



# Dairy Modernization

## 2009-2010 FACT SHEET

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### Program Description

Minnesota is the nation's sixth largest milk-producing state. In 1934, Minnesota had 1,893,000 dairy cows. Cow numbers have declined to less than 500,000 cows today. Minnesota has 5,050 dairy farms (MDA, 2008), down from about 15,000 farms ten years ago (MN Dairy Statistics). However, the Minnesota dairy industry continues to be over a 2.5 billion dollar segment of the state's economy and the largest portion of the total agricultural economy, accounting for more than 15% of the total value of agriculture production in Minnesota. What happens to the dairy industry in Minnesota is of great economic and food production concern to the people of Minnesota. Education can have a major impact on whether dairy continues as a viable Minnesota industry. One area of utmost importance is educating producers and industry professionals on new technologies and modernization of dairy operations to enhance profit and lifestyle of dairy farm families.

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### Serving...

- Dairy Producers
- Dairy Industry Professionals
- Dairy Managers, Feeders, and Milkers
- Dairy Families
- Forage Producers

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### Specific Goals

- Train dairy industry professionals to more effectively provide technical support to dairy producers in the state. This results in a multiplier effect of our educational efforts.
- Improve producer skills in dairy production management in order to increase their profitability, improve feed management, raise healthy calves, provide better care for their cows, and improve milk quality.
- Increase awareness of factors affecting cow well-being and behavior.
- Provide practical solutions for dairy families at the crossroads of their business to smooth the transition and help maintain the sustainability of the dairy industry in MN.

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### Members

- Marcia Endres, Program Coordinator
- Neil Broadwater, Educator
- Hugh Chester-Jones, Content Specialist
- Kevin Janni, Content Specialist
- Dennis Johnson, Content Specialist
- Jim Linn, Content Specialist
- Noah Litherland, Content Specialist
- Jim Paulson, Educator
- Paul Peterson, Content Specialist
- Jeff Reneau, Content Specialist
- Margot Rudstrom, Educator
- Jim Salfer, Educator
- Chuck Schwartau, Educator

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### Cooperators

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Minnesota Milk Producers Association
- Midwest Dairy Association
- Minnesota Dairy Initiative
- MN DHIA
- Midwest Forage Council
- MNSCU
- Regional University Staff
- Private industry

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### What we do...

- Minnesota Dairy Days
- Four-State Dairy Nutrition and Management Conferences
- Dairy Expo - St. Cloud
- Dairy Extension Web Site ([www.extension.umn.edu/dairy](http://www.extension.umn.edu/dairy))
- Dairy Diagnostics Toolbox
- Transition Cow CD
- Feeding Management Workshop
- Train-the-trainer-- On Farm Dairy Diagnostics
- Quality Count\$ Program
- Milker School (English and Spanish)
- Calf Management Workshop
- Successful Dairy Systems: Dairy Families at the Crossroads
- Cow Comfort and Behavior Program
- Dairy Forage Management Program
- Grazing Workshops & Pasture Walks

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