A Snapshot of the PA Dairy Industry

PA ranks 7th in total milk production in the US and 6th in total dairy cows.

PA ranks 6th in total population with 12.8 million.

PA is a leader in the production of butter, hard and soft ice cream, and Swiss cheese.

PA ranks 26:1 in the nation for number of dairy farms, with 5,700 dairy farms and 480,000 dairy cows.

Ratio of people to dairy cows in PA

Meet Your Pennsylvania Dairy Farm Families:

99 percent of dairy farms are family owned

Vast majority are multi-generational businesses

Average age of owner is 50

Average herd size is 84 cows

26:1

Meet Your Pennsylvania Dairy Farm Families:

Primary Operations:

31 percent freestall operations

5 percent bedded pack/group housing

64 percent tie stall operations

Greatest Challenges:

Milk Price Volatility

Access to Land Availability

Access to Milk Markets

More than 20 percent of Pennsylvania dairy farms use rotational grazing for their herds.

Data gathered from 2017 survey of 995 dairy farm families conducted by the Center for Dairy Excellence.

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