

INDIANA DAIRY FARMS

Conservation, Dedication & Innovation



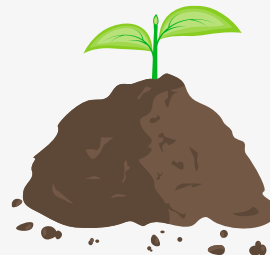
As part of a stewardship pledge to consumers, the dairy industry is pursuing a voluntary goal to cut GHG emissions by 25% from 2007–2008 levels².



80% of a dairy cow's diet comes from plant fibers and food waste that humans can't digest and would otherwise go to landfills³



Water is recycled an average of **3-5x** on a dairy farm⁴



Most dairy farm manure is incorporated into fields as natural fertilizer, increasing soil's water-holding capacity by **20%**⁵

Within the last decade, dairy farms have done these four things to contribute to a healthier environment¹:

- **21%** less land used
- **30%** less water used
- **20%** less manure used
- **19%** less GHG (greenhouse gases) created

Indiana dairy farmers and the dairy community are committed to creating economic growth while preserving the planet for future generations

Dairy led to **56,782** jobs (direct and indirect) in IN 2018⁸



Dairy totaled **\$11.9B** in economic impact (direct and indirect) in IN in 2019⁸

Indiana ranks **#2** in the nation for ice cream production⁷



95% of U.S. dairy farms are family owned and operated.⁶

Dairy farmers have long shared a deep commitment to taking care of their animals. This commitment, and the actions taken on dairy farms throughout Indiana, nourish people, communities and the planet. Learn about the ways these Hoosier dairy farmers are playing a vital role in providing sustainably produced nutritious foods.



SOMMER FARMS



Third generation farmer Lance Sommer was raised in the home his great grandfather built in the 1900's, and remembers feeling "cool" when the kids in his grade school came out to tour the farm. In 2014, Lance and his father added robotic milkers and automatic calf feeders to make work on the farm more sustainable. The automated system increases cow comfort, allowing cow and calf to choose when they want to feed or milk. Sommer Farms also reuses materials from retired duck barns for bedding in the barns. This interest in recycling along with farming practices lays the groundwork for the family's fourth generation to inherit healthy cows and a healthy environment.

HOMESTEAD DAIRY

The Houin family couldn't be more aware of the great social and environmental responsibilities that come with being dairy farmers. With 14 family members working on the farm, multiple generations work together on the dairy originally started by Elmer and Lena Houin in 1945. To ensure the farm continues to provide for the family and their community, in October 2013, Homestead Dairy began transforming cow manure into electricity with a methane digester. The digester makes its own energy by creating a gas from manure and food waste to power its motors. This energy is then sold to a local power company, providing for 1,000 homes.



CARTERLY FARM



Specializing in intensive grazing of green pastures, Charlie and Margaret Carter and their daughter, Kelly MacKinnon, are the owner-managers of Carterly Farm. At this third generation dairy farm, the Carters are focused on volunteering in the community and taking care of their surrounding land. The family has been awarded the River Friendly Farmer Award that recognizes farmers who keep Indiana's rivers, lakes and streams clean through good production management practices. The Carters also manage a dairy leasing program that teaches non-farming young people to get "up close and personal" with a dairy calf while learning proper animal care and training through their local 4-H program.

SOURCES

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