

# The Dairy Industry in Israel

The Dairy Industry is one of the main sectors of Israeli agriculture, and supplies the entire domestic demand for milk and dairy products. Israel has a total annual output of approx. 1,150,000 tons of cow's milk, 11,525 tons of sheep's milk, and 6,170 tons of goat's milk.

Dairy enterprises process the raw milk into more than 1,000 different dairy products, with an annual value of approx. \$1.5 billion.

Milk is produced on over 1,000 farms, spread countrywide (in the heights, the valleys and the desert) on kibbutzim (cooperative societies) and moshavim (private farms).

The national dairy herd is comprised of 110,000 head of the Israeli-Holstein breed, which has been developed by the Israeli Genetic Improvement System. Since this cow has been selected for generations in the harsh conditions of the Israeli climate, it is very well adapted to the local climatic environment, characterized by a long and hot summer, and to local diseases. Nearly all the cows are bred by A.I.

The Israeli Herdbook (DHI), receives and processes information from the official Milk Production Control System, which includes 90% of the dairy cattle in the country. In addition to production figures, the Israeli Herdbook incorporates information from the Breeding System and from the "HaChaklait" Society for Veterinary Services. The comprehensive structure of the Israeli Herdbook provides the farmer with useful multi-disciplinary information that is used for up-dated management analyses and decision-making processes, which have led to outstanding world-scale achievements. Indeed, the Israeli cow has the highest national milk yield (production/cow/year) in the world in milk volume and also in milk solids. In 2005, the average annual milk yield per cow was 11,118 kg of milk, 349 kg of protein and 398 kg of fat.

We are pleased to present you with this summary of the Israeli Dairy Industry for 2005 and hope that this brochure will help acquaint you with this progressive and successful branch of Israeli agriculture.

Sincerely,



**Shayke Drori**  
Israel Dairy Board  
General Manager



**Meir Brawn**  
Israel Cattle Breeders Association  
General Manager