EAAP

Grass- based pasture dairy systems in the Mid Western USA
August 25, 2014
Copenhagen, Denmark

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United States Department of Agriculture Statistics 2013 Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herds</th>
<th>Number of Cows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Dairy Herds</td>
<td>46,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>10,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>3,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>1,425</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Organic Milk Sales as a % of Total US milk sales

- 2006 – 1.92 %
- 2013 – 4.38%
Figure 2. Top five states in number of organic dairy farms, 2008

- Wisconsin: 479 farms
- New York: 319 farms
- Pennsylvania: 225 farms
- Vermont: 182 farms
- Ohio: 131 farms
Total Grass-fed Organic Herd
Intensive Grazing using Grazing Corn
Out Wintering Dairy Cattle
Out Wintering Dairy Cattle
Consumer Appreciation of Grazing

• US Organic Milk production must have a grazing component
  – 2012 Conventional Milk = $2.22/ ½ Gal
  – 2012 Organic Milk = $3.50/ ½ Gal

Organic milk that is only produced from Grass (Grassmilk)
  2014 Grassmilk Organic = $5.95/ ½ Gal
Grazing Overview in Wisconsin

- Average Herd size in USA 198 Cows
- Average Herd size in Wisconsin 116 cows
- Average Grazing Herd in Wisconsin 65 cows
- Largest Grazing Herd in Wisconsin 1800 cows
- 25% of the Herds in Wisconsin are self reported graziers (2,720 out of 10,880)
Graziers Adopt Low Cost Milking Systems
Governmental Involvement of Dairy Grazing

- No direct payments
- Soil conservation and water quality are considered a by product of Grazing and have good support
Grazing Education is Peer Centric
Profitability of Grazing

- Managed Intensive Grazing profitability has been equal or greater than Confinement
Conclusions

• Grazing dairy numbers continue to grow in the Midwest at a modest rate
• Small Scale (50 cows or less) conventional dairies continue but tend to be terminal or associated with Amish and Mennonite
• Consumer support of grazing is very solid
• Soil Conservation Agencies and Wildlife support organizations (Trout Unlimited) support controlled grazing