

The Dairy Industry in Israel

The Dairy Industry is one of the leading sectors in Israeli agriculture, and a source of pride to all Israelis. It supplies most of the domestic demand for milk and dairy products, being the rest of the demand covered by imported supplies. Israel has a total annual output of approx. 1.273 millions of liters of cow milk, 9.8 millions of liters of sheep milk and 10.1 millions of liters of goat milk. Those numbers represent the highest milk yield in Israel ever.

The annual value of products being processed is about \$1.5 billions. The Israeli milk shelves are filled with over 1,000 different products which are healthy, innovative, tasty, and in row with other state-of- the-art dairy industries.

Milk is produced on 991 farms, spread countrywide. The national dairy herd is comprised of about 130,000 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 environment – a long and hot summer and several endemic diseases. Nearly all cows are bred by Artificial Insemination.

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 Society for Veterinary Services – “HaChaklait”. The comprehensive structure of the Israeli Herdbook provides the farmer with useful multi-disciplinary information and is used for evidence-based management analyses and decision making processes, which have led to outstanding world-scale achievements. Indeed, the Israeli cow has the highest national milk (production/cow/year) and milk solids yields in the world. In 2008, the average annual milk yield per cow was 11,461 kg of milk, of which 3.29% is protein and 3.71% is fat.

We are pleased to present you with this summary of the Israeli Dairy Industry for 2008 and hope you will understand the reason why the Israeli Dairy Farm has become known as a source of knowledge and pride.

Sincerely,



Shyke Drori
Israel Dairy Board
General Manager



Yaacov Bachar
Israel Cattle Breeders Association
General Manager