

# 2017 Virginia Dairy Facts



**VIRGINIA**  
is home to  
approximately  
**90,000**  
milk cows

who live on  
**615**  
dairy farms



A typical Virginia dairy farm  
has a herd of about

**146**  
milking cows



Each dairy cow in Virginia  
provides an average of

**2,226**  
**gallons**  
of milk per year

That's an average of  
**7.3 gallons of**  
**milk per day**

Which is enough to make  
6.3 pounds of cheese or  
3 pounds of butter each day



The total amount of milk  
produced in the state  
amounted to

**1.72 billion**  
**pounds**

That's equal to  
**200 million**  
**gallons**



In 2016, a dairy cow in  
Virginia cost about



**\$1,760**

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

**\$10.33**



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

**\$308**  
**million**



**86%**

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

Virginia has seven commercial  
milk processing plants  
located in **Mt. Crawford,**  
**Newport News,**  
**Lynchburg, Richmond,**  
**Winchester, Wirtz and**  
**Verona**

Virginia is...

**24th** in milk production

**23rd** in number of milk  
cows

**34th** in milk output per  
cow

**14th** in the number  
of licensed dairy  
operations



Top milk producing counties:

- 1) Rockingham (492.5 million pounds)
- 2) Pittsylvania (159.1 million pounds)
- 3) Franklin (153.8 million pounds)
- 4) Augusta (125.3 million pounds)
- 5) Washington (44.2 million pounds)

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