Dairy Production Overview
Minnesota ranks No. 6 in dairy cows and No. 8 in milk production in the nation. Minnesota has 460,000 head of dairy cows and produces 9.5 billion pounds of milk annually. There are a total of 3,470 dairy farms in Minnesota.

County Rankings
Minnesota’s top dairy counties include (in ranking order): Stearns, Winona, Morrison, Stevens, Wabasha, Goodhue, Otter Tail, Todd, Fillmore, Nicollet, and Benton.

Historic Production
Minnesota produced 9.5 billion pounds of milk in 2015 – a 4% increase from 2014. From 2005 to 2015, milk production in Minnesota increased by 16% while dairy cow numbers decreased by about 2%.

Prices
Milk prices fluctuated wildly from 2004 to 2015, ranging from a low of $10.70/cwt. (March 2003) to a high of $26.70/cwt. (September 2014), which is the highest level since 2000.
Economic Impact
In Minnesota, dairy production at the farm level has a “multiplier effect” of $1.7 for every dollar of output.

Specifically, Minnesota’s dairy production creates economic activities in many other economic sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, trade, services, finance, insurance, real estate, construction, etc.

Minnesota dairy production’s total economic impacts at the farm level (not including dairy processing):
- Output impact: $3.8 billion
- Employment impact: 9,457 jobs.

Exports
Minnesota is the 8th largest dairy exporter among all U.S. states.

According to the latest available data, Minnesota exported $322 million in dairy products in 2014, up from $307 million in 2013 – a 5% increase.

Prepared by MDA/AMD (2016)