

Dairy Logic Model

Situation:

Major trends in U.S. milk production include (1) a fairly steady increase in milk production and (2) a consistent decline in the number of dairy operations matched by a continual rise in the number of cows per operation. Generally, milk cows perform best in areas with dry, cool weather. Most U.S. dairy cows are Holsteins, a breed that tends to produce more milk per cow than other breeds. However, Jerseys and crossbreeds have gained popularity in recent years, as milk from these breeds tends to contain relatively high proportions of milk fat and other milk solids.

In the United States, the decision to produce milk largely rests in the hands of individuals or families. Many of these farmers belong to producer-owned cooperatives. The cooperatives assemble members' milk and move it to processors and manufacturers. Some cooperatives operate their own processing and manufacturing plants. Initially local, many of today's dairy cooperatives are national, with members across the country. (USDA <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/animal-products/dairy/background/>)

