

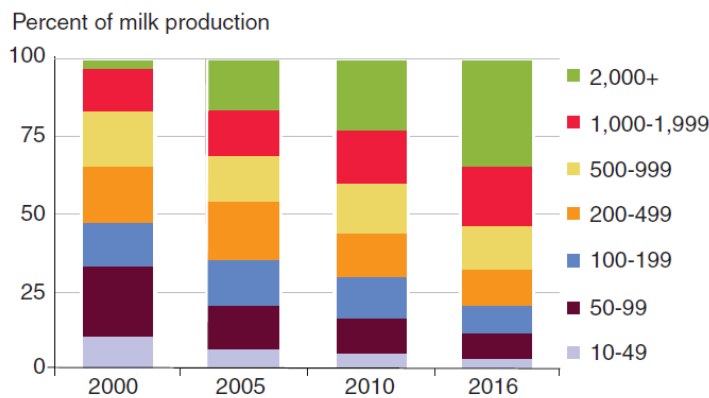


August 10, 2020



USDA ERS Dairy Consolidation Study

Milk production has shifted to larger herds



According to a recently released United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS) study titled "*Consolidation in U.S. Dairy Farming*", the number of dairies fell by more than half between 2002 and 2019, with

an accelerating decline in 2018 and 2019, even as milk production continued to grow. **The pace of consolidation in dairy exceeds that in most of U.S. agriculture.** Consolidation in U.S. crop production was widespread across crops and was persistent over time; over 30 years, consolidation in crops doubled. The equivalent measure in dairy shows a 16-fold increase in 30 years. In livestock, consolidation in hogs and in eggs occurred at a pace similar to the pace of dairy, but consolidation in other livestock sectors lagged far behind.

What Did the Study Find?

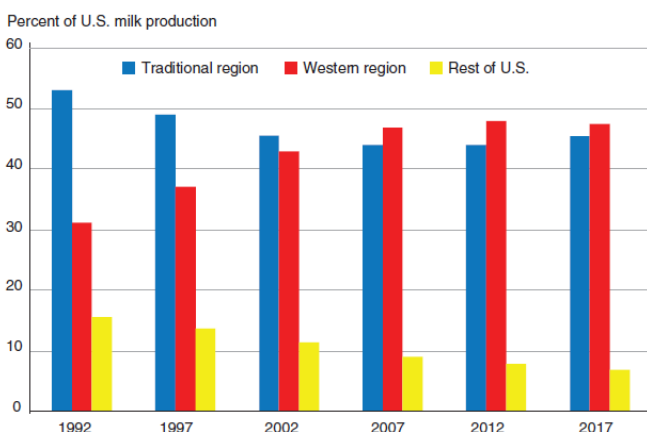
- In 1987, half of all milk cows in the United States were in herds of 80 or more, and half were in herds of 80 or fewer. Since that time, the midpoint size has risen consistently; by 2017, the midpoint was 1,300 cows. **The pace of consolidation in dairy far exceeds the pace of consolidation seen in most of U.S. agriculture.**

- The 2017 Census of Agriculture counted 54,599 farms with milk cows. Of those farms, 30,373 were small commercial farms, with 10–199 cows. The number of small commercial dairy farms has fallen substantially over time, from 47,873 a decade before (in 2007), and 146,685 three decades before (in 1987).

- By 2017, nearly 2,000 farms had herds of at least 1,000 milk cows, and those farms milked over half of U.S. cows. Twenty-five years earlier, there were just over 500 such farms, and they milked less than 10 percent of cows. Over time, production has shifted toward much larger farms, often with 5,000 or more cows.

Western Dairy States

Figure 8
Milk production has shifted to Western States



Over time, milk production has shifted to Western Dairy States (figure 8), which held 31 percent of U.S. production in 1992. That share rose to 47 percent by 2007, before stabilizing in 2012 and 2017 at about 48 percent. The share held by Eastern Dairy States

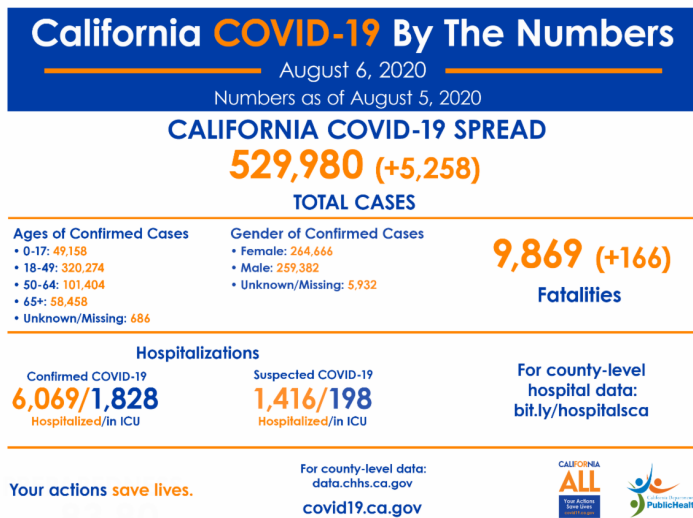
fell by nine percentage points between 1992 and 2007, but has since risen, reaching 46 percent in 2017. Dairy production has declined steadily in the rest of the country, falling from nearly 16 percent of production in 1992 to 7 percent in 2017.

