Florida Dairy Farmers are having one Promotion Update meeting for all of Florida. They will be meet on April 29th. Start time is 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm with presentation at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at Country Club of Ocala, 6823 12th Circle, Ocala, FL. If you can attend the meeting, please contact Holly Boland by April 12th at 407-478-5485. This is your chance to ask questions about dairy promotion and how your $0.10/cwt is being spent. A flyer will be included in your milk statement.

Dairy Farm Numbers. The US dairy farm numbers continue to slide lower. In 2018, there were 37,468 dairy farms in the US, down 6.8% from 2017. That is the second largest decline in the past 27 years, with 2001 having the largest percentage decline of 7.3%. In 1992, there were 131,509 dairy farms. In 1992, there were 9.692 million cows and with an average of 74 cows per herd. In 2018, there are 9.399 million cows and that the average herd size is 251 cows. The average production per cow is 23,149 lbs.

In the Southeast region, FL continues to be the state with the largest milk production at 2.38 million lbs. GA is second at 1.77 million lbs and followed by VA at 1.64 million lbs. FL has 95 dairy farms that have an average of 1,295 cows per herd, producing 19,842 lbs per cow. GA has 160 dairy farms that have an average of 525 cows per herd, producing 21,537 lbs per cow (highest milk per cow is southeast region). Alabama has the fewest dairy farms with 30 and lowest milk production of the southeast region at 73 million lbs. Arkansas has the lowest milk per cow at 12,333 lbs per cow.

In the whole US, New Mexico has the most cows per herd at 2,350, where FL is ranked 6th with cows per herd. Michigan gets the most milk per cow at 26,340 lbs per cow. Michigan is followed by Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho and Washington as the top five states for milk per cow. California is still the largest producing state with 40.4 billion lbs. California is followed by Wisconsin, Idaho, New York and Texas as the top five milk producing states. The total milk production from California and Wisconsin together is one third of the total US milk production. California also has the most cows at 1.73 million cows. California is followed by Wisconsin, New York, Idaho and Texas as the top five states with the most cows. In 2018, Texas added the most cows with 22,000 more cows than 2017. Colorado, Idaho, Kansas and Utah round out the top 5 cows with the most cows added for 2018.

Alaska has 1 dairy farm left, Hawaii has 2 dairy farms, Rhode Island has 10, Nevada has 20, and Delaware has 25 dairy farms to round the five states with least number of dairy farms. Alaska has lowest milk production of just 2.8 million lbs, followed by Rhode Island at 11.7 million lbs, then Hawaii at 34.0 million lbs and Alabama and Arkansas at 73 and 74 million lbs respectively.

Annual Per Capita Consumption of Dairy Products for 2017

- Fluid Milk - 149 lbs per person
- Amer. Che. - 15.1 lbs per person
- Other Che. - 21.9 lbs per person
- Cot. Che. - 2.1 lbs per person
- Yogurt - 13.7 lbs per person
- Reg. Ice Cr. - 12.7 lbs per person
- Lit Ice Cr. - 6.7 lbs per person
- Butter - 5.7 lbs per person
Note: Class III milk futures prices are quoted at the close on the last day of the month.