

Sonoma County Dairy Farming and Cattle Ranching

*A Close-Knit Community Defined by Locally Grown Dairy Products,
Wide Open Spaces and Sustainability*

Dairy farming and cattle ranching are part of the rich agricultural heritage that defines, preserves and enhances the high quality of life for Sonoma County residents. The generations of dairy farming families and cattle ranchers who have called Sonoma County home are closely connected to their communities and the region's future.



Linked to the Community's Unique and Desirable Character

A thriving agricultural industry is critical to maintaining Sonoma County's rural county feel, with immense natural resources and vast open spaces. The county is known for its specialty grocery stores, farm-to-table restaurants and a flourishing farmer's market scene, offering residents direct access to fresh and locally produced milk, cheese and other dairy products. These same high-quality and nutrient-rich products are also delivered to communities across the state and country, contributing to their overall health and wellbeing.

The character of this community is also defined by the agricultural opportunities that extend beyond the farming families, ranchers and farmer's market vendors. It's about the community-based organizations and clubs that help school-aged children discover and develop their potential — and grow into competent, contributing and caring citizens.





Essential to the Local Economy

Dairy farms, cattle ranches and other industry-related sectors are a critical and irreplaceable regional economic driver, with a combined annual economic value of over **\$180 million**. Dairy farms alone bring in **\$140 million** in annual economic activity to the county. The animal agriculture sector provides thousands of good paying jobs throughout the county and contributes to the local economy, providing essential funding for our region's public safety and community services.



Sustainable Sonoma in Practice

California's dairy farmers lead the world in environmental sustainability. Across Sonoma County, dairy families are part of the statewide effort to reduce the dairy industry's greenhouse gas emissions **40% by 2030**. By actively engaging in sustainable production practices and developing and implementing new techniques and technologies, Sonoma County farmers are helping the region and state achieve its climate goals while protecting the water resources our families, friends and neighbors depend on.

California dairy farmers are also deeply committed to maintaining the highest standard of care for their animals. Sonoma County dairy farmers provide a diverse selection of locally grown dairy products from both organic and conventional family-owned farms.



Additional Benefits of Dairy Farming and Cattle Ranching in Sonoma County:

- **Wildfire prevention/reduced risk**
- **Workforce development**
- **Food affordability and inflation mitigation**