearfield, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lycoming, Potter, Somerset, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tiago, Washington, Wayne, Westmoreland

A total of 1,123 dairy farms were initially sent questionnaires during the first week of June 2011. There was also a postcard reminder sent two weeks post initial mailing and a second mailing of the questionnaire was sent during the first week of July 2011. A total 306 dairies returned the questionnaires by October 15th, 2011. Those who returned the questionnaire without a response or who have passed on were not included in the dataset.

County	No. of Herds	% Contribution
Armstrong	10	3.3%
Bradford	79	25.9%
Cambria	6	2%
Clearfield	4	1.3%
Fayette	12	4%
Indiana	13	4.3%
Jefferson	11	3.6%
Lycoming	11	3.6%
Potter	9	3%
Somerset	38	12.5%
Sullivan	3	1%
Susquehanna	25	8.2%



Tioga	32	10.5%
Washington	6	2%
Wayne	25	8.2%
Westmoreland	21	7%

- 80% of all respondents plan to continue to dairy farm
 - 60% of all respondents anticipate receiving natural gas income
 - 57% are considering modernization of the dairy operation with the income
- 20% plan to discontinue dairying
 - Of the 56 farms planning to discontinue, 41 are expecting income from natural gas (73%)
- Percentage of Region 1 respondents expecting natural gas income greater than that of Region 2
- Greatest percentage of natural gas income will return to the dairy for modernization and alternative forms of agriculture
- The majority of producers have a successor for their operation. However, they are not interested in reinvesting or leasing to future producers
 - Larger herds, however, are more likely to lease to future producers