

# Ohio's Dairy Industry:

## An essential part of our state's success

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Ohio's dairy farmers do more than just produce milk—**they create jobs, work to protect our environment, contribute to their communities and help drive Ohio's economy.** All of Ohio's dairy farmers are dedicated to providing Ohioans with safe, high-quality milk and dairy foods. Our commitment to quality also means caring for our animals and the land.

All dairy farmers have a stake in following regulations and best management practices to protect the health of their families and their cows, and to maintain the quality of their product:

### Environment

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As dairy farmers who live on or near the land that our families farm, we understand the importance of protecting our natural resources. We depend on this land for our farm and our quality of life. Dairy farmers actively recycle manure to help control odor in the community. **The dairy industry works with industry manufacturers, university researchers and other experts to find innovative ways to reuse their resources.** Dairy farmers also are responsible users of water in our milking parlors, in water storage and in recycling.

### Food Safety

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Milk is milk! Both regular and organic dairy foods contain the same combination of nutrients that makes dairy products an important part of a healthy diet, including calcium, vitamin D and potassium. Milk and dairy foods undergo a number of safety, quality and sanitation procedures such as pasteurization, **making them among the most highly regulated and safest foods available to consumers.**



### Animal Care

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Dairy cows must be healthy and well cared for in order to produce pure, wholesome milk. They receive regular medical care, including periodic checkups, vaccinations and prompt treatment of illness. Because Ohio's dairy farmers depend on healthy cows for their livelihoods, the public can be assured that **dairy farmers care for their herds by providing a nutritious diet, good medical care and healthy living conditions.**

### Economic Impact

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In Ohio there are 272,000 dairy cows who live on the 3,276 dairy farms located throughout the state. The average herd size in Ohio is 83 cows. **In 2009, Ohio's dairy cows produced 5.18 billion pounds or more than 600 million gallons of milk.**

Ohio ranks first in the nation in Swiss cheese production, fifth in number of manufacturing plants, ninth in overall cheese production and 11th in total milk production. **The estimated economic impact of Ohio's dairy industry was \$4.2 billion with a total of 14,350 jobs created for Ohioans.**

