

DAIRY FARM ACTIVITY REPORT

December 1, 2023

This report provides frequent updates regarding the number of dairy farm permits recorded by the dairy inspection program.



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

REPORT DATE DECEMBER 1, 2023

Overall Number of Dairy Permits	1,825
Change from the Previous Month	-58

GRADE A AND GRADE B FARMS

	Grade A	Grade B
Total Permits	1,742	83
Cows	1,740	20
Goats	1	63
Sheep/Other	1	0

MONTHLY CHANGES

	Grade A	Grade B
New Permits	4	2
Farms Quit	27	2
Dried Off	2	33
Transitions	1	1
Net Loss/Gain	-25	-33

YEAR TO DATE

Month	Total Farms	Monthly Total Loss/Gain	Year to Date
1/1/2023	1,971	NA	NA
2/1/2023	1,970	-1	-1
3/1/2023	1,989	+19	+18
4/1/2023	1,988	-1	+17
5/1/2023	1,979	-9	+8
6/1/2023	1,957	-22	-14
7/1/2023	1,942	-15	-29
8/1/2023	1,933	-9	-38
9/1/2023	1,899	-34	-72
10/1/2023	1,893	-6	-78
11/1/2023	1,883	-10	-88
12/1/2023	1,825	-58	-146

What is the difference between 'Quit' and 'Dried Off'?

Farms that quit are those farms that have decided, to the best of our current knowledge, to discontinue dairy farming. Farms that are dried off have stopped milking for a period of time, often during a specific season, but intend to resume operations within about 60 days.

What is a 'Transition'?

A transition occurs when a farm changes ownership. Essentially, one permit is discontinued, and another starts. This may be due to passing the farm along to another family member, engaging new partners, or changing business structures and legal entities responsible for the operation.

Other notes about how we calculate these numbers:

Dairy farm numbers are calculated by counting the number of dairy farm permits. A permit is the authorization given to operate as a dairy producer. It is important to know that one permit does not equate to one geographical location; in some cases, there may be more than one permit on a geographical location or one farm site. For example, one farm site may have two brothers farming together that each have their own permit. Or, one farm site may have a milking goat herd and a milking cow herd, and therefore requires two separate permits.

The MDA works with industry to update information about the status of permits on an ongoing basis; however, sometimes, notification of farm quits or transitions may be delayed and thus our numbers can sometimes reflect actual changes which occurred previous to the given month.