

# 2017 North Carolina Dairy Facts



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
is home to approximately  
**46,000**  
milk cows

who live on  
**195**  
dairy farms



A typical North Carolina dairy farm has a herd of about

**219**

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

**965 million pounds**

That's equal to

**112 million gallons**



In 2016, a dairy cow in North Carolina cost about



**\$1,760**

The average value of a day's milk per cow was about

**\$11.31**



Cash receipts for the sale of milk by dairy farmers amounted to

**\$158.8 million**



**94%**

of all milk produced in 2016 was used and consumed in the form of fluid milk

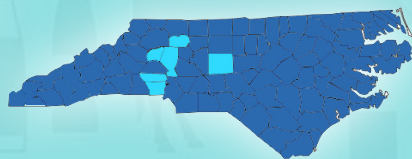
North Carolina has four commercial milk processing plants located in **Winston-Salem, High Point (2) and Asheville**

North Carolina is...  
**28th** in milk production

**29th** in number of milk cows

**24th** in milk output per cow

**25th** in the number of licensed dairy operations



Top milk producing counties:

- 1) Iredell
- 2) Randolph
- 3) Yadkin
- 4) Gaston
- 5) Lincoln
- 6) Alexander

Brought to you by the dairy farm families of North Carolina.

To learn more please visit [southeastdairy.org](http://southeastdairy.org)

