



USDA SUPPORTS America's Dairy Producers

A snapshot of investments in 2023



Supporting Trade

\$1.19 billion preserved in dairy export market access to countries like India, Columbia, China and the UK



Growing the Organic Dairy Sector

\$75 million for organic marketing costs, and \$6 million to support organic dairy research and market development



Dairy for Emergency Food Operations

Purchased over **\$1 billion** in surplus dairy, including \$163 million in milk, to distribute to anti-hunger programs, plus food donation reimbursements



Research and Innovation

Over **\$200 million** in research through Dairy Business Innovation Centers and USDA's Agricultural Research Service, on animal health, nutrition and more



Delivering Nutrition to Children

\$2.4 billion in healthy dairy products served to kids and families through WIC and school meals



Keeping Farmers Farming

\$1.33 billion in safety net payments, including 51,000 payments to small farms at financial risk, plus 1,700 EQIP conservation contracts for dairy farmers signed in 2022-2023



New Revenue for Small Businesses

Over **\$100 million** to help dairy businesses grow local markets, adopt renewable energy, and produce value-added products

*NOTE: More detailed information on the reverse.

A Deeper Look Into The Facts:

Supporting Trade

By continuing to hold other countries accountable for rules violations, removal of non-tariff barriers to trade, and ensuring issuance and acceptance of permits, among other measures, USDA preserved \$1.19 billion in dairy export market access to countries like India, China, Colombia, and the UK in 2023. USDA also worked with foreign governments and border inspection posts around the globe to clear \$1.7 million in detained and stuck shipments. Additionally, eight dairy companies participated in USDA trade missions to Panama, the Netherlands, Japan, Chile and Malaysia and reported over \$12 million in projected 12-month sales as a result.

Dairy for Emergency Food Operations

In 2023, USDA directly purchased 70 million pounds of dairy products, a \$149 million value, for distribution at food pantries and other institutions, and reimbursed the donations of more than 9 million pounds of dairy products to non-profits. In FY 2022 and 2023 combined, USDA purchased an additional \$1 billion in surplus dairy products, including \$163 million in milk, to distribute to a variety anti-hunger programs.

Delivering Nutrition to Children

The school meals program serves \$2.4 billion in healthy dairy products to kids annually, mostly as fluid milk, and USDA is ensuring an increasing amount is locally sourced. In 2023, WIC participants spent \$707 million on milk, cheese, and yogurt, and more than 19 million half pints of milk were served to over 1,500 school and childcare institutions, including summer camps, through USDA's Special Milk Program—a 28% participation boost since 2022.

Keeping Farmers Farming

USDA's farm safety net programs, including Dairy Margin Coverage and the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program, paid \$1.33 billion to dairy farmers in 2022-2023, including 51,000 payments to small dairy farms at financial risk. The Pandemic Voluntary Market Assistance Program provided \$335.5 million to 25,000 dairy farmers, mostly small business owners.

Through nearly 1,700 new contracts signed in 2022 and 2023, \$1.9 million in Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding is helping dairy farms address water, air and soil quality for the next decade.

Growing the Organic Dairy Sector

There are more than 3,500 certified organic dairy producers in the U.S. USDA invested \$75 million in 2023 to cover organic marketing costs, and \$6 million to support organic dairy research and market development in 2022-2023. In 2022 USDA finalized the Origin of Livestock regulation to promote fairness in the organic industry, and is investing \$100 million to support farmers transition to organic production, including dairy farmers, through the Transition to Organic Partnership Program.

Research and Innovation

In 2022-2023, USDA's Dairy Business Innovation centers utilized \$126 million to support dairy processors and the farmers that supply them through business development, product innovation, marketing, and distribution of dairy products; this includes technical for businesses, for example to produce specialty cheeses or other milk-based products.

USDA's Agricultural Research Service conducts \$55 million in dairy-focused research annually, centered on climate, livestock health, nutrition, and other areas to contribute to a thriving dairy sector. This is in addition to tens of millions in research grants and partnerships between USDA and other organizations, plus economic research on dairy production, market updates and more that provide transparency and stability in dairy markets.

New Revenue for Small Businesses

In 2023, USDA invested over \$100 million to support dairy farm businesses, directly benefitting over 900 dairy farmers. Additionally in 2022-2023, over \$200 million in grants and loans helped farmers invest in renewable energy systems, including anaerobic digesters, to lower costs and generate new revenue. In 2022-2023, USDA also invested \$8 million in Value Added Producer Grants, to assist 47 businesses process or market dairy products, helping to create about 130 jobs tied to dairy farms.