Within the group of Western Dairy States, production and cow inventories fell in California over 2007–2017 while rising noticeably in Idaho and in the Plains States of Texas, Kansas, and South Dakota. The shift from California likely reflects urbanization pressures and environmental regulations in the Nation’s most populous State.

Large farms already accounted for most cows and production in Western Dairy States in 2007, but in the 10 years that followed, each region continued to shift to farms with at least 1,000 head. The number of small commercial farms in the Western States fell by 41 percent from 2007 to 2017, a larger proportional decline than in the Eastern States. However, the numbers affected are much smaller in the West: 936 fewer small commercial dairy farms, compared with a decline of 17,500 farms in Eastern States.

The full report is linked [here](#).

White House Task Force Concerned About Central Valley



"Although L.A. may be looking a little bit better, there is significant movement of virus from Bakersfield, all the way up the Central Valley, to Stockton," Doctor Debora Birx said.

By alerting officials to upticks in positivity rates in the nine cities and California's Central Valley, Birx essentially

was warning those areas to act now to prevent an undesirable surge in cases. Birx said now is the time to accelerate the fundamental preventative measures: Masks, social distancing, avoiding crowds, outdoors greater than indoors, washing hands and other measures. The White House gives specific guidance on dealing with the COVID crisis in each state, which includes:

- closing all bars, clubs and gyms in hot spot counties
- mandate public use of masks in all current and evolving hot spots
- encourage individuals that have participated in large social gatherings to get tested
- increase messaging of risk of serious disease in all age groups, especially those with preexisting medical conditions
- continue to ramp up weekly testing
- enhance contact tracing

Housing for the Harvest

<https://covid19.ca.gov/housing-for-agricultural-workers/>

Housing for the Harvest will provide safe, temporary isolation spaces for agricultural and farmworkers who test positive or were exposed to the virus, which limits the risk of spreading COVID-19 to their coworkers or households.

Employer Resources

Recognizing that there is a need to pull the growing list of employer need-to-know information on COVID-19 into one manual, the Department of Public Health released the following Employer Playbook today: <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/employer-playbook-for-safe-reopening--en.pdf>.

As a reminder, Cal/OSHA has informative material on their website at <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/Health-Care-General->

[Industry.html](#), and CDFA maintains our COVID-19 website as a resource portal for agriculture: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/coronavirus/>.

Outreach and Education

Watch the new PSAs about how we can all do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep California healthy here:

- [Make It Happen](#) (English)
- [Juntos](#) (Spanish)

Listen to radio spots for essential workers about how to safely transition from work to home here:

- [Essential Workers](#) (English)
- [Essential Workers](#) (Spanish)

Testing

The California Department of Public Health announced new testing guidance that established prioritization in testing, individuals working in agriculture are in the third tier of testing priority, behind hospitalized, and health care, congregate care, emergency services and correctional workers. Full guidance:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Updated-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance.aspx>

For more information contact
California Dairy Campaign
Field Representative Joe Melo at 209-216-7615.

CFAP Assistance Sign Up Continues



**Contact your local
Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to
schedule a telephone appointment
To sign up for the CFAP assistance
program.**

For more information
Contact Executive Director Lynne McBride
at 925-385-0217 or
By email at cdc@californiadairycampaign.com

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

Sign up for the next round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) continues. Farmers should contact their banks to apply for the program with the Small Business Administration (SBA).

The PPP Loan Forgiveness Guidelines have been streamlined. The four page PPP Loan Forgiveness Application linked [here](#)

The PPP website is linked [here](#):

The sign up period for farmers to apply for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program continues.

**For More Information
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cdc@californiadairycampaign.com**

Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)

The sign up period for farmers to apply for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program continues.

Due to high demand, SBA has lowered the maximum EIDL amount to \$150,000 per applicant.

These grants provide an emergency \$1000 per employee advance up to \$10,000 to small businesses harmed by COVID-19 within three days of applying for an SBA **Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)**. To access the advance, you first apply for an EIDL and then request the advance. **The advance does not need to be repaid under any circumstance**, and may be used to keep employees on payroll, to pay for sick leave, meet increased production costs due to supply chain disruptions, or pay business obligations, including debts, rent and mortgage payments. **However, the EIDL advance will be deducted from any Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness.**

- Learn more here: <https://www.sba.gov/page/disaster-loan-applications>
- The application can be found here: <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>

Information for local assistance:
<https://www.sba.gov/local-assistance>

**For More Information
Contact Executive Director
Lynne McBride at 925-385-0217 or by email at
cdc@californiadairycampaign.com**

For More Information

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