**2016 North Carolina Dairy Facts**

**NORTH CAROLINA** is home to approximately 47,000 milk cows who live on 230 dairy farms.

A typical North Carolina dairy farm has a herd of about 204 milking cows.

Each dairy cow in North Carolina provides an average of 2,439 gallons of milk per year. That’s an average of 8.0 gallons of milk per day. That’s enough to make 6.9 pounds of cheese or 3.3 pounds of butter each day.

The total amount of milk produced in the state amounted to 986 million pounds. That’s equal to over 115 million gallons.

In 2015, a dairy cow in North Carolina cost about $1,993.

The average value of a day’s milk per cow was about $12.31.

Cash receipts for the sale of milk by dairy farmers amounted to $177 million.

To learn more about North Carolina dairy farmers, please visit www.southeastdairy.org

94% of all milk produced in 2015 was used and consumed in the form of fluid milk.

North Carolina has four commercial milk processing plants located in Winston-Salem, High Point (2), and Asheville.

North Carolina is...
- 28th in milk production
- 29th in number of milk cows
- 21st in milk output per cow
- 24th in the number of licensed dairy operations

Top milk producing counties:
1) Iredell (363.6 million pounds)
2) Randolph (114 million pounds)
3) Yadkin (50.4 million pounds)
4) Gaston (42 million pounds)
5) Guilford (37.5 million pounds)
6) Lincoln (37.3 million pounds)

*All facts are based on 2015 USDA and NCDA&CS data